7:30 p.m. The regular meeting of the Village Board of Trustees was called to order by Mayor Klein, who led the Pledge of Allegiance. A roll call was answered aye by Hampton, Weber, Hall, Politsch and Kreher. Geppert was absent. Sandy Stolte, Jake Owens, Officer Hamon and Chief Simburger were also present.

The audit committee reviewed the bills and recommended to pay the bills as presented.

Trustee Kreher made a motion; seconded by Trustee Hall to pay the audit bills as presented. A vote was answered aye by Hall, Hampton, Politsch, Kreher and Weber.

The minutes from the March 16th board meeting were reviewed.

Trustee Hampton made a motion; seconded by Trustee Hall to approve the board minutes from March 16th as presented. A vote was answered aye by Weber, Politsch, Hampton, Kreher and Hall.

**VISITORS**
Charles Lingafelter, Joe Keebler, Mark Schreder, Mary Sue Iverson, Dillon Ostendorf and Daryl Ostendorf. Rodney Sauerwein arrived at 8:18 p.m.

Joe Keebler was present to discuss the sewer backup in his mom’s house on the weekend of March 13th. Carol was out of town that weekend and came home to 18” of raw sewer in her basement. It ruined almost all of her possessions in the basement including the furnace and other appliances. Joe handed a spreadsheet and pictures of the damage to the board. Joe said Carol’s insurance said it was not her house’s problem that caused the backup and they will not pay for damages. Joe said when Matt a public works employee ran the sewer jet through the line he found a shirt clogging the line. Trustee Kreher suggested the water and sewer committee meet with Tyler to come up with a recommendation.

Dillon Ostendorf said he filled out an application for part-time public works and is very interested in the position.

**LOCAL IMPROVEMENTS**
Nothing new to report

**WATER & SEWER**
The board discussed the handout Tyler put together for billing the fire department for leaks. Trustee Hampton noted he spoke to Tyler and Tyler said he told the fire department to use the water line by Siemens’ when they do their drills. Trustee Weber said the fire department slammed the valve gauge on the fire truck which caused the water lines to break. Sandy Stolte recommended the committee meet with the fire department to discuss the bill instead of just mailing the bill to them.

The contract needs to be signed with Rhutasel for engineering for the Van Buren Street water line project with a cost not to exceed $17,000.

Trustee Kreher made a motion; seconded by Trustee Hampton to enter into a contract with Rhutasel for the Van Buren Street water line project for engineering fee not to exceed $17,000. A vote was answered aye by Hall, Hampton, Politsch, Kreher and Weber.

**STREETS & ALLEYS**
Nothing new to report

**CEMETERY**
Trustee Hampton reported the cemetery was cleaned up before Easter and it looked good.

**PARK**
Nothing new to report

**PUBLIC SAFETY**
Trustee Weber asked if gas receipts were being turned in. Michelle reported Nancy had to ask for the receipts this month and is still missing one for the ambulance usage. Jake is working with the manager at Casey’s to get a copy of the missing receipt.
POLICE
Chief Simburger noted the Kaskaskia River House is holding a festival May 24th. They will be hiring some of the police officers to work the festival. They will pay for this service.

Trustee Hall reviewed the monthly statistics and wondered why a part-time officer has more citations and tickets issued than any other officer except Lieutenant Buehler. Trustee Hall has brought the speeding cars and cars with loud pipes to the attention of the board and Chief in the past and nothing has happened. This is happening all over town. Trustee Hall doesn’t want to be discussing this a year from now when a kid or person gets injured or killed. Sandy Stolte suggested renting a radar sign to put on Old Baldwin Road. Trustee Hall is concerned for the safety of the pedestrians with the added pedestrian traffic going to Dollar General and Casey’s. Trustee Kreher agreed with Trustee Hall and stated we are looking out for the pedestrians in town. Trustee Hampton said the residents need to call the police department with complaints of speeders when they see them and report them.

PERSONNEL
It was noted Steve Ritter II has started, but officially needs to be hired. Tyler talked to the Mayor and personnel committee prior to Steve starting. Trustee Kreher asked how many hours Steve had worked last year. Michelle will check and let the board know.

Trustee Weber made a motion; seconded by Trustee Kreher to approve to hire Steve Ritter II for seasonal public works. A vote was answered aye by Weber, Politsch, Hampton, Kreher and Hall.

GRANTS
Nothing new to report

PUBLIC BUILDINGS
Trustee Politsch noted the overflow of cars from the Bullpen is parking in the multi-purpose center parking lot. If the hall is rented there is no place to park for the multi-purpose center. Trustee Politsch said there is a sign, but it is faded and needs to be replaced. Charles Lingafelter said a sign needs to be closer to the front of the building by the street. Tyler Liefer to replace the signs in the parking lot at the multi-purpose center.

ORDINANCE REVIEW
Nothing new to report

TREASURERS TIME
Sandy Stolte went over the handout from Frank Heiligenstein and the multiplier on property taxes. The multiplier decreased by 4% for New Athens.

Trustee Kreher stated he reads the paper and listens to the news and we should all be aware we will not be getting money from the state like we should be getting. We are lucky to have Sandy Stolte as our treasurer; she explains everything and answers any questions the board may have. Trustee Kreher and Mayor Klein thanked Sandy for all her hard work and time she puts in as treasurer.

CLERKS TIME
Michelle noted the golf cart/UTV stickers are in. The cost is $25 and they are lime green this year.

MAYOR’S TIME
Mayor Klein reported he and Sandy Stolte attended a meeting the Governor held. The Governor did not have any good news for municipalities and the taxes due to them. They are still talking about cutting the tax money to municipalities.

Mayor Klein spoke with Kendra Newman again regarding more details on the village wide yard sale. An ad is placed in the Freeburg Tribune and News Democrat; the cost is $5 to be placed on the map. Freeburg and Marissa’s town yard sales are put on by the commercial club. Freeburg Village hall does help with their town yard sale. Kendra told Mayor Klein St. John’s don’t want to organize it anymore. Michelle noted she saw a sign at St. John’s Church advertising the village yard sale in May. Mayor Klein feels the Village should organize the yard sale since it brings more people to town. Mayor Klein to speak with Kendra again.

OTHER BUSINESS
The electrical aggregation contract was not received to be voted on. To be placed on the next meeting agenda.
Michelle noted Southern Realty purchased the property at 101 South Clinton Street. A past due water bill was mailed to them as well as an invoice for cutting the grass for 3 years. The water bill was paid in full. They were invoiced for mowing the lawn 24 times at $50 each equaling to $1200.00. Chris from Southern Realty called and asked if the invoice could be reduced since it is through HUD and they are not going to make any money on this property. The board discussed reducing the rate to $25 each mow, bringing the total down to $600.00. The board agreed to drop the price to $600, but that would be their final offer.

Rodney Sauerwein was present to discuss a cemetery issue. The house that is by his family lots, pumps water out of their basement and is causing the headstones to lean. The water is sitting around the stones and it smells like a basement. Rodney tried to discuss the issues with them, but they were uncooperative. Tyler to check into what can be done to rectify the problem.

Trustee Hall wanted to make sure Tyler Liefer was aware turkey season started today and ends May 2nd. Tyler to make sure there is at least one boat ramp remains open during the dredging project.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Richard Klein       Village President
Michelle Neff       Village Clerk