

Minutes of
Board of Trustees
Village of Atkinson

May 18th, 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, Andy Carton, Liz Besste
Scott Krug, Jake Strightmatter, Jim Allen
Sheri Mapes, Ninette Carton, Cindy Clementz
Chief Burroughs

Motioned: Jagers and Stage seconded to approve the May 4th meeting minutes. Burton, Westfall-ABSENT, Rahn, Stage, Jagers, DeSmith. Motion carried: 5 – AYES; 0 – NAYS, ABSENT-1.

CITIZENS’/GUEST OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE VILLAGE

i. Ninette Carton-Gym Times

- Ninette, 3-4 years ago, the Village IT guy installed a camera towards the dumpster runs on our router
- Rahn, that can be stopped
- Ninette, questions about the rental contract
- Mayor, Contract not up yet, will be in 2029
 - Currently paying \$100 a year
 - Wants to update, new extended
- Rahn, brought to my attention about 3 years ago
 - If the board is ok, we can approach it early
- Ninette, goes to the village attorney, then ours
- Rahn, usually takes 6 months
- Ninette, Matt Dewyer did a great job on the concrete, and very nice to our customers
 - Any plans on the north side of the building?
- Mayor, there was a leak at one time
- Rahn, needs rock and grading. Spoke with Scott about the drainage

- Dirt needs to be dug out, drainage, then seed
- Ninette, cameras about putting in the building?
- Rahn, brought up to the board several times, has never gone anywhere
 - Quote for the building was \$600 from Hughes
- Ninette, putting cameras in the library
 - If the library is open, use the gym
- Cindy, during trivia night, people walked into the library and then went to the gym
 - I was told that if the library is open, the gym is open
- Rahn, originally set it up that way
 - Maybe make it seasonal, Nov- March, when the weather is bad for walkers
- Ninette, we don't check everything when we leave
- Jagers, the gym is rented at night sometimes, and we need to establish hours
- Rahn, been talking with Jagers on the best way to monitor this
- Jagers, next meeting, establish
- Mayor, should have to use the front door
 - Cindy, were they kids?
- Cindy, yes, high school, had hoodies on and up
- Chief, 1-2 times a week, there is an issue, puke on the ground, garbage on the floor, section bleachers pulled out, and I couldn't put them back, cafeteria doors unlocked, smell of "grass" vaping
- Rahn, lock the double doors, can't get into the gym
- Mayor, ROE can lock them when they leave?
- Rahn, keep locked on off-season
- Mayor, contact ROE
- Rahn, will take care of it
- Ninette, we are really happy at the Atkinson Commons. We like being there.
 - I am retiring in August

OLD BUSINESS

- i. Action: Replace the sidewalk front at Atkinson Commons
- Rahn, have a few options on the quote at the Atkinson Commons front of the building, from Matt Dewyer
 - Concrete in front, going all the way to the highway, sidewalk, trip hazard, mud, and ice problem by the road
 - 12.5' x 17' = 212 sq. ft. x \$10.45---\$2220----4 yards
 - Repair existing concrete----\$210
 - 12.5'x43'=537 sq. ft. x \$10.45----\$5616-----11 yards
 - 5'x144'=720sq. ft. x \$10.45-----\$7524-----12 yards
 - Cost includes forming, pouring, sawing, and stripping forms. It does not include tear-out, fill, concrete cost, backfill/landscaping, seeding grass, etc.
 - DeSmith, do it right, be done with it
 - Jagers, agreed with DeSmith

- Burton, do the whole thing
- Jagers, \$18,710 total to do all

Motioned: Rahn and Jagers seconded to approve Matt Dewyer's full quote at the Atkinson Commons front of the building at \$18,710.00. Burton, Westfall-ABSENT, Rahn, DeSmith, Stage, Jagers. Motion carried: 5– AYES; NAYS; ABSENT-1

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN REPORTS

FINANCE/PROPERTIES

i. Resolution No. 266

- Mayor, this resolution is needed per IDOT for us to move forward with the downtown project

