

Minutes of
Board of Trustees
Village of Atkinson

August 4th 2025

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees, Village of Atkinson, was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Taber, who led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Members Present

Kenneth Taber, Mayor
Ryan Rahn, Trustee
Richard De Smith, Trustee
Bobby Burton, Trustee
Dawn Stage, Trustee
Jeana Jagers, Trustee
Robert Westfall, Trustee

Others Present

Krystle Thomas, Sue Mochel, David Silver
Scott Krug, Lauren Downing, Richard McMahon
Ryan Ramussen, Jerry Enyeart,
Chief Adam Burroughs.

Moved by DeSmith and seconded by Westfall to approve minutes of the July 21st Meeting of the Board of Trustees. Motion carried: Burton, Rahn-Abstained-(did not have time to read), Stage, Jagers, Westfall, DeSmith, 5– AYE; 0 – NAY;

CITIZENS’/GUEST OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE VILLAGE

- i. Jerry Enyeart, voice my opinion of opposition to Dollar General on the west side of town
 - Put down by interstate, or downtown
 - Was there a preliminary plat? States it is a final plat
- Mayor, it will be referred to the zoning board to make a recommendation to the board
- Jerry, how has Dollar General approached the city about this?
- Mayor, Main discussion has been with the owner of the property
 - The office and myself have received emails from Dollar General
 - Did explain to Dollar General the proper procedures
- Jerry, my stance is that the west side of town is all residential and agricultural
 - Should stay that way
 - We do have business zones in this town
 - Does the city not have a website?
- Mayor, we are currently working on it
 - Thomas and Mochel are going for training in September for the new software with a website

- Thomas, I have sent everything to be on the website and have been adding and reviewing the items
- Jerry, do not have fb, and can only see the agenda
 - Need a website to get meeting minutes, agenda, and village business
 - The agenda was recently posted at 4:30 p.m., and that does give anyone anytime
 - To gather information to be for or against the village business
 - Plat should be available
- Jagers, once the website is up, will have emails posted
 - Reach out with questions or concerns
- Thomas, until we have the software, is trained and is a process
- Jagers, having everything accessible to residents, is our goal
 - It is a process, and Thomas has sent everything to the software company
 - They need to be trained, and have been transferring everything over
- Jerry, I want everyone to know I am not against Dollar General
 - do not want it out in residential and agricultural areas
 - Was anything ever done on the water and sewer for Dollar General?
- Rahn, nothing was brought up in a motion to be acted on
 - Just had a general conversation
- Jagers, we were waiting on water and sewer because they were not sure of the actual location
- Rahn, on the agenda, there have been times I have called at 3 in the afternoon to add something
 - Agree. If it is posted later, you do not have a lot of time
- The whole board stated it must be posted 48 hours prior

ii. David Silver, International pure water

- David Silver (gave a handout)
 - Lab-certified water filters
 - Communities across the states
 - Grant funded by EPA
 - Have Atkinson water results, all within legal range
 - No cost for city residents
 - No cost for my time
 - will need to know how many houses, schools, daycares, and buildings
 - IL EPA application
 - Application will be live in 2-3 weeks
 - Hold a community event, show off the filter, give one to every citizen, or ship it to the door
 - At the city's disposal from start to finish
 - Apply for 4 years' worth
 - Blue cartridges suitable for 1 year

- \$35 per cartridge lasts 1 year
- Initial setup: unite with 16 filters
- Do not get grant approval, no strings attached
- Happy to provide references
- Line item for 5% back to the city
- Apply through the GATA portal
- Mayor, will be decided at the next meeting
- Westfall, would like something in writing

OLD BUSINESS

i. Final Action: DG Plat

- Mayor, I suggest approving to send to the ZBA to review to recommending to the board
 - We did receive a rezoning application from Reiling
- Westfall questioned if the property is in TIF
- Mochel and Thomas confirmed it is

