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 Weber, Ruhmann, Hall, Boden, Geppert and Hampton. Attorney Dennis, Sandy Stolte, Tyler Liefer, Jake Owens, Josh Dietz, Lieutenant Buehler, Officer Hamon and Chief Simburger were also present.

The minutes from the May 1st board meeting were reviewed. Clarification was needed under Mayors time regarding the pumps at the park.

Trustee Hampton made a motion; seconded by Trustee Geppert to approve the board minutes from the May 1st board meeting with the clarification as noted. A vote was answered aye by Weber, Boden, Hall, Geppert, Ruhmann and Hampton.

The minutes from the annual board meeting were reviewed.

Trustee Weber made a motion; seconded by Trustee Geppert to approve the annual board minutes as presented. A vote was answered aye by Weber, Boden, Hall, Geppert, Ruhmann and Hampton.

VISITORS
Geoff and Mary Sue Iverson, Kitty Bergner, Mark Schreder, Cathy Meggs, Michelle Hall, Sandy Mechler, Karen and Lynn Gipson, Barbara and Curt Lindauer, Jerry Ohlendorf, Thomas May, Andrew Camargo, John Feder, Josh Dachsteiner, Ron Birkner, Jammie and John, Burkett, Jason and Jen Smith, George and Betty Klazynski, John Kennedy, Norma Cotton, Cathy Gaby, Chris Bierman, Naomi Rader, Marian Hein, Terry Politsch and Mary Rousan

Mayor Klein welcomed the guests to the meeting. Mayor Klein said before we call the meeting to order I would like to clarify a few things and then we will get to any questions or concerns from our visitors. It has been brought to my attention there are some concerned citizens that feel my proposal to eliminate the Lieutenant position is an act of retaliation. I’m not sure of what I would be in retaliation of. I understand that some have been told that I am eliminating the Lieutenant position due to Officer Tim not doing some paperwork. Someone suggested that maybe I should explain to the concerned citizens why the Lieutenants position was being eliminated now. After the election, the first meeting in May the new elected officials are sworn in. The Mayor also re-appoints positions such as the village clerk and treasurer. The Mayor makes changes to committees and proposes other changes deemed necessary. After discussion with the Chief and Village Attorney it was decided that a Lieutenant position was no longer necessary in a community of our size. The Chief would fulfill all administrative duties. Officer Buehler would remain a police officer for New Athens. We
recognize Officer Buehler has been with the New Athens Police Department for many years and has been instrumental to the success of the Dare Program. His police experience, longevity within the department and success with the Dare Program are all valuable assets to the department and community.

The Lieutenant position was developed by the prior Mayor during the period when the Village was without a Chief or a ranking officer. The Lieutenant position was created to assume the administrative duties during the search for a new Chief. With hiring of a Chief of Police most of the administrative duties are now fulfilled by the Chief. I did some research of surrounding area police departments including Freeburg, Smithton and Marissa of which none have a Lieutenant position. In communities with larger populations such as Belleville, Swansea and O’Fallon an officer must qualify, prepare and test for positions such as Sergeant or Lieutenant.

My decision to propose eliminating the Lieutenants position is not a personal decision or an agenda. Any performance issues that may or may not have played a role in the decision, is something I do not discuss in an open meeting.

During the election campaign, I became very disappointed with accusations made regarding the responsibilities of the Chief of Police. Monthly statistics of the officers were being handed out and the citizens were lead to believe that the Chief was not performing as other officers. What the citizens were not informed of was the difference in role responsibilities between a patrolman and the Chief of Police. None of the Chief duties are listed on the monthly statistics because they are mostly administrative duties. The monthly statistics include citations, tickets, arrests and other duties more often performed by the patrolman.

Some citizens were also lead to believe the Chief is charging the Village for his gas mileage for traveling from his residence to the Village hall. All our officers turn in their gas receipts upon filling up their vehicle. The full-time officers take their vehicles home as does the Chief. This is nothing new. The Chief does live the farthest away from Village hall and can be called in during any time of the day or night.

Chief Simburger has been instrumental in the re-structuring and strengthening of our police department over the past 3 years. We are fortunate to have Chief Simburger. He came from the Swansea police department with 22 years of experience and achieving the position of Sergeant. During the interview process I sought advice from St. Clair County Law Enforcement. Leo Simburger is much respected and highly recommended.
I take my position as Mayor very seriously. I know that not all my decisions will be the popular decision but I believe my decisions are for the best of the community. When I ran for Mayor four years ago and the recent election I had nothing to gain personally other than improving a community I’m proud to call home. Four years ago, my number one goal was to re-structure and strengthen our police department. This continues to be a very high goal. Just because we are a smaller community doesn’t mean we have lower expectations or standards. The residents of our community deserve the same standards of safety and protection as our larger surrounding communities.

George Klazynksi, Karen Gipson, Cathy Gaby, Chris Bierman, Naomi Rader, Marian Hein, Terry Politsch, Mary Rousan, Mary Sue Iverson, Geoff Iverson, Kitty Bergner, Cathy Meggs, Michelle Hall, Sandy Mechler, Barbara and Curt Lindauer and Thomas May all spoke in support of Tim Buehler keeping his Lieutenant rank.

Jerry Ohlendorf noted what a good job the Chief is doing with the department and said he should do as he wishes.