Motioned: Rahn and Burton seconded to approve Resolution No. 266, local funds to proceed with the downtown project in the amount of \$ 1,136,705.60. Burton, Westfall-ABSENT, Rahn, DeSmith, Stage, Jagers. Motion carried: 1– AYES; NAYS; ABSENT-1

ii. Resolution No. 267

- Mayor, The Henry and Stark Counties Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) has been approved by FEMA from September 17, 2025, to September 16, 2030.
 - The Bi-State Regional Commission worked with the Henry County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) and North Central Illinois Council of Governments on this effort with input from communities and stakeholders.
 - The Hazard Mitigation Plan allows participating jurisdictions that have adopted the plan to be eligible and apply for non-emergency FEMA funding for projects and is more generally useful as a resource for mitigating hazards to your community and in other funding applications.

Motioned: Rahn and Stage seconded to approve Resolution No. 267, adoption of Henry and Stark Counties' Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. Burton, Westfall-ABSENT, Rahn, DeSmith, Stage, Jagers. Motion carried: 5– AYES; NAYS; ABSENT-1

iii. Condemnation of Property

- Mayor, does the board want to start the process of the Todd Price Property condemnation
- Rahn, no issue with that
- Mayor, do we send down public works to mow it
- Jagers, yes, send them down

- Have Jordan send a letter
- Burton, 2-3 family of raccoons
- Thomas, I have had a few residents questioning the property. Chief also brought it up
 - No water, had a resident tell me taxes haven't been paid
- Mayor, can you talk to the county about taxes
 - will get a hold of Jordan to start the process

PUBLIC WORKS

- DeSmith, I didn't have anything till this quote came in today.
 - For meters and supplies
 - \$1,407.96
- Rahn, can't vote, not on the agenda, next meeting
- Mayor, Scott, or Jake have anything?
- Jake, had an issue downtown
 - A riser bar wasn't put in for water to turn on or off
- Mayor, who's at fault
- Scott, all hearsay and several different stories
- Andy, Miller stated no rods in the bid/plan
 - Every single one is going to be a problem downtown
 - Next question is, where do I put my dumpster?
 - The health department says they have to have a dumpster; there is no room
 - No totes, only a dumpster, also supposed to be on a slab or asphalt
- Mayor, how close to your building
 - We will have to think about it

PARKS & RECREATION

i. Action: FFA Donation

- Jagers, how much do we want to give to Cambridge FFA as a donation for doing our flowers?
- Thomas, in bills, they only charged us for flowers, soil, no time, no labor, the total was \$804
- Mayor, paid Old Mill Gardens \$1,000 last year to do all the flowers
- Jagers, \$250.00? If the board agrees?

(The whole board agreed)

ii. Landfill Donation

- Jagers, been working with Jim Allen on a donation.

- The Landfill is going to donate \$85,000 towards the playground, very appreciated
- Mayor, will put up a nice plaque

iii. Final Action: Playground upgrade

- Jagers, added a merry-go-round, bid out everything
 - The only thing not included is taking out old equipment
- Rahn, will verify if Wyffels will take out
- Jagers, then moving down to old school?
- Rahn, would like it to go behind the school, but someone will have to put it in
- Jagers, public works take out cement
 - Total equipment, installation, excavation, landscaping \$189,418
 - Poured rubber is \$112,643
- DeSmith, any color of rubber?
- Jagers, amber yellow, change colors, get more expensive, equipment is green color
- DeSmith, put in the equipment, then pour
- Jagers, area by bike rack, maybe a small toddler picnic table

Motioned: Jagers and DeSmith seconded to approve the bid from Landscape Structures, INC for \$302,061.00 minus a \$85,000 donation by the landfill, leaving a total of \$217,061.00. Burton, Westfall-ABSENT, Rahn, DeSmith, Stage, Jagers. Motion carried: 5- AYES; NAYS; ABSENT-1