Motioned: DeSmith and Burton seconded to approve to send to the Zoning board to review and give a recommendation to the board. Burton, Westfall, Rahn, DeSmith, Stage, -N Jagers. Motion carried: 5 – AYES; 1 – NAYS

ii. Casey's Draft Text Amendment

- Special use for automobile service station, sign variance, interstate pavilion sign
- (email sent from Lawyer Jordan)
- DeSmith, is the site plan “set in stone” the driveways
- Lauren, yes, the site layout
- DeSmith, where you have your sign
 - The village would like to purchase to continue to develop
 - Have a frontage road
- Westfall, would like to see a wider entrance to go to a road
- Lauren, in a future case, might want to sell
 - Cannot move any closer towards loves, locked into IDOT
- Rahn, we do not want to be landlocked
 - What is the height of the sign
- Richard, I feel your city attorney made it more complex than it needed to be
- Lauren pointed out areas on the map and discussed in more detail, explaining the map
- Mayor, we need to change to accommodate for Caseys
 - As businesses come in, they can change to accommodate other businesses
 - Have finalization from Jordan for the August 18th meeting, then set up with ZBA

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN REPORTS

FINANCE/PROPERTIES

i. Final Action: Treasure Report

Motioned: Burton and Westfall seconded to the Annual Treasurer's Report. Burton, Westfall, Rahn, DeSmith-N, Stage, Jagers. Motion carried: 6 – AYES; 0 – NAYS

ii. Final Action: Propane Energy Agreement

- Rahn, Contract at \$1.45 for 2025
 - Contract runs September 1, 2025, through April 30, 2026

Motioned: Westfall and Burton seconded to the Propane Energy Agreement at \$1.45. Burton, Westfall, Rahn, DeSmith-N, Stage, Jagers. Motion carried: 6 – AYES; 0 – NAYS

- Mayor Adam bought up the Excel school lease
 - Need by 8/6/25
 - Rolling contract, does need to vote on each year
- Westfall and Rahn would both like to see the contract

(made copies, handed out)

- Thomas, Adam, would like to have a special meeting to get approved in time?
- Adam, they will approve it on the 6th. We can wait till the next meeting. I am doing it either way
- Rahn, leases are not on the agenda, will need a special meeting to get them finalized
- Thomas, I did not receive anything from Jordan about leases to be on the agenda
- Adam, I know when I receive this for next year in June, I will present then

PUBLIC WORKS

i. Final Action: Bids for Tile

- DeSmith reached out to Jeff Briggs and received an email that he does not want to bid on the job
 - Received a proposal from Millers
 - Replace 12-inch 110ft
 - End of school street, camera in both directions
 - From outlet to tree line, all clear
- DeSmith, get the excavator \$250 for half a day
 - Tile collapse
 - Need dug out
- Rahn, get the camera and check out how far the problem goes
- Mayor, no use fixing it if it is going to be plugged up down the line
- DeSmith, get Miller with Jetter's

- Burton, Ruhl water, does it for free
- DeSmith, taking the main pump out of the water tower today
 - Elevator and Maveric are getting free water
- Scott, no meters at all
 - All have valves, no meters
- Mayor, bill the minimum instead of putting a meter in

Motioned: DeSmith and Westfall seconded Miller's Proposal for \$22,100.00 Burton, Westfall, Rahn, DeSmith-N, Stage, Jagers. Motion carried: 6 – AYES; 0 – NAYS

PARKS & RECREATION

i. Final Action: Concrete Bid under benches

- Jagers have a bid from Josh Billet for concrete
 - (shared pictures)
 - Cut around the pillar, save the pillar
 - Public works pulling up the concrete
 - Square it off, 12x12 pad
 - Approve this tonight, get to this Saturday
 - Done before heritage days

Motioned: Jagers and Stage seconded the bid from Josh Billet for a concrete pour 12x12 pad under benches at the park for \$1,685.00. Burton, Westfall, Rahn, DeSmith-N, Stage, Jagers. Motion carried: 6 – AYES; 0 – NAYS

- update: move the basketball by the pickleball court
- Josh and JB excavating
- 50x50 court, scoop out easily for public works to mow
- Eventually three-on-three during Heritage Day
- Plash pad over by the drinking fountain
- Take out the pole
- Estimate a 10ft fence around three sides of the pickleball court
- 2 basketball hoops in bid
- What style of bench is used by each court?
- Get everything to Dan
- Grant due Sept 30
- ADA-compliant picnic table by splash pad
- Rubber for playground
- Millican put the rock down, then the rubber
- JB bid to dig all out under the playground equipment
- Get two bids for rubber tile, poured rubber
- Johnson will be done tomorrow at the park
- Mayor, ask Marv about the lights flashing on and off
 - The office received several calls

