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 Wilson, Ruhamann, Geppert, Boden and Hamon. Sandy Stolte, Tyler Liefer, Andrew Green, Attorney Dennis and Chief Simburger were also present.

Mayor Klein reported Trustee Hampton resigned. Mayor Klein thanked Ron Hampton for his many years of service to our community. Ron was a devoted and trustworthy Trustee that remains committed to our community. Ron never made a decision without first knowing all the facts. Ron has lived in New Athens many years with his wife Kim and family. Ron was elected by the citizens of New Athens for Trustee in 2007 and re-elected for his fourth term this past April. He is honest and tried to do what is best for the community as a whole.

Mayor Klein stated for the vacant Trustee position he recommends Steve Newbold. Steve and his wife Charlotte are longtime residents of our community. Steve is a retired dentist and had his own practice here in New Athens for many years before going to work for the Illinois Department of Corrections. His wife Charlotte was the principal of St. Agatha’s Catholic School before she retired. They have two children they raised here in our community and are members of St. Agatha’s. Steve has expressed interest in the Trustee position in the past and Mayor Klein feels he would be a great asset to the board and the community.

Trustee Geppert made a motion; seconded by Trustee Hamon to accept the resignation of Ron Hampton and declare a vacancy. A vote was answered aye by Wilson, Boden, Geppert, Ruhamann and Hamon.

Trustee Ruhamann made a motion; seconded by Trustee Geppert to appoint Steve Newbold to the vacant Trustee position. A vote was answered aye by Wilson, Boden, Geppert, Ruhamann and Hamon.

Mayor Klein swore in Steve Newbold.

Trustee Newbold noted he has four children not two as previously stated.

The board reviewed the minutes from the October 21st board meeting. Trustee Hamon noted corrections under visitors, public property and ordinance review.

Trustee Hamon made a motion; seconded by Trustee Boden to approve the board minutes with the corrections noted. A vote was answered aye by Wilson, Boden, Ruhamann and Hamon. Geppert and Newbold voted present.

VISITORS
Michael Hagberg, John Kennedy, John Feder, Steve Newbold, Brad Penet, Erika Penet, Ed Marsh, Kyle Wetzel, Jeff Wetzel, Debby Politsch and Mark Schreder

Debby Politsch asked the status of the marina court case. Attorney Dennis said we go to court Wednesday to hear the motions and go to trial December 3rd.

FINANCE & AUDIT
The audit committee reviewed the bills.

Trustee Ruhamann made a motion; seconded by Trustee Hamon to pay the audit bills as presented. A vote was answered aye by Ruhamann, Hamon, Geppert, Boden and Wilson. Newbold voted present.

WATER & SEWER
Nothing new to report

STREETS & ALLEYS
Tyler Liefer said the last meeting he gave the cost of $3,575.95 to replace the storm sewer
between Jackson Street and Clinton Street and Hank’s quote of $5,485 to grout fill the old storm sewer. Tyler said Hank’s price is out of line and checked with Roger’s Redi Mix; we should be able to just fill it with concrete for an approximate cost of $1,500. Tyler has a video of the pipe if anyone wants to see it. The total cost to replace the storm sewer and fill in the existing one is approximately $5,000.

Trustee Boden made a motion; seconded by Trustee Hamon to re-route the storm sewer between Jackson Street and Clinton Street and fill in the existing line; not to exceed $5,000. A vote was answered aye by Ruhmann, Hamon, Geppert, Boden and Wilson. Newbold voted present.

Tyler Liefer received a bid from Deterding to remove three sweet gum trees at 100 block of S Benton Street and one sweet gum at 600 S Johnson Street for $2,400.

Trustee Hamon made a motion; seconded by Trustee Boden to approve the bid of $2,400 to cut down four trees and grind the stumps. A vote was answered aye by Ruhmann, Hamon, Geppert, Boden and Wilson. Newbold voted present.

**Cemetery**
Nothing new to report

**Public Property & Park**
Tyler Liefer had a couple ideas for the park grant. One is to re-seed diamond one and the other is to oil and chip the parking lot.

