

Minutes of
Board of Trustees
Village of Atkinson

April 20th 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 (ABSENT)

Others Present

Krystle Thomas, Jim Allen, Matt Wagner
Scott Krug, Jake Strightmatter,
Andy Carton, Chief Burroughs

Motioned: Jagers and Burton seconded to approve the April 6th meeting minutes. Burton, Westfall-ABSENT, Rahn, Stage, Jagers, DeSmith. Motion carried: 5– AYES; 0 – NAYS; ABSENT-1.

CITIZENS’/GUEST OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE VILLAGE

Community Solar Presentation- No show

OLD BUSINESS

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN REPORTS

FINANCE/PROPERTIES

- i. Budget
 - Mayor, have our Budget for FY 26-27
 - Revenue total \$5,665,807.52
 - Expenses total \$5,168,550.00
 - Revenue is more than expenses
- ii. Action: Approve Budget FY 26-27

Motioned: Burton and Jagers seconded that to accept the FY 26-27 Budget. Revenue totaling \$5,665,807.52 and Expenses totaling \$5,168,550.00 Burton, Westfall-ABSENT, Rahn, DeSmith, Stage, Jagers. Motion carried: 5 – AYES; NAYS; ABSENT-1

iii. CPA-Update

- Thomas, I reached out to Karin Clavert, who was doing the village payroll after the previous clerk left till January 2026. Her office is in Kewanee.
 - I told her what our Auditor suggested, and if she would be interested in doing a clean-up/training, going over our books with me
 - Karin said she would be willing to do that. She will need more specifics.
 - I reached out to Adam Pulley, our auditor, asked him to contact Karin, and that the Village was taking his suggestion, but she would need more specifics.
 - Of course, he wasn't overly helpful, almost like pulling teeth, and would not reach out to Karin. I said send me an email so I can give her the specifics, and I will work with her. He finally emailed the specifics I sent to Karin, waiting to hear back from her. Currently, this is her busy time.

iv. Lighting upgrade/rebate

- Rahn, received an email from Gretchen at Ameren
 - Most everything has been converted over

v. Outside Camera at office

- Jagers, I was coming into the office one afternoon and was bitten by a dog walking by
 - Talked to the chief about the incident and cameras
 - Would like cameras outside the office main door and the police door
 - Since this is a government office, we should have a camera
 - Chief is going to look into them and have them by the next meeting
- Rahn, feels nowadays we should have them
- Mayor, agrees that nowadays we do
- Jagers, Chief, is going to look into a ring camera also
- Rahn, Chief, was walking through the school and went to the cafeteria. Water was dripping
 - Rust spot in the steel
 - Called Sterling Roof, came the next day, and fixed
 - Down the whole side is bad, asked him to get me a price
- Mayor, Concrete work is done outside the Atkinson Commons building
- Rahn, looks good.
 - At the front door of the building, about 3-4 inches of asphalt was cut out probably from a snow plow
 - Did ask to get a quote for concrete

PUBLIC WORKS

i. Blacktop Quotes

- Jagers, guys came to me, about the part by the park at the bus stop
 - 200ft little past bike rack
 - Put in handicap parking
 - Do we want to go only 200 ft or longer?
- DeSmith, what about grass, always standing water, needs tiled
- Rahn, Agreed
- Burton, tile on the west side of the park
- Rahn, the water problem needs to be taken care of
- Mayor, received two bids for Potter and McDonald's
 - \$10,000 more on McDonald's

- Rahn, don't know if these companies, I want references
- Andy, ask the county
- Mayor, be nice to have done for the parking
- Rahn, agree be nice to be done
 - Get more comparisons
 - References, compare more "apples to apples."

- DeSmith, Jake & Scott to get more comparisons

- ii. Action: Blacktop
- iii. Sanitary Lining vs. Replacing
 - Rahn, Email from Kevan Cooper
 - I spoke with Kevan Cooper on this lining the sanitary.
 - 1) he stated that the EPA is way behind, a year or so out. So, on this downtown project, we should leave it in the project; we can switch it to lining versus replacement, but don't take it out and keep it in the BC&Z lining project. It won't get done if we do.
 - Mayor, take the replacement out, only lining
 - Rahn, have Zach leave in scope

- iv. Action: Formal Vote to proceed with sanitary sewer

Motioned: Rahn and Jagers seconded to change the scope of the downtown project- Shive to take out replacement of the sanitary sewer and keep lining of the sanitary sewer. Burton, Westfall- ABSENT, Rahn, DeSmith, Stage, Jagers. Motion carried: 5 – AYES; NAYS; ABSENT-1

- v. Action: Downtown Letting Date November 2026
 - Thomas, Zach would like a formal vote to move the letting date
 - If moved gives the attorney more time for the parcels
 - Even moving it still needs and can be started in April to keep the grant

Motioned: Rahn and Burton seconded to change the letting date to November 2026 with a guarantee of construction starting in April 2027. Burton, Westfall-ABSENT, Rahn, DeSmith, Stage, Jagers. Motion carried: 5 – AYES; NAYS; ABSENT-1.

- Mayor, the amount of water standing in the drain by Flo's
- Scott, always been that way since the blvd was redone
- Mayor, it was just flooded
- Rahn, keep monitoring
- Mayor, I say that's on Miller's if there a problem
- Rahn, unless the tile is plugged

(discussed tile locations)

PARKS & RECREATION

i. Playground Design

- Jagers, met with two playground companies
 - Only one got back to me
 - Mayor Scott and myself went over the park and ideas
 - Three deigns, the Mayor and myself like number 2
 - Can always add more items
 - Option 1 for \$88,000 for equipment \$110,562 for rubber
 - Option 2: \$84,000 for equipment \$101,884 for rubber
 - Option 2 to do everything is \$270,000

(The board discussed all three options and drawings)

- Jagers, in the meantime been talking to Dan
 - DOT is pushing for poured rubber to be more ADA-compliant
 - Spoke with Jim Allen, gave the price list, and explained what the landfill can help with
 - Gave price sheet to Rahn to talk to Wyffels about what they can help with
- DeSmith, how about canopies?
- Jagers, can add them
- Mayor, have everyone look at the price sheet
 - Want to wait on the playground and courts or do them together
 - A quarter of our landfill checks would cover this cost
 - Our recent check was larger than 270,000
 - Wait till next year to ask the landfill to help with courts
 - They did say they could start asap

(board discussed price sheet)

- Jagers, the company will come take out the old equipment, but we have to take the concrete post out ourselves

- Andy, for excavating, asking Tony
 - Has excavating equipment or may donate the rock
- Jagers, I will call him
- Rahn, want to see what all is going to look like
- Mayor, add sand volleyball if their room
- Rahn, I think we need it, but put down by diamonds
 - Get more prices for toddler stuff and canopies
 - Like option #2
- Mayor, rubber has patch kits
 - Warranty is 7 years
- Jagers, have a sidewalk go around the playground as a border
- Burton, the sidewalk would last
- DeSmith, parents walk their strollers on the concrete

ii. Fountain quote upgrade

- Jagers, Rahn, talked to the guy who painted the fountain
- Rahn, the paint that was used in the fountain
 - The company doesn't make other colors
 - Found one vendor with earth tone, the color should work
 - Keep blue and do not take the risk
- Jagers, upgrade more water, less pressure
 - Steady fountain light
 - A couple of stones
 - Start small, add every year
 - Photo eye will turn on and off at dusk

iii. Action: Fountain upgrades

Motioned: Burton and Jagers seconded the accepted bid for \$ 7,491.59 from Meyer Landscape and Design to upgrade the fountain. Burton, Westfall-ABSENT, Rahn, DeSmith, Stage, Jagers. Motion carried: 5 – AYES; NAYS; ABSENT-1.

iv. Summer Rec position

- Jagers, I'm going to let Thomas explain this position
- Thomas, Reagan said last year would be her last year as Summer Rec director.
 - Elizabeth has shown interest in the position
 - She would have to switch her schedule, summer rec in am and utility clerk in the afternoon
 - Wanted to know if you wanted to hire in-house first

- Mayor, what was the hourly wage last year?
- Thomas, \$18hr
 - Currently makes \$20 now
- Mayor, I have no problem with the \$2/hr. difference

Motioned: Rahn and Jagers seconded to hire Elizabeth for the Summer Rec position in-house. Burton, Westfall-ABSENT, Rahn, DeSmith, Stage, Jagers. Motion carried: 5 – AYES; NAYS; ABSENT-1

- Rahn, contact last year's assistant, see if she wants to do it again, if not, then put an ad out
- Jagers, Thomas, do you want to get me the information
- Thomas, I can certainly do this and take it off your plate and be in touch with you
- Mayor, do we want to send any specs for baseball diamonds
- Thomas, will email Jagers the specs
- Rahn, was contacted me asking if the town needed any volunteer help
 - Fountain needs pressure-washed
 - If anything else, let me know
 - Time lien doesn't matter
- Mayor, Scott & Jake, do we have blowers and weed eaters?
- Scott, yes
- Mayor, when you mow, do you take them with you? When done mowing, weed-eating, edge sidewalks, and blowing off grass
- Jagers talked about that last year at Veterans Memorial

