

Minutes of
Board of Trustees
Village of Atkinson

August 17th, 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
Jeana Jagers, Trustee

Others Present

Krystle Thomas, Andy Carton, Jordan Newell
Scott Krug, Michael Longston
Zach Howell, Chief Burroughs

Motioned: DeSmith and Jagers, seconded to approve the August 3rd meeting minutes. Burton, Rahn, Jagers, DeSmith. Motion carried: 4 – AYES; 0 – NAYS,.

CITIZENS’/GUEST OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE VILLAGE

- Mayor, Mike, if you'd like to introduce yourself to the board
- Mike Longston bought Mary McNeil's place in 2024
 - Interested in being a trustee
 - Background in law enforcement
 - Would like to use my attention and skills toward the community
 - Used to work at the arsenal, used to live in Utah, currently work at DOC

OLD BUSINESS

- i. Zach Howell- Final Plans, Specifications, Estimate for Downtown Project
 - Zach made the updates from replacement to lining
 - Bring back to board for final approval
 - Sent to DOT in July
 - Only plan changes; sanitary sewer only changes
 - Non-sanitary updates- the roadway pavement 7inch to 8inch met requirements with the savings more reinforcement
 - Cost was reduced by about \$300,000 for replacing and switching to lining; cost is \$100,000, and the pavement increased by \$50,000
 - Mayor, if we got a grant for lining, would we have to do that separately?
 - Zach, you will have to take the lining out of this project
 - Rahn, where are we with the land acquisitions
 - Jordan, 7 parcels total
 - 180-200 square feet

- Prices \$650-\$1100
- Had the mayor sign them today, then will send out to 7 parcel owners
- I expect 6 of them to go smoothly and quickly; the land is small
- Property owners know, know improvement
- Have one property with back taxes; one business needs to be brought back into good standing
- DOT will not let us move forward till this “small cloud” is moved, and it could be very easy
- Only one parcel is very complex, 3 owners; 2 have passed away in 2016, no probate
- Hard way- open probate, hearing, wait 60 days
- Easy way- affidavit of heirship, signatures of all heirs
- The remaining partner can help us out with heirs
- Packages ready now, certified letters, then deal struck
- Been full court press at the law office; everything else is done
- With a November letting date, supposed to have papers in by August 2026
- Everything could click into place for a January letting
- Being in contact with Laura and Amber at DOT; they need everything two weeks before the letting date
- Higher prices in spring
- Two months to do; will get it done
- Zach, November to January letting date; not going to start work till after March
- Mayor, any questions on cost estimates?
 - Original was 1.2; now it's 2.1. That's a difference in cost

ii. Action: Final Plans, Specifications, Estimate for Downtown Project

Motioned: Rahn and Burton seconded to accept and approve plans and cost estimate, estimate of time from Shive Hattery for the downtown project at \$2,125,113.10. Burton, Rahn, DeSmith, Jagers. Motion carried: 4 – AYES; NAYS;

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN REPORTS

FINANCE/PROPERTIES

i. ZBA recommendations text amendment Ordinance No. 844

- Mayor, this is the amendment to the zoning ordinance
- Jordan, SECTION 1.1: The Zoning Ordinance, Ordinance Number 267, for the Village of Atkinson shall be amended so that Section 11.3-2 is amended to read as follows (deletions are shown in strikethrough font, and additions are shown in underlined, italicized font):
 - 14.4 WRITTEN PROTEST. In the event of written protest against the proposed amendment signed and acknowledged by the owners of twenty percent of the frontage proposed to be altered, or by the owners of twenty percent of the

frontage immediately adjoining or across the alley or rear line therefrom, or by the owners of twenty percent of the frontage directly opposite the frontage proposed to be altered as to such regulations or zoning district, filed with the Village Clerk, such amendment shall not be passed except by the favorable vote of three fourths two thirds of all of the members of the Village Board of Atkinson. These standards are intended to comply with 65 ILCS 5/11-13-4; in the event that an amendment to the Illinois Municipal Code renders the standards of this section in conflict with 65 /LCS 5/11-13-14. the statutory standard will apply.

- Need to update our ordinance to state statute
- New Board, new ordinances, up to par when the state requires.
- State will always prevail
- ZBA recommendation was to amend

ii. Action: Ordinance No. 844

Motioned: Rahn and Burton seconded to accept and approve the recommendation of ZBA for Ordinance No. 844. Burton, Rahn, DeