

Minutes of  
Board of Trustees  
Village of Atkinson

July 6th, 2026

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees, Village of Atkinson, was called to order at 7:00 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

Others Present

Krystle Thomas, Dylan Lyons, Andy Carton  
Scott Krug, Jake Strightmatter, Frank Versstraete  
Mary VanOpdorp, Cat VanOpdorp, Tim Sherbeyn  
Sam, auditor

Motioned: Jagers and Burton, seconded to approve the June 15th meeting minutes. Burton, Rahn, Stage, Jagers, DeSmith, VanOpdorp. Motion carried: 6 – AYES; 0 – NAYS,.

CITIZENS'/GUEST OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE VILLAGE

- Sam I am the owner who took over the flower shop. I spoke with Thomas few weeks ago. She told me that the Village is looking for a new auditor.
  - We are overworked and understaffed. The state of Illinois has imposed fines for failing to complete the audit on time. We are hiring; trying to get everything done is not easy, in constant contact with the state and Comptroller's Office. The state has made so many rules and changes that it makes this job impossible; it is a very costly process for small villages.
  - Understand you had a bad experience with CLA last year. They will need to cooperate with us, and sometimes they don't want to. Have to submit your report by November extension to January
  - If you have grants, keep expenditures spreadsheets with check number, date, who, what, everything is for. When applying for grants, budget for your audit in the grant.
- Jagers, do you have a contract for us?
- Sam, I will get an engagement letter to you, but I just wanted to stop by, introduce myself, and let you know right down the street and know we are very busy and usually not taking on new clients, but since we're neighbors, we are going to take the village on
- Mayor, where do you live?
- Sam, Elmhurst; looking at Kewanee; most clients are Princeton, Quad Cities
- Mayor, do you help with extension?

- Sam, two-month extension only, but know how and what to say to the comptroller to let them know if still behind
  - Thomas has already sent over last two years' audits. I will be in touch and stop by to see how the day-to-day runs, start looking over items, and get a list to you.

## OLD BUSINESS

- Action: Empower Jordan to enforce all aspects in the letter about sewer hookup
  - Thomas, everyone has the draft letter that Jordan sent out to Atkinson Cattle Company about sewer hookup. Jordan would like a motion and roll call vote to move forward with what was listed in the letter as it being over 60 days.

Motioned: Jagers and Stage seconded to empower Jordan, the Village Lawyer, to enforce all aspects in the letter for the sewer hookup. Burton, Rahn, DeSmith, Stage, Jagers, VanOpdorp.  
Motion carried: 6 – AYES; NAYS;

## COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN REPORTS

### FINANCE/PROPERTIES

- ZBA Recommendation for parcel 09-34-429-005
  - Rahn, parcel land north of funeral home
    - Currently zoned as residential
    - Major corridor for some time
    - Request to rezone to B-2
    - ZBA recommended to rezone to B-2
  - DeSmith, do we know what business is going there?
  - Mayor, No.
  - Rahn, make it more marketable
  - Tim, not for it to be rezoned to business
    - I don't want to look at parking lot lights shining
    - Make the value go down, hard to sell my home
    - No privacy, hard to resell
  - Dylan, live right next to it, against it; have kids already busy enough, going to be more traffic
  - Marty, for its location is good for business; next to a funeral home that is a business, Casey's and Loves
    - There will come to a point a business up against a house
  - Tim, when do you stop? Where is the fine line?
  - VanOpdorp, it will stop because there is a house there; there is always going to be a clash
  - Marty, business makes the community more valuable
  - Tim, I have put so much money into my house

- Marty, the village board has to approve what the business is going in there
- Mayor, Tim or Dylan, do either of you plan on moving?
- Tim, depends on this vote

ii. Action: Rezone parcel 09-34-429-005 from R-1 to B-2

- Mayor, we have heard everyone from both sides and the ZBA has recommended to rezone; roll call vote.

Burton-YES, Rahn-YES, DeSmith-YES, Stage-NO, Jagers-YES, VanOpdorp- ABSTAIN.  
Motion: 4 – AYES; -1-NAYS; 1-ABSTAIN

- Mayor, Thomas, please call Jordan to confirm the votes
- Jordan, 167 ft north, east 130, south 167ft, west 130ft, total distance 596 ft perimeter and 20% of that. 119.14 ft exact
  - Objections: which funeral home is south
  - None to north
  - 209 S State west across state
  - Neison south west

(Jordan read the written protest) Need all 5 votes; have to be yes.