- Jagers will have and store extra bricks at her shop
- DeSmith, did anyone get a hold of Dewyer for concrete at school?
- Rahn, First part of September
- Westfall, head of the library, had some concerns about entrances
- Rahn will talk to her

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY

- Chief, provided a monthly report
 - July was a busy month
 - While on vacation, part-time officers did great
- Jagers, spoke with her inspector about abandoned dogs
 - Fine with putting cages in part of the shop
 - After 3 days, it goes to Henry County
- Adam will draw the agreement up
- Stage, National Night Out in Geneseo tomorrow
 - Touch a truck event in early September or early October

TIF

- Final Action: 503 N State Agreement Ordinance No. 832
 - Burton had TIF applicants question whether TIF covers remodeling apartments
 - Rahn, TIF is for attracting business to come to town
 - Do not think we should go down that road
 - Burton, was not ready to go down that road either
 - DeSmith agrees with Rahn

Motioned: Burton and Stage seconded to accept Ordinance No. 832 for 503 N State Agreement.
Burton, Rahn-N, DeSmith, Stage, Motion carried: 3 – AYES; 1 – NAYS.

FARM REFUSE & RECYCLING

- Westfall, Attorney Dennis Walch sent a 3-page email of questions and landfill items needed
 - Mayor, Thomas, and myself sat down and came up with responses
 - Thomas scanned all landfill information and emailed
 - mailed USB drive with all the files that Phil needed
 - All correspondence, board meeting minutes, and concerns from citizens
 - Jagers, have we heard from Phil?
 - Thomas, no, we have not, but we did send all those correspondence
 - DeSmith, when does the Republic contract expire?
 - Rahn, first part of September, put out for bids

BILLS

Motioned: Westfall and DeSmith seconded that all bills be paid as presented, \$52,562.97. Burton, Westfall, Rahn, DeSmith, Stage, Jagers. Motion carried: 6 – AYES; 0 – NAYS.

OTHER ITEMS

- Ryan Rasmussen, for the last 2 years, has wanted to have the internet down at the gym
 - Lease was updated with what was added in March
 - Was hoping in June to get the internet installed
 - Whether you approve of the lease or not
 - At my own expense
 - Will maintain and operate
 - If my agreement gets canceled for some reason other than cause
 - If I leave, I would be reimbursed
 - Burton had a problem with giving 100% reimbursement after 20 years with depreciation
 - I agreed with him and found it fair, working on a 3-year depreciation
 - Usually, try-outs are in October, next year switching to June
- Rahn, contacted a company
 - We need to get cameras
 - We can run the internet
 - Can put a rush on it
 - You can go ahead and do it
 - Will get with Ryan Rasmussen

Yard issues/concerns

- Thomas received several calls about local yards in town
 - Think the days need to be changed from 30 days to two weeks
 - Up the fine amount
 - Shut off water
- Mayor, I have driven by the two places where complaints have been received about
 - Drove down the Boulevard and two terrible places
- Rahn, shutting the water off is a good idea, but it must be in our ordinances
 - Need to get that added ordinance

Motioned: Westfall and Burton seconded to go into Executive Session at 8:18 p.m., Burton, Westfall, Rahn, DeSmith, Jagers, Stage. Motion carried: 6 – AYES; 0 – NAYS..

(Jagers & Stage left)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Review Executive 2024 First 6 months of sessions

Motioned: Rahn and Westfall seconded to go into Open Session at 8:29 p.m., Burton, Westfall, Rahn, DeSmith. Motion carried: 4 – AYES; 0 – NAYS

FINAL ACTION

- i. Final Action: for open or closed sessions 2023

Motioned: Rahn and Burton seconded to open all executive sessions for 2023. Burton, Westfall, Rahn, DeSmith. Motion carried: 4 – AYES; 0 – NAYS

- ii. Final Action: for open or closed sessions, 2024 first 6 months

Motioned: Rahn and Burton seconded to open the following 2024 executive sessions: January 15th, February 5th, February 19th, May 6th, June 17th, with the exception of keeping the following closed 2024 executive sessions: April 15th, April 22nd, May 20th. Burton, Westfall-Abstain, Rahn, DeSmith. Motion carried: 3 – AYES; 0 – NAYS; 1-Abstain

Motion made by Rahn, seconded by Westfall, to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 pm. Motion carried: 4 – AYES, 0 – NAYS.

Respectfully submitted, Krystle Thomas, Village Clerk