

Minutes of  
Board of Trustees  
Village of Atkinson

March 2nd 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  
Robert Westfall, Trustee

Others Present

Krystle Thomas, Sue Mochel  
Scott Krug, Jake Strightmatter, Lola Rahn  
Andy Carton, Chief Burroughs

Motioned: DeSmith and Stage seconded to approve the February 16th meeting minutes. Burton, Westfall, Rahn, Stage, Jagers, DeSmith. Motion carried: 6– AYES; 0 – NAYS.

CITIZENS’/GUEST OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE VILLAGE

- Foster Hope- Lola Rahn
- (passed out handout)
- Lola heard rumors that Foster Hope was marking up the gym floor
  - FOIA requested emails about the GYM & Foster Hope
  - I have highlighted “they are destroying the floor,” meaning Foster Hope
  - (reads letter directed to the whole board)
- Jagers, First, my husband said, " Can the marks be removed?"
  - If so, then it's being used, which is good
  - Why don't we, as board members, get down and try to remove the scuff marks
  - This needs to be addressed appropriately; how this was handled was not, blown out of proportion
- Rahn, black marks have been there for a while, scuff marks. Foster Hope came to me about being accused of it
  - Asked Foster Hope to move forward
  - Did look at the floor, black marks have been there for some time
  - It is a gym floor it getting used, it is not a museum
  - I like seeing walkers, dancers, and ROE using it
  - Need to get the committee together to discuss how to move forward

- Jagers, want it to be open to the community
  - Nice to get a lot of use out of it
  - Its not a memorial, it's not art
  - Cleaned weekly
- Mayor, I did go down and look at it
  - Did see the black marks, do blend in
  - Some marks came up, and some did not
- Scott, marks by and from the bleachers are being pulled in and out
- Mayor, want it used but not destroyed
  - Work together with the community
- Jagers, guidelines with committee
- Mayor, keep a closer eye and look at all the time

#### OLD BUSINESS

- i. Burner, Cooper, Zuck- Sewer Report
  - Thomas, I have not received anything
  - Rahn, I have not. I thought they were coming. I will email them
- ii. Westview Estates
  - Westfall went to the courthouse, picked up the actual seal
    - One paper said 1,250sq and this one says 1,550sq
    - To change anything must go to each neighbor for approval
    - Good for 25 years, as done in 2006
  - Rahn, not sure how got by, two residents have a fence over 36 inches, when stated cannot be
  - Westfall, have Jordan look and see if anything has been added
    - Shronda told me that she found a little strip, and I am paying an additional \$150.00 in taxes per year
  - DeSmith, Thanks for paying that
  - Mayor, split on lot Veromen and Crotty
  - Rahn explained the handout of Westview.
  - Westfall (explained how he sees it)
  - Mayor, thought it was divided up equally up to the water

(The whole board had a discussion of the map)

  - Jagers, the county Asser should have it or recorded
  - Mayor explained lots in the plat in the original
- iii. Playground
  - Jagers, met with two different companies in the last two weeks
    - Get estimates
    - Excavating contract work, fiber, and poured rubber
    - Both companies do not recommend title do not last
    - Burke magazine does have a match 50/50 grant on the last page
    - Did reach out to Dan
    - Estimates for toddler, ADA, all ages included,

- There is a company that would take out the playground free of charge
- Rahn described hypothetical numbers with mulch and tiles
- Jagers, they are going to give the prices for that too
  - Post has a 100-year warranty
  - Warranty and colors on the back of the magazine
  - Did ask about the sidewalk for the border
- Rahn, can it be done in phases?
- Jagers, all at once
- Mayor, ask about turnaround time and when they can start

iv. Brick work on Excel

- Rahn, \$30,000 bid to have brick work done at Excel
  - Break down to \$10,000 a year
  - Talked to Double S, they are ok with breaking down to that yearly
  - Though make a proposal, start working when approaching up the \$10,000 stop
  - Need to get the bat issue fixed

Motioned: Rahn and Jagers seconded to let Kirt with Double S to do brick work up to \$10,000 in repairing on the south side and cap on the north side. Burton, Westfall, Rahn, Stage, Jagers, DeSmith. Motion carried: 6– AYES; 0 – NAYS.

## COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN REPORTS

### FINANCE/PROPERTIES

i. Negotiations/Acquisitions (Jordan Newell via Phone)

- Jordan had a chance to review an email from Thomas
  - Chance to read, see the needs
  - Spoke with Zach Howeell from Shive
  - Survey & described the 7 parcels
  - DOT mandates acquisitions process
  - Require title process
  - April 29<sup>th</sup> deadline, need 2 weeks in advance, which would be April 15<sup>th</sup>
  - Very time sensitive, addressed quickly
  - Moving forward with negotiations
  - Had a conversation with my office legal team, thought it would be good for them to handle some of this
- Jagers & Rahn both agreed
- Jordan, accomplishable in the timeline
  - Did ask Zach if it is doable, he seems to be ok as long as the negotiations go well
  - Massie & Quick contract is going to exceed the scope
  - Special itemized time separately form monthly retainer fee
  - Still covered under the current contract

- Give the green light to move forward, if you want to vote next meeting
  - 7 parcels, 7 real estates to work on
  - Do not know the estimated number of hours
  - \$300 hourly rate towards this project, this fall under the regular contract
- Mayor, does anyone have any objections to Mass & Quick doing the parcels
  - Jagers, how soon would you have this, need to be negotiated
  - Jordan, only keeping form moving forward is the appraisal
    - Move forward with titles, deeds, real estate, and legal documents
    - Begin our research and preparation of documents
    - Wait for the dollar amount to enter
  - Jagers, thought we had an email about the present packet when doing negotiations
  - Jordan, DOT set a guidance package, will look more into this
    - Get guidance from the engineer or DOT
    - Appraisals next week
  - Rahn, let us know when we can start anything you need from us
  - Jordan, we will do as much as we can
  - Rahn, do you know where you are with the contracts from APEX and Foster Hope?
  - Jordan, get them all on the same templet ok, using the ROE template
    - Copy and paste away
    - Get them turned around quickly so you can get them to you as soon as I can
  - DeSmith, we have a restaurant that is closing.
    - Owner of the building never hooked up to the sewer
    - If we made him, it would put the restaurant out of commission
    - Can we send a letter to the owner to have a hook-up?
  - Rahn, the village supplied sewer line was never hooked up
    - Pleased with us not taking up the floor in the restaurant
    - Board said OK, if the restaurant was running
    - Not the restaurant done on March 13th
  - Jordan, what I am understanding not in compliance wants to remedy, will do it
    - Thomas, send over the information

(Jordan hung up)

- Rahn had a citizen ask about cars behind the school
- Scott, they have only been back there since November
  - Took a call about it today

PUBLIC WORKS

- DeSmith, Public Works, got the new mower.
  - Old mower, take to scrap or Andersons?
- Rahn, get rid of it
- Mayor, though be a good idea to take the dirt pile out by brush pile to offer to Caseys
- Rahn would never pass the inspection

## PARKS & RECREATION

- Jagers, Rahn and I met with Johnson about the berm
    - Paint a neutral color
    - Water pressure is higher
    - Using a lot of pressure, not volume
    - Suggested an inch
    - Lights added, start small, add to as you go
    - Flat rocks
    - Do we know where " Rock on the Blvd. " came from?
  - Scott, trucked in
  - Burton, from Missouri
    - Leftovers should be in plastic totes
- i. Geen Trees
- Scott, green handmade ones
  - Rahn, get rid of them
  - Mayor, they are old
  - Jagers, get rid of them
- ii. Planting Trees
- iii. Tree Removal Bids
- Jagers, back in minutes, said 8 trees were taken down
    - Did 6 trees
    - 5 trees donated
    - How I read it, he needs to take one more tree
  - Mayor, had me sign something
  - Sue, the trees that were taken down, which were dangerous
  - Jagers, have 3 bids
  - (reads off two brothers' bid)
    - McBride & Brothers' maple needs to be cut down
    - 3 trees need additional trimming
    - The original bid was 8 trees
- Sue, will ask Sean tomorrow when they bring 5 trees
    - He was told by two people not to trim trees
  - Jagers, what do we want to do?

- McBride 1,600.50 + 150 to trim Total \$1,750.50
  - Two brothers 2,500 removal gride four stumps trim oak and maple
  - Sean wants \$1,200 to take down the maple
- Mayor, how much has been paid?
  - Thomas, \$10,000

Motioned: Jagers and that limbless take down the maple tree, southeast, no additional fee, trim the lowest side, original bid for \$15,200, supply 5 trees donation.

- Jagers, get hold of McBride, for grinding and dirt clean up
- Rahn, no motion needed, need to say finish your contract
- Mayor, sue will you get a hold of him

### PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY

- Stage, Received the monthly report for February
  - Thomas and I received the monthly March schedule
- Chief, Officer Poulsen from Kewanee will start this month, training starting out
  - Strong officer
- Mayor, do you show him major places to patrol?
- Chief, yes

### TIF

- i. Email from Nic Klein
  - Burton, is everyone able to read the email we received?
    - Any comments?
  - Rahn, nothing has been approved. No motion is needed
  - Thomas, Gwen, and Nic requested a phone call with Bobby and myself last week
    - The email explains some items they are questioning
  - Mayor, Andy, do you have this email?
  - Andy, no.
  - Thomas, he can FOIA request the item

### FARM REFUSE & RECYCLING

- Westfall, Thomas, have you talked to Jim about by Route 6 across from Jager's business
- Thomas, no
- Westfall needs to be cleaned up once a month
- Mayor, I received an email from Dennis Walsch today
  - Thomas will forward to the board

- Rahn, why do when I ask questions, they go to Phil?
- Mayor, have we received any emails on conversion rates from Walsch?
- Thomas, no.
- Rahn explained the emails back and forth and his frustrations.

## BILLS

- Mayor, need to check with the lights at the shelter staying on all night
  - Maybe change dawn to dusk, help with the Ameren bill
- Scott, shelter off at 10 pm
- Mayor, keep an eye on it
- Jagers, will talk to Marv about it
- Rahn, hold off on paying limbless
- Mayor, Bruner, Cooper, Zuck
- Jagers, hold off on paying them since no report, and they didn't show

Motioned: Burton and Jagers seconded that all bills be paid as presented, \$48,870.97. Burton, Westfall, Rahn, DeSmith, Stage, Jagers. Motion carried: 6 – AYES; NAYS;

## OTHER ITEMS

- Jagers, took the bid back to DeDeckers for the water bottle fill up see if prices had changed
- Thomas, Elizabeth started last Wednesday and is doing very well. She likes to stay busy. She already took the initiative to clean and help with something I was doing.

Motioned: Rahn and Burton seconded to go into Executive Session at 7:47 p.m., Burton. Westfall, Rahn, DeSmith, Jagers, Stage. Motion carried: 6 – AYES; 0 – NAYS.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motioned: Rahn and Jagers seconded to go into Open Session at 7:53 p.m., Burton, Westfall Rahn, DeSmith. Jagers, Stage Motion carried: 6 – AYES; 0 – NAYS

## FINAL ACTION

Motion made by Rahn, seconded by Stage, to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 p.m. Motion carried 6-AYES, 0-NAY

Respectfully submitted, Krystle Thomas, Village Clerk