- Jagers, Thomas gets paperwork going, check goes into the memorial fund
- Jim, make out a regular check, and put on the memo line
- Jagers, been working on Atkinson signs, spoke with Scott, the sign coming in from Annawan that the bush needs to be taken out
 - Will have Memorial Park ready for Memorial Day, will have replanted flowers in flower boxes, thinking thanks to squirrels
 - Public works will make sure the park looks good, also
 - Baseball fence will be on the next meeting
 - Met with Lisa Gentry, told her to make sure to get a hearty tree, a tree on each side, is flowering in white
 - Food trucks, went got food, really good, positive feedback, people eating at the pavilion

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY

- Stage, Chief turned in his monthly report
- Chief, has nothing
- Mayor, Chief did have the same thoughts on the property we already spoke about

TIF

- Burton, Nothing

FARM REFUSE & RECYCLING

- Mayor, no complaint about the smell for longtime
- Rahn, what was done?
- Jim, put in wells, putting in more
- Jagers, had people ask about the landfill, our lawyer, and Phil Kolowaski. People are nervous with Phil not doing anything for us, and now he's on the landfill side
- Rahn, did Phill do anything for us?

(The whole board had a discussion about Phil Koloski and his contract)

BILLS

Motioned: Rahn and Stage seconded that all bills be paid as presented, \$24,191.12, Burton, Westfall-ABSENT, Rahn, DeSmith, Stage, Jagers. Motion carried: 5 – AYES; NAYS; ABSENT-1;

OTHER ITEMS

i. ACF Donation

- Mayor, Cindy, is here to represent ACF
- Rahn, all items are open to donate to?
- Cindy, first time trying this way, more amounts or specific items, not required to pick something, just do a monetary donation
- Mayor, do you know what the Village donated last year?
- Thomas, \$500 to Heritage Days, \$1,100 towards Fall Fest, gift certificates, and raffle items at Christmas
- Stage, Village donated \$500, \$300 gift certificates, and two items for raffle
- Rahn, have a group of people trying to put this on for the community
 - Can't keep asking the business
 - Like to sponsor the band by the village, then Christmas items
- Jagers, one-time donation
- Mayor, one-time donation, whole funds, use according
 - Would like to know what you paid Zach?
- Stage, \$600
- Mayor, then I would ask for my donation back
- Jagers, was a good year last year without Zach
- Rahn, Geneseo, chamber commerce that was Zach
- Jagers, ask Geneseo Chamber to do it again

- Cindy, you have to be a member and make a payment, and we did not continue this year. Zach is also going to run our parade
- Mayor, do we have a car show?
- Cindy, no, no one stepped up to do it
- Mayor, is it a one-year contract with Zach?
- Cindy, Yes

ii. Action: ACF Donation

Motioned: Rahn and Jagers seconded to approve Sponsor Street dance for \$1,100, and \$300 gift certificates for ugly sweater contest and festival tree winners, and \$100 towards prizes. Burton-NO, Westfall-ABSENT, Rahn, DeSmith-NO, Stage-ABSTAIN, Jagers. 2– AYES; -2NAYS; 1-ABSENT;1-ABSTAIN

- Mayor, 2-NO, 2-YES-I am the tie breaker, I say NO.

Motioned: Rahn and Burton seconded to go to Executive Session at 7:25 p.m. Burton, Westfall-ABSENT, Rahn, DeSmith, Stage, Jagers. Motion carried: 5 – AYES; NAYS; ABSENT-1;

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- Discussion
- Property Acquisition

Motioned: Rahn and Jagers seconded to go to Open Session at 8:30 p.m. Burton, Westfall-ABSENT, Rahn, DeSmith, Stage, Jagers. Motion carried: 5 – AYES; NAYS; ABSENT-1;

FINAL ACTION

- Discussion
- Property Acquisition

Motion made by Rahn, seconded by Burton, to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. Motion carried 5-AYES, 0-NAY

Respectfully submitted, Krystle Thomas, Village Clerk

