

Minutes of
Board of Trustees
Village of Atkinson

December 1st 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 DeSmith, Trustee,
Bobby Burton, Trustee
Dawn Stage, Trustee
Jeana Jagers, Trustee
Robert Westfall, Trustee

Others Present

Krystle Thomas, Jake Strightmatter
Sue Mochel, Nicole Dopler
Andy Carton, Scott Krug
Chief Adam Burroughs,

Motioned: Rahn and Burton seconded to approve the November 17th meeting minutes. Burton, Westfall, Rahn, Stage, Jagers. DeSmith. Motion carried: 6– AYES; 0 – NAYS.

CITIZENS’/GUEST OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE VILLAGE

OLD BUSINESS

- i. Hearing Officer
 - Mayor, Found out more information from Steve Brown about the Hearing Officer
 - Five municipalities are interested
 - \$500 a month, \$100 a month for us
 - Rahn, can we do it next year?
 - Mayor, Possibly
 - Example, the sidewalk ordinance in front of the house is supposed to be shoveled within 24 hours
 - Fine per day
 - Rahn, have we ever collected the money?
 - Lane about mowing, what if he refuses to pay
 - Westfall, how would a hearing officer enforce?
 - Mayor, once a month, gets together at the courthouse, goes over offenses, and fines
 - Rahn, don’t think we capture a cost for the \$100 a month
 - Mayor, question Chief on his thoughts.
 - Chief, a few of the main issues that have been mentioned
 - I believe our system works
 - Write something and work with the village attorney

- Speeding tickets that we write out for \$160
 - We get about \$25 of it after the county
- Mayor, Galva, Woodhull, Cambridge, Orion, and us would be the five

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN REPORTS

FINANCE/PROPERTIES

- Rahn, Nothing

PUBLIC WORKS

i. Action: Storm & Sanitary Sewer

- Mayor, Shive asked about this for the downtown at a special meeting
- Burton, what are we doing with the sanitary sewer
- Jagers, when we redo the roads, we have replace it
- Burton, should be the storm

Motioned: Rahn and Westfall seconded to the Downtown project to replace the storm sewer and conduct a more specific inspection on the sanitary system, and make repairs as needed. Burton, Westfall, Rahn, Stage, Jagers. DeSmith. Motion carried: 6– AYES; 0 – NAYS.

- Mayor, will get a hold of Shive
 - We still have not received the results from Bruner, Cooper, and Zuck
- Rahn talked to Bruner, Cooper, and Zuck. They are swamped
 - They will work on it this winter

ii. Illinois Rural Water Class

- Mayor, received a letter in the mail for the training class
 - January 6th, 2026
 - 8:00 am- 11:45 am
 - Woodhull
 - Boil Order, Cross Connection (reads off the itinerary)
 - Think it would be good for both Scott and Jake to go
 - Questioned Jake if he had taken it before?
- Jake, I must have 15 credits by May or June for my license
 - Rural water classes are excellent
 - Rural water cameras for free, they help when you have questions

Motioned: Jagers and Burton seconded to send public works employees to Rural Water Class on January 6th, 2026, in Woodhull from 8 am till 11:45. Burton, Westfall, Rahn, Stage, Jagers. DeSmith. Motion carried: 6– AYES; 0 – NAYS.

- Rahn, negotiate with the appraiser

- Are we going to appoint Shive to negotiate with the owners
 - Or appoint a board member to negotiate with owners
- Westfall, a letter from the attorney
- Burton, they get free concrete, why wouldn't they want it
- DeSmith, why do we have to own it?
- Westfall, IDOT requires it
- Rahn, think we should negotiate ourselves