**Public Safety & ADA**
Trustee Geppert noted the committee met October 29th to discuss buying a new ambulance. The 2005 ambulance is no longer running. Foster Coach quoted $115,600 for a 2019 ambulance on a Ford 350 chassis. The engine is gas. The ambulance will be built to our spec. Trustee Wilson spoke with Foster Coach and said this is the last year for the V-10 motor, next year it will be a 7.3 gas motor. Trustee Wilson did some research and said it would be better to wait for the 7.3 motor, it’s a better motor. The 2005 ambulance is worth nothing as it is now, Trustee Wilson suggested to get an estimate on what it costs to fix it and use it until the other one comes in. Trustee Geppert stated we have already put in over $15,000 in this ambulance this year. Trustee Geppert said both head gaskets need to be replaced and that costs thousands, also the cylinders are leaking and those are a couple thousand to fix.

Trustee Hamon made a motion; seconded by Trustee Ruhmann to approve the purchase of a 2019 ambulance for $115,600 from Foster Coach. A vote was answered aye by Ruhmann, Hamon, Geppert and Boden. Wilson voted nay. Newbold voted present.

**Police**
Nothing new to report

**Personnel**
Trustee Geppert reported the committee met October 29th to discuss employee wages and health insurance. The committee decided to give a 2.5% raise and pay full insurance like it has always been done for full-time personnel.

Trustee Geppert made a motion; seconded by Trustee Ruhmann to give the full-time employees a 2.5% raise with retro pay back to July 1, 2019. A vote was answered aye by Ruhmann, Hamon, Geppert, Wilson and Boden. Newbold voted present.

Trustee Geppert made a motion; seconded by Trustee Hamon to allow the employees to look into the Aflac plan as discussed in the committee meeting. A vote was answered aye by Ruhmann, Hamon, Wilson, Geppert and Boden. Newbold voted present.

Trustee Hamon said last year the full-time employees were given a personnel day, but it was
Due to a variety of factors, the Village Board has decided to table the New Athens TIF District #2 Redevelopment Plan and process. Should the Village decide to again pursue the use of this economic development tool, we would be required to convene a Joint Review Board (meeting with taxing districts) and hold another public hearing. We have no plans to move the process forward at this time.

We at the Village are doing what we can to help improve our community. The TIF District program is a commonly used and proven program designed to stimulate investment and create and retain jobs in areas that are suffering. Our proposed TIF District Area is suffering from a lack of investment and it is the lack of investment in our community that poses the greatest challenge to the future of the community. New investment is not occurring, which can be seen by looking around the area and confirmed by analysis of property valuation trends. Unfortunately, many of our taxing districts disagree with our proposed TIF despite the economic facts of this community. We had hoped to partner with them to help spur some downtown improvements, including building rehabilitation, sidewalk and street improvements and other beautification efforts in this portion of the Village.

There was nothing wrong with the TIF District or any aspect of the TIF establishment process. Before tabling we had seriously explored the option of sharing potential revenues of the TIF with taxing districts. There were many meetings where we outlined the need for TIF and could show (to those who listened) some of the economic realities that the Village faced. Despite these economic realities, it was never the desire of the Village to proceed with any plans in opposition to the taxing districts. Now unfortunately our existing business community will not be afforded one of the few economic development tools municipalities use to change and improve their communities.

We will continue to do what we can at the Village level to bring quality services and small-town care that we've always given to our residents. We will continue to search for other avenues to help improve this town. I welcome your thoughts and input as we move on from this issue.

attorney Dennis said he and the board get a lot of criticism over where we are with the marina case. The big issue is the fact that for 27 years before we got to where we are, the Smith's
would get behind for month’s up to six months to a year behind in making payment and we didn’t ever do anything about it. Smith’s claim because we did that for 27 years, we are required to give him additional time whenever he needed it to pay rent. When the Village said we had enough and you’re out, the Smiths are claiming the Village established a policy of giving them as much time as needed to pay the rent. Attorney Dennis said that is what we are going to argue about on Wednesday in court, in hopes the court rules it’s a matter of law and not a matter of fact for a jury. You ought to understand that from this board’s view point it wasn’t this board doing that. The lease that was drafted 30 years ago did not contain a segment that says allowing you to get behind on one occasion does not establish a pattern, which most leases do, but this did not. Now we have over the years allowed him to go on and on and pay late and that is where the problem lies today. We are trying to shut that off, and I think we will be able to do that. For those people that are criticizing this board, this board is the first one that has had the nerve to do something about it.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Michelle Neff
Village Clerk

Richard Klein
Village President