Jason and Jen Smith presented his concerns regarding the sewer issues he keeps having with sewer backing up into his basement. Tyler Liefer said Jason is the lowest on the sewer line and asked for a manhole monitor to install in the manhole by the Bullpen. The monitor would contact Tyler when the sewer gets to a certain level and they could start pumping sooner. Tyler also suggested the Smiths install a check valve to keep the sewer from coming in. The Smiths are concerned they would not be able to use their toilet or sinks and it would be expensive to install.

Sandy Mechler, Lynn and Karen Gipson said the grate put in on the culvert at Reinhardt Drive was getting clogged up with debris and they are afraid water will get into their basement and outbuildings. Lynn said it is an obstruction to the water flow and he has pictures from the last rain fall when it dammed up. Lynn also said installing the grate changed the condition of his property and feels his property is now at risk. Jammie Burkett is concerned about the safety of the children. The committee will meet to discuss the best way to handle.

**LOCAL IMPROVEMENT**
Nothing new to report

**WATER & SEWER**
Tyler Liefer asked the board to purchase a manhole float monitor for $1,500 for the unit and $227.40 for annual call service. Trustee Boden recommended
the Village purchase an electronic monitor and said they work better. Trustee Boden also recommended the Smiths install a check valve and also said most the municipalities in this area you will get the same answer; if the sewer backs up into your house it’s your problem. Boden noted he had the same problem at his house and installed a check valve.

**STREETS & ALLEYS**

Tyler received a price from Deterding to cut down a tree on North Benton Street for $700.

Trustee Geppert made a motion; seconded by Trustee Hampton to approve Deterding to cut down a tree on North Benton Street for $700. A vote was answered aye by Weber, Boden, Geppert, Ruhmann and Hampton. Hall voted present.

**PARK**

Nothing new to report

**CEMETERY**

Nothing new to report

**PUBLIC SAFETY**

Mayor Klein noted the committee met May 11th to discuss outsourcing the billing for the ambulance runs. The board will not be voting on the outsourcing at this time. Jake Owens said the ESO program is cheaper that the IPCR system which is currently not working. New hardware would have to be purchased for $941.48 for the ESO program and the old hardware could be sold. Trustee Weber said we would not be paying the $3600 to ESO.

Trustee Weber made a motion; seconded by Trustee Hall to enter into a contract with ESO and purchase hardware for $941.48. A vote was answered aye by Weber, Boden, Hall, Geppert, Ruhmann and Hampton.

**POLICE**

Attorney Dennis said after reviewing the ordinances; the Chief makes the recommendation for officer rank and the Mayor can approve without a vote of council. The board can vote for a recommendation if the Mayor would like. Chief Simburger preferred the board to vote on the Lieutenant position. Trustee Hampton, Trustee Weber, Trustee Boden, Trustee Hall, Trustee Ruhmann voted to recommend Tim Buehler stay as Lieutenant with Lieutenant pay. Trustee Geppert voted no and did not recommend Tim Buehler stay Lieutenant.
PERSONNEL
Tyler Liefer recommended re-hiring Savannah Idecker for the public works department to mow.

Trustee Weber made a motion; seconded by Trustee Hampton to re-hire Savannah Idecker as part-time public works to mow. A vote was answered aye by Weber, Boden, Hall, Geppert, Ruhmann and Hampton.

Delta Dental is renewing the dental insurance for 2 years with no rate increase.

Trustee Weber made a motion; seconded by Trustee Hampton to approve the Delta Dental renewal for employee dental insurance. A vote was answered aye by Weber, Boden, Hall, Geppert, Ruhmann and Hampton.

Chief Simburger stated the background checks and drug testing came back good for Nicholas Mounts and Jacob Renner and he would like to hire them for part-time police.

Trustee Hampton made a motion; seconded by Trustee Geppert to hire Nicholas Mounts and Jacob Renner as part-time police. A vote was answered aye by Weber, Boden, Hall, Geppert, Ruhmann and Hampton.

GRANTS
Nothing new to report

PUBLIC BUILDINGS
Tyler Liefer reported the roof at the medical building leaks when it rains hard. Tyler will get some prices.

ORDINANCE REVIEW
Nothing new to report

TREASURERS TIME
Sandy Stolte previously gave the board the monthly treasurer’s report.

Trustee Weber made a motion; seconded by Trustee Geppert to approve the monthly treasurer’s report. A vote was answered aye by Weber, Ruhmann, Hall, Geppert, Boden and Hampton.

$25,000 was transferred on 04/28 and $15,000 was transferred 5/03 from the water account to the general account to cover expenses.
**CLERKS TIME**
Nothing new to report

**MAYOR’s TIME**
Mayor Klein reported Senator Schimpf held a town hall meeting Saturday May 6th in the Village Hall and said there was a nice turnout from the community.

Resolution 2017-03 for appointments needs to be voted on. Everyone but the Lieutenant position was voted and approved at the last meeting. The Lieutenant position was agreed upon earlier in this meeting.

Trustee Geppert made a motion; seconded by Trustee Ruhmann to approve Resolution 2017-03 Appointments. A vote was answered aye by Weber, Boden, Hall, Geppert, Ruhmann and Hampton.

**OTHER BUSINESS**
Attorney Dennis is working on a new lease for the Smiths and the marina. A copy will be put into the board members mailbox for review and approval at the next meeting. Attorney Dennis said the $25,000 in past due rent that is still owed the Village will be paid before a new lease is signed by Mayor Klein.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Michelle Neff  
Village Clerk

Richard Klein  
Village President