

Minutes of
Board of Trustees
Village of Atkinson

January 5th 2026

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-Absent
Robert Westfall, Trustee

Others Present

Krystle Thomas,
Sue Mochel, Jake Straitmatter
Andy Carton, Scott Krug
Chief Adam Burroughs

Motioned: DeSmith and Westfall seconded to approve the December 15th meeting minutes. Burton, Westfall, Rahn, Stage, Jagers-Absent, DeSmith. Motion carried: 5– AYES; 0 – NAYS.

CITIZENS’/GUEST OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE VILLAGE

OLD BUSINESS

- i. Diamond Maps
(Played online Demo)
 - Jake, something public works can add what was updated, installed, or new
 - 1 whole map of the town
 - App is easy to use, can be used on PW laptop, our own phones
 - Same user and password
 - Have done this for four different towns
 - \$20 a month
 - DeSmith, how long for the \$20 a month
 - Jake, as long as you want
 - Mayor, how long do you think it would take you to put in all the information?
 - Jake, I say a day or so
 - Buron, 30-day free trial?
 - Rahn, goes back to PW, how much it will be utilized
 - Will get report from Cooper Burner, Zuck, that will help
 - DeSmith, if we no longer pay, where does all the information go?
 - Jake, if we don’t pay, we lose access to the app when logging in
 - Thomas, if we decided to stop using, download on to USB

- Rahn, agreed with Thomas. Download and print off maps
- Mayor, how many users?
- Jake, just one email logs us in, use the public works email
- Mayor, nice to have for that fee
- DeSmith, do you think this will help with the questions Zach emailed to us about the downtown project
- Jake, yes, this would help
- Mayor, how soon can you get is started?
- Jake, can call tomorrow, had questions on billing
- Thomas, get with me here in the office, and we can get taken care of

Motioned: Westfall and Burton seconded to approve Diamond Maps single user at \$20 a month. Burton, Westfall, Rahn, DeSmith, Stage, Jagers-Absent. Motion carried: 5 – AYES; NAYS;

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN REPORTS

FINANCE/PROPERTIES

- i. Rahn, nothing

PUBLIC WORKS

- DeSmith, got the well pump in
 - Wiring was wrong
 - Pulled the pump, put the correct wire on, and put it back in
- Jake, waiting on lab work from the test last Friday

PARKS & RECREATION

- i. Landfill Contributions/Funding for the Project
 - Thomas Jagers is out sick. She asked me to let the board know the update on the project with the landfill
 - Landfill wants to pay for the splash pad but not the installation
 - Landfill wants to pay for poles, courts, and hoops, but not the installation
 - Possibly donate concrete work
 - Possibly donate excavating work
 - Mayor, talked to Jim today, they like to pay for the new pump at the lagoon
 - Also, will remind everyone that we have other crucial projects that need to be done
 - Need to sit down, look at finances, bills, and where we are with money
 - Westfall, need to sit down for the budget and complete the budget in March

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY

- Stage, Chief emailed Thomas and myself the monthly schedule
- Chief, have nothing, good holiday season

TIF

i. Andy's Business Plan

- Burton, Business plan for Andy Carton
 - He is moving right along
 - Window framed up, put new doors
- Stage, Westfall, and Burton all said it was looking good
- Burton, we need to accept it or reject his plan
- Rahn, no problem doing the front
 - Would like a drawing for a visual
 - Hard time spending money, not knowing what we are getting
- Burton, he can keep moving forward
- Rahn, likes to see what it is going to look like
 - Is it going to look like the drawing
 - What is going on around the doors?
 - Went from a window to a door
- Stage, questioned Andy, do you have a drawing or type a vision?
- Andy, stone, or brick veneer
 - 2 big windows 4ftw x 5ft
- DeSmith, to be fair to Andy, we did not do any of this with Nelson
- Rahn, I asked to see Nelson's
 - Nelson just went and did, then the board approved
- DeSmith, be nice to see, but does not have to be exact
 - Questioned Andy if anyone has a blueprint?
- Andy, smaller windows
 - Same ones like Gus put in
 - Matching Gus limestone headers
 - Leaving Arches
 - Black trim already painted
- Rahn, I like to see pictures
- Burton, let him keep going, get it done
- Rahn (explained his thoughts about a "wow" factor)

Motioned: Burton and DeSmith seconded to let Andy keep going. Burton, Rahn-NO, DeSmith, Stage. Motion carried: 3 – AYES; 1 – NAYS.

- DeSmith, I do think we need to have rules like Jeff for so many employees
 - Andy saying building is bigger, maybe we must have two employees
- Rahn, not a good enough business plan as of now to move forward with inside
- Andy, you do not want to put money into my event center, but you want to put money into the school kitchen
- Rahn, we just want to upgrade the kitchen and have the village hold community events
 - \$1,500 towards a kitchen to \$300,000, what you are asking for is a big difference

FARM REFUSE & RECYCLING

- Westfall, nothing

BILLS

Motioned: DeSmith and Rahn seconded that all bills be paid as presented, \$79,790.71. Burton-Abstain, Westfall, Rahn, DeSmith, Stage, Jagers-Absent. Motion carried: 4 – AYES; NAYS;

- Westfall questioned the health insurance and should shop around
- Rahn, contact Brad about the increase, pay this month
- Sue, Health Alliance, left the state of IL
 - Being so small, insurance companies do not want to take on more than a certain number of employees
- Mayor, not much to shop around to
 - Should we ask the landfill to pay for the muffin monster or the new pump?
- Rahn, Thomas, asked Gwen about the bill to be reimbursed through the TIF
- Sue, LRS first round, went well, only missed one resident
- DeSmith, the upstairs apartment now occupied?
- Thomas, yes, moved in Jan 1st

OTHER ITEMS

Nothing.

Motioned: Rahn and Westfall seconded to go into Executive Session at 6:42 p.m., Burton, Westfall, Rahn, DeSmith, Jagers-Absent, Stage. Motion carried: 5 – AYES; 0 – NAYS.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- i. Decision Update
- ii. Utility Clerk Position
- iii. Property

iv. Employee Concern

Motioned: Westfall and Rahn seconded to go into Open Session at 7:35 p.m., Burton, Westfall Rahn, DeSmith. Jagers-Absent, Stage Motion carried: 5 – AYES; 0 – NAYS

FINAL ACTION

i. Utility Clerk Position

Motioned: Rhan and DeSmith seconded. Post an ad for a new Utility Clerk position, minimum 25 hours per week, with a deadline for applications of February 1st. Burton, Westfall, Rahn, Stage, Jagers-Absent. DeSmith. Motion carried: 5– AYES; 0 – NAYS.

Motion made by Westfall, seconded by Rahn, to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 p.m. Motion carried 5-AYES, 0-NAY

Respectfully submitted, Krystle Thomas, Village Clerk