- Mayor, In all my years, never seen board or member go against ZBA recommendation
- VanOpdorp, I will turn in my resignation from the ZBA and Village Board
  - When the board/ and or member goes against the ZBA, you will not have a ZBA very long

(VanOpdorp left the meeting)

iii. Fire Alarm Quotes

- Rahn, just wanted everyone to have the information
  - Waiting on Marv for the wiring.
  - ROE will make the difference up with what they want
- DeSmith, do we have a timeline?
- Rahn, not really; need this to sign the contract

iv. Findings supporting the demolition & unsafe residential

- Rahn, this is for the property on Rt. 6
- Thomas, need to fill in a time frame, mark what bullet points apply, then I will send this back to the lawyer along with the Chief report
- Frank, how about the house by mine?
  - Not mowing; can the city mow?

- Rahn, contact the owners

Motioned: Rahn and Burton seconded to adopt the findings supporting the demolition and unsafe residential. Burton, Rahn, DeSmith, Stage, Jagers. Motion carried: 5– AYES; NAYS;

v. Hughes Telephone system proposal for the office

- Rahn, met with finance committee; would be great to have a camera system for anyone to join
  - The camera will follow whoever is speaking
  - Do without the speaker, the TV should be ok enough
- Thomas, there will be microphones for when someone is talking, and as Rahn said, the camera will move around to direct who is talking
  - It will be a larger TV and will go in the middle of the two flags and need Marv to come run wires and outlet box for it
- Jagers, I like it.
- DeSmith, I think its too expensive
- Jagers, need to move into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, bigger meetings, and runs better
- Rahn, agree with you, DeSmith, but we need to do something
- Burton, tried to do it ourselves; still didn't work
- Rahn, younger people come on the board; they are tech-savvy

vi. Action: System proposal for the office

Motioned: Burton and Jagers seconded to Hughes' telephone proposal for \$9,775.25 minus the sound bar for \$450.00, totaling \$9,325.25. Burton, Rahn, DeSmith-NO, Stage, Jagers. Motion carried: 4– AYES; 1-NAYS;

## PUBLIC WORKS

i. Ordinance No. 843

- Thomas, this is the Ordinance for the commercial water and sewer rates. Jordan sent in a PDF that can be edited. If you decide to edit, just make sure it's made in the motion.
- Jagers, I think doing away with pennies should round the numbers.
  - Round 1.79 to 1.80
  - 35.36 to 35.55
  - 8.79 to 8.90

Motioned: DeSmith and Rahn seconded Ordinance No. 843, with corrections to round down or up to the nearest penny. Burton, Rahn, DeSmith, Stage, Jagers. Motion carried: 5– AYES; 0-NAYS;

ii. Quote for Chlorine Pump

- Mayor, spoke to Joe Glynn about the violations that we received in the mail from EPA
  - Before I signed the paper and returned it, I wanted to make sure the violations were fixed.
  - Joe told me that we needed a new chlorine pump and approved tonight, then our violations would be up to date.

iii. Action: Chlorine Pump

Motioned: Rahn and Burton seconded to approve a new chlorine pump for \$6,819.66 from USA Blue Book recommendation by Joe Glynn, Test Inc. Burton, Rahn, DeSmith, Stage, Jagers. Motion carried: 5– AYES; 0-NAYS;

iv. Sidewalk at 304 E Main

- Rahn, sidewalk is not the problem I think it's a drainage problem
- Mayor it does look bad; offer her the village will pay for concrete and they pay for labor
- Rahn, our street water is pouring in her yard, supposed to keep in ditch
- Jagers, need rock and a waterproof basement
- Burton, need a ditch
- Rahn, no problem doing a ditch; putting in sidewalk wouldn't fix
- Jagers, our responsibility for the rock?
- Scott had rock last year; it washed out
- Jagers, check with Jordan if our rock is our responsibility from sidewalk to road
- Rahn, should not be the village's responsibility to provide parking space or driveway
- Mayor, storm sewer by Lynn VanDam all washed out around the outside

v. Regional Safety Training

- DeSmith, Public Works has a free training this Thursday, July 9<sup>th</sup> 8:30 am -2:00 free lunch in Hamilton, IL has 4.5 hours on OSHA
- Mayor, think they both should go
- Jagers, I agree they both should
- Rahn, yes

(The whole board agreed for them both to go to the training)

- Mayor, when going to oil the roads?
- Scott, said our name was on the list
- Mayor, guys, can you take down the barricades? Looks ridiculous
- Andy for the roads end of this week or next

PARKS & RECREATION

i. Removal of playground timeframe

- Jagers, schedule Aug 3<sup>rd</sup> start playground
  - Meet a few days before with guys
  - Need to rent an excavator to get footing out
- Mayor, hire Corey Junior; use his excavator
- Jagers, Jake is going week 19<sup>th</sup> like to get going, taken out ready to go
  - Talked to Jim; our guys haul out wood chips to landfill
  - Rubber takes one week to do
  - The whole playground will be the month of August
  - Marv & Turk have trailer
  - How are we going to rope this off? Poles and caution tape
- DeSmith, be roped off better for Heritage Days
- Rahn, do the snow fence
  - No volunteers for removal; can we get JB to take it out?
- Jagers, not sure with schedules we need to start this, this week.