The whole board agrees

- DeSmith, hole filled in on Rock Island Ave.
 - Not sure how plowing went
- Mayor, had some complaints, but they did a really great job
- Rahn, did a great job, looked fantastic
- Jagers, agrees with Rahn, but there were bus stop issues
 - Think that also falls on public health and safety
 - The police officer saw it on Sunday and could have communicated
 - Communication is huge
- Rahn, agrees
 - Someone is always going to find something
- Stage, questioned Jagers on what she is missing?
- Jagers, the bus stop was not plowed
- Scott, if you watch kids, they walk through the snow even with the sidewalks clear
- Jagers, yes agree they walk where they want to walk, it's just a safety issue

PARKS & RECREATION

- Jagers, items that broke before could be taken down for the 40 mph winds
 - Took home and fixed/repared
 - Will put up next year

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY

- Stage, received this month's schedule, gave a copy to Thomas
 - Everyone has chief's monthly report
- Chief spoke with Stage earlier about an officer who is getting a promotion at their full-time job
 - Leaving at the end of December/ January from Atkinson
 - Worked 1-2 nights a month
 - Met with a new officer today from Kewanee
 - The new officer will work 2-4 shifts a month
 - New tires on the squad car worked well in the snow
 - Do you have a training in December that used to be in Moline, but is now at Blackhawk

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i. Gwen Crawford

- Burton, Gwen, could not make it due to the snow; she is planning on the 15th meeting

FARM REFUSE & RECYCLING

- Westfall, nothing
- Mayor Jim Allen from Ecology brought in raffle items for this weekend

BILLS

Motioned: DeSmith and Burton seconded that all bills be paid as presented, \$46,783.70. Burton, Westfall, Rahn, DeSmith, Stage, Jagers. Motion carried: 6 – AYES; NAYS;

OTHER ITEMS

i. Holiday Bonus

- Mayor, last year, gave the part-time and full-time employees visa gift cards
 - \$100 for full-time, \$50 for part-time
 - We currently have four full-time, 11 part-time
- Rahn, do we have any volunteers who go above and beyond?
- Stage, Janis Smith
- Mayor, add Janis to the list?
- Rahn, \$50 for Janis
- Jagers, keep a closer eye on volunteers and keep a list

Motioned: Rahn and Stage seconded to give four full-time employees a \$100 Visa card each for a holiday bonus, and \$50 each a Visa gift card to 11 part-time employees for a holiday bonus, and a \$50 Visa gift card to 1 volunteer, Janis Smith. Burton, Westfall, Rahn, Stage, Jagers. DeSmith. Motion carried: 6– AYES; 0 – NAYS.

ii. Utility Billing update

- Sue, spent the last six days, eight hours a day, putting in all customers in the new system
 - Spent today putting meter readings in
 - This system has way more items than what I need
 - Working with Zener
 - At the end of the month, you cannot use credit cards to pay
 - Sent 65 letters to those who use credit cards
 - Some are going to pay two months' advance
 - Some can't afford to do that
 - Was thinking with the board, ok, we waive the late fees?

The board agreed to waive late fees.

- Sue, might need to bring in another server, so Thomas and I can do two separate things in the system without kicking us out
 - Getting cost from Jim Jots
 - DeSmith, Stage, and Westfall, we need to get together to do Scott's 6-month review, and need to set up a time
 - Stage, Thursday works, Westfall that works
 - Scott, 9 am 6-month review
 - Mayor questioned the tax levy, since it is due in the middle of December
 - Thomas, it is done and ready for approval at the December 15th meeting
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- Nicole Dopler stopped in to introduce myself. I am running for state senator #75.
 - Democrat, mom, has worked in the healthcare field since 1996
 - Protecting Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security
 - From Port Byron
 - Union family background
 - Protecting benefits for the working people
 - Fixing the healthcare system will fix our country
 - Westfall, when is the election?
 - Nicole, March 17
 - Did have someone running against, but dropped out, not enough signatures
 - Mayor, have not seen Spain walk through that door

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

FINAL ACTION

None

Motion made by Rahn, seconded by Burton, to adjourn the meeting at 6:46 p.m. Motion carried 6-AYES, 0-NAY

Respectfully submitted, Krystle Thomas, Village Clerk