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY

- Stage, nothing
- Chief, Stage and I are working on touch a truck mid-May
 - Talked to the fire dept public works, county
 - Will be putting the information out soon
 - Jagers approached me about cameras
 - Do we want to contact the previous guy named Deno?
- Rahn, I think he did a poor job
- Chief will look into more
- Burton, no luck with Deno
- Chief, do we want 3 different apps or Ring Camera
- Rahn, Hughes, telephone, does it
- Chief spoke with Rahn about the doors being unlocked at Atkinson Commons building last week
 - Water coming into the cafeteria
 - 3 things all in the same night
- Rahn, contacted Doors Inc., keys on both sides of the door have to have a key

- Mayor, Chief talk to other officers about the lagoon to monitor, make sure only from town dumping

TIF

- Burton, nothing

FARM REFUSE & RECYCLING

i. Matt Wagner, Valve Replacement @ WWTP

- Matt, plan under contract to do the valves
 - Last storm I lost my office and 2nd story building
 - Wanted to know if we are still good to move forward with the valve replacement
 - Treatment plan for EPA in August
- Rahn, wetlands willing to hold off, we have a lot of projects going
- Mayor, wetlands have to go to the EPA?
- Matt, EPA loan with forgiveness, everything new / upgraded, then yes, that was in the 2-million-dollar range
- Rahn, were valves and wetlands the same project or two separates?
- Matt, Joe, and I talked about replacing the valves
- Mayor, need wetlands up and running while others are shut down
 - Go at it in baby steps
 - Would like to see the wetlands go through and make in though the winter
- Matt, I will ask for the updated price
- Mayor, if we ok the valve replacement, who does it?
- Matt, talked to Miller, it was over the \$25,000 mark
 - Will have to go out to bid
 - Usually give a for sure date, with get with Thomas to get more of an ETA, and out for bid

BILLS

Motioned: DeSmith and Rahn seconded that all bills be paid as presented, \$62,287.13, with correction for the core and main difference after being sent back. Burton, Westfall-ABSENT, Rahn, DeSmith, Stage, Jagers. Motion carried: 5 – AYES; NAYS; ABSENT-1

OTHER ITEMS

Motioned: Burton and Jagers seconded to go into Executive Session at 7:45 p.m., Burton. Westfall-ABSENT, Rahn, DeSmith, Jagers, Stage. Motion carried: 5 – AYES; 0 – NAYS; ABSENT-1.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- i. Personnel Request
- ii. Part-time Position
- iii. Summer Rec Position
- iv. FY 26-27 Employee Raises

Motioned: Rahn and Jagers seconded to go into Open Session at 8:11 p.m., Burton, Westfall-ABSENT, Rahn, DeSmith. Jagers, Stage Motion carried: 5 – AYES; 0 – NAYS; ABSENT-1.

FINAL ACTION

- i. Personnel Request

Motioned: Rahn and Jagers seconded to give Jake the first requested week off, May 6- May 12, and denied the 2nd request. Burton, Westfall-ABSENT, Rahn, DeSmit-NO. Jagers, Stage Motion carried: 4 – AYES; 1 – NAYS; ABSENT-1.

- ii. Part-time Position

Motioned: Burton and Jagers seconded to offer Brody Clementz the public works part-time position at \$17.50hr. Burton, Westfall-ABSENT, Rahn-ABSTAIN, DeSmith. Jagers, Stage Motion carried: 4 – AYES; 0 – NAYS; ABSENT-1;1-ABSTAIN

- iii. Summer Rec Position

- Mayor, already decided in parks & rec.

- iv. FY 26-27 Employee Raises

Motioned: Rahn and Jagers seconded to a 3% raise to Christopher Edwards, Daniel Lommell, Kellen Daniels, Mandy Welsh, Dylan Galloway, Jewel Wright, Bus Monitors' positions, and Chief Adam Burroughs. The village Clerk, \$1hr raise effective May 1st for FY 26-27 year. Burton, Westfall-ABSENT, Rahn, DeSmith. Jagers, Stage Motion carried: 5 – AYES; 0 – NAYS; ABSENT-1.

Motion made by Rahn, seconded by Jagers, to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. Motion carried 5-AYES, 0-NAY; ABSENT-1.

Respectfully submitted, Krystle Thomas, Village Clerk