ii. Estimate renting an excavator

- Jagers, have two different ones from Tower Equipment
  - John Deere weekly: \$1300 or monthly is \$2700
  - Bobcat weekly: \$1150 or monthly is \$2300

iii. Action: Renting excavator

Motioned: Jagers and Rahn seconded to approve the rental of an excavator from Tower Equipment for a month at \$2300. Burton, Rahn, DeSmith, Stage, Jagers. Motion carried: 5–AYES; NAYS;

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY

- Stage, Chief, is on vacation this week. Has nothing to report
- Mayor, had a semi drive down the blvd. 3 times I stopped the driver; got his information
  - Spoke with Chief about a fine and mailed it out; do we know if he did it?
- Thomas, yes, I mailed it out last week, certified.

TIF

i. Ordinance NO. 842

- Burton, ordinance 842 is for Andy's building for \$22,295.62
  - Page 2 of 6 letter C
- DeSmith, what was completed?

- Andy, windows front, rear, lower building part
- DeSmith, this amount is for all exterior items?
- Andy, yes
  - Starting farmers market Oct-May
  - Do twice a month this winter
- Mayor, no more auctions?
- Andy, yes have one coming up

Motioned: DeSmith and Stage seconded to approve Ordinance 842 for \$22,295.62 reimbursement for Andy's building. Burton, Rahn-NO, DeSmith, Stage. Motion carried: 3–AYES; 1-NAYS;

### FARM REFUSE & RECYCLING

- Mayor, have to now look for a new board member since Rory left; said he was going to resign
- Rahn, maybe age and time he will cool down
- Dawn, Jagers, I'm on your committee; why have I never been asked to come to the park?
- Jagers, you can come anytime. Rory was new, so I wanted to update him, and we usually meet at 3:30
  - You also don't let me know about what's going on with the food trucks
- Stage, you asked me to do it
- Jagers, yes, but communicate who and if there are changes

### BILLS

Motioned: Rahn and DeSmith seconded that all bills be paid as presented, \$72,012.24 Burton, Rahn, DeSmith, Stage, Jagers. Motion carried: 5 – AYES; NAYS;

### OTHER ITEMS

- Thomas, you have a two-page paper that a resident dropped off today
  - He knows nothing can be voted on, would like it addressed and on next agenda or taken care of
- Mayor, is the tree dead at West Center?
- Scott, no, Ameren trimmed on one side, but he is talking about the other side and its on our property
- Mayor, Thomas, give Public Works guys the list and have them go around and check it out
- Thomas, I have an update on downtown on the right away from Jordan
  - DOT got back to Jordan this am and said the parcels look ok.
  - Jordan thinks good to move forward

- He will have to get the county engineer's signature before getting with landowners
- Do have a few stumbling blocks:
- A couple of properties have back taxes owed
- Nicole---- last year hasn't been paid
- DeDeckers INC---since 2024
- If they don't get paid and move forward with appraisal (example: like closing on a house, say \$1,000 is back owed and appraisal was for \$1,200; the 1,000 would go to county and then owner would get the 200)
- Andy's LLC is not current with the state; not sure if he didn't do a report, but need that to be current. OR Andy's LLC would have to deed it over into his own personal name
- REAL MESSY ONE:
- Corey Junior was an owner with original DeDeckers; each had an equal 1/3. No estate probate estate was opened
- Can't go forward without opening an estate-administrator deed
- Track down wills and heirs
- Jordan needs to talk to Corey and GUS.

Motioned: Rahn and DeSmith seconded to go to Executive Session at 8:41 p.m. Burton, Rahn, DeSmith, Stage, Jagers. Motion carried: 5 – AYES; NAYS;

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

- i. Library Lease
- ii. Additional Position
- iii. Position Job Description
- iv. Vacation Hours

Motioned: Rahn and Burton seconded to go to Open Session at 9:07 p.m. Burton, Rahn, DeSmith, Stage, Jagers. Motion carried: 5 – AYES; NAYS;

#### FINAL ACTION

- i. Library Lease
  - Mayor, the board as a whole decided to continue with the current agreement till that is up in two years
- ii. Additional Position
  - Mayor, this has been tabled
- iii. Position Job Description
  - Mayor, this has been tabled



iv. Vacation Hours

Motioned: Jagers and Burton seconded; employees can cash out the remainder of hours on anniversary dates, not more than 40 hours. Burton, Rahn-NO, DeSmith, Stage, Jagers. Motion carried: 4 – AYES; 1-NAYS;

Motion made by Rahn, seconded by DeSmith, to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m. Motion carried 5-AYES, 0-NAY

Respectfully submitted, Krystle Thomas, Village Clerk