

Minutes of
Board of Trustees
Village of Atkinson

March 16 2026

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

Members Present

Kenneth Taber, Mayor-(Absent)
Ryan Rahn, Trustee-(Absent)
Richard DeSmith, Trustee,
Bobby Burton, Trustee- Pro-Tem
Dawn Stage, Trustee
Jeana Jagers, Trustee
Robert Westfall, Trustee

Others Present

Krystle Thomas,
Scott Krug, Jake Strightmatter

Motioned: DeSmith and Westfall seconded to approve the March 2nd meeting minutes. Westfall, Rahn-ABSENT, Stage, Jagers, DeSmith. Motion carried: 4– AYES; 0 – NAYS, ABSENT-1.

CITIZENS’/GUEST OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE VILLAGE

Ninette Carton- canceled due to the weather

Dave Carton -canceled due to the weather

OLD BUSINESS

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN REPORTS

FINANCE/PROPERTIES

- i. Resolution #264
 - Westfall, questioned the PMM & ILL Funds and all accounts
 - Thomas explained that the PMM is the premium money market account
 - ILL Funds is the Illinois Funds
 - PMM, we get interest once a month and are divided among 13 accounts; last month, the amount of interest was \$584 for February
 - ILL Funds, we have 5 accounts, and the interest changes every day
 - Westfall, questioned whether we should use TIF money

- Thomas, the Resolution is for PPM to the Operating account. The operating account is the main account we write checks out of. Since this is a significant amount, we had to do a resolution.

Motioned: Westfall and Stage seconded to approve Resolution #264. Permanently transfer funds from PMM to Operating Account. Westfall, Rahn-ABSENT, DeSmith, Stage, Jagers. Motion carried: 4 – AYES; NAYS; ABSENT-1

ii. Resolution #265

Motioned: Westfall and Jagers seconded to approve Resolution #265. Permanently transfer funds from ILL Funds to Operating Account. Westfall, Rahn-ABSENT, DeSmith, Stage, Jagers. Motion carried: 4 – AYES; NAYS; ABSENT-1

PUBLIC WORKS

- DeSmith, I have nothing.
- Scott & Jake have nothing.

PARKS & RECREATION

i. Quotes

- Jagers, have three quotes
 - One from two brothers for \$2,900
 - Removal of maple tree and stump SW Corner, grind 4 old stumps, trim lower south-facing oak limb near the corner of Church St. & 2nd
 - Trim the lower south-facing maple limb over the east side of the gazebo
 - Price includes clean up, haul away, and topsoil of the stump holes.
 - McBride for \$1,750.50
 - Take down one tree and grind the stump. Haul dirt in and fill the hole
 - Trim 3 trees
 - McBride for \$595.75
 - Clean up 5 stumps & haul dirt in to fill holes
 - No grinding
- Scott, McBride said, if you hire them, they will plant all 5 trees for free

Motioned: Jagers and DeSmith seconded to approve the McBride quote to take down one tree, grind the stump, haul dirt in the fill hole, trim 3 trees, and plant 5 trees for free. Westfall, Rahn-ABSENT, DeSmith, Stage, Jagers. Motion carried: 4 – AYES; NAYS; ABSENT-1

- Scott will call McBride

ii. Flower Pots

- Jagers, Thomas, brought up about the flower pots since Old Mill Gardens closed
 - The mayor spoke with Trent Taber to see if he and his FFA group would be interested
- Thomas usually just gets a hold of Old Mill Gardens, has PW load the trailer up with all the flower pots, and then she lets us know when done. We paid for time, soil, and flowers
 - Will get the previous invoice over to Jagers.
- Jagers will have the Mayor talk to Trent or get me his number to talk to him about details.
- Westfall, then we can donate to FFA
- DeSmith, is Dan working on Grant for the park?
- Jagers, currently working on getting all quotes to do the playground
 - If we take donations, the grant does not like that
 - Grant is 50/50,- 50 from Grant and 50 from the Village
 - If the Village pays for the playground and maybe the landfill
- Westfall, get the landfill to help
 - Does Wyffels ever donate?
- Jagers, be a good idea to go around town and ask if any businesses want to donate towards the project
 - (passed around pamphlet and explained)
- Jake, can we investigate blacktop or paving on the north side by the bus stop?
- DeSmith, put in with streets when we do them
- Jagers, who does pave anymore?
- Thomas, McDonald trucking and paving out of Ohio, I have a contact
- Jagers, Jake can you call and get quotes
- Jake, yes
- Jagers, did get a quote on the berm, not sure what's happening with downtown
 - Quote is good till December 2026

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY

- Stage, spoke with Chief, and he has nothing to report
 - We both are working together for the 16th 23rd of May for touch a truck
 - When it gets closer to finalizing the date

TIF

FARM REFUSE & RECYCLING

- Westfall, Garbage cans all over town with high winds
 - Asked Thomas to contact Joe about different garbage cans
 - Aledo got rid of LRS

- Thomas, I emailed him and gave him your phone number. He said he will call you
- Jagers talked to my employee from Cambridge, who had the same issues with high winds

BILLS

- Burton, you will see an email behind the bills explaining one of the bills
- Thomas, the email is from our Auditor, Adam Pulley
 - We have already paid \$27,000
 - New invoice for \$40,704.10
 - In the statement of work, it stated the audit was \$36,000, and the single audit was \$12,000 that would be \$48,000.
 - They are saying the additional \$40,740.01 is for the scope of work that they usually do not do
 - I will give you examples throughout this whole process:
 - I said I feel it is like when I take my taxes to the tax person, drop off the information, and they do everything needed and call me when it is done, that is how the village has done it with the previous auditor. She comes and spends 2-3 days, gives her all the information she asked for, and then she leaves, and within some time, they have the audit done, and to us, he said that's not what an auditor does
 - He told me they worked nights and weekends, which I reminded him we never asked them to do that
 - In the beginning, they asked for a trial balance, but never explained exactly what they were looking for or how they wanted it. When they sent the Excel sheet over, asking for the items we sent over.
 - Sue and I sent several emails, attachments, and even mailed large USPS boxes twice to them because the attachment was too large to send in an email
 - Then, once they said they cannot move forward without a trial balance, Sue and I both went back through the entire year I put every expense on an Excel sheet, and she put every revenue on an Excel sheet, and sent them over to them in two separate emails. They still stated that they needed it on one Excel sheet
 - I did get a hold of Tampico's audit, and it does not look like ours, and I questioned him on that. Adam said they have different accounts from us
 - Adam said several times that what our auditor did before us is not what an auditor does. I said, well, for the last 11-12 years, she did and did not have any issues from the comptroller
 - Our TIF controller emailed me and saw that there was a transaction not recorded correctly. The TIF controller requested that the audit be revisited, and Adam said that it would be very costly to the Village. I found the transaction was in July 2024, before my time, and by the previous clerk. I was able to get all the information to the TIF controller, and she was able to file with that
 - We received our 2nd notice for our single audit not being uploaded for EPA. The Mayor asked me to try to figure out a way to do that. I did, but I needed the auditor information and some questions answered. Adam wanted to call and help me through it. Once on the phone, he was more concerned about the outstanding \$40,740.01 invoice. We went in circles about it. He feels he fulfilled his contract.

I got off the phone and emailed him to say he had not fulfilled his contract because our single audit had not yet been uploaded.

- He emailed back and said that it was fair and it was done.
 - There was a moment for about 2 weeks they were asking for a certain amount for the account, had Sue and myself racking our brains trying to figure it out, then one day, we asked them if they were including the CDs, which was the amount. This is after they already had this information from the bank directly.
 - Adam said he recommends that we get an accountant to clean up our books. I asked what needs to be cleaned up so I can know and ask these questions. His response was, "That's not what we do".
 - Adam said they found some discrepancies on a journal entry, I said OK can you show us so we know for the future? " He said, "That's not what we do".
 - Adam will be here at the April 6th meeting for questions on the audit
- Westfall, Thomas, what do you propose we do
 - Thomas, I do not want to use them again. I would like to use someone closer. I don't mind getting an accountant to look at the books and "clean" them up, but I don't know how to explain that to the accountant. If he does not tell us what it is, that will be hard to do
 - Westfall, think we need to wait to pay them when they come after the explanation on April 6th

Motioned: Jagers and Stage seconded that all bills be paid as presented, \$66,181.23, Westfall, Rahn-ABSENT, DeSmith, Stage, Jagers. Motion carried: 4 – AYES; NAYS; ABSTAIN- 1

OTHER ITEMS

- Westfall, have we sent a letter to the owner of the Cattle Company?
- Thomas, I have sent the ordinance and past letters, Larry's response letter, the bid that he gave to the board, and the meeting minutes all to Jordan
- Burton talked to Lisa about moving into the old school kitchen
- DeSmith, New contact with LRS, does it have a spring and fall clean-up?
- Thomas, Yes, it does
- DeSmith, we should set it up for April and October
- Westfall, set a date for May, Thomas can work on that
- Thomas, I will reach out to Joe
- DeSmith, Dollar General get occupancy certificate?
- Thomas, yes, today they did. Dominic came in today and picked up
- Westfall, what did they pay for a building permit?
- Thomas, \$3,330.00
- Westfall, anything on Caseys
- Thomas, received an email today, and they will let us know when they are starting
 - They should be getting a building permit soon
- DeSmith, any updates on the annexation with the landfill?

- Burton, our lawyer, is working on that. Then, we must hold a meeting, and everyone must agree before anything is done

EXECUTIVE SESSION

FINAL ACTION

Motion made by DeSmith, seconded by Westfall, to adjourn the meeting at 6:36 p.m. Motion carried 4-AYES, 0-NAY

Respectfully submitted, Krystle Thomas, Village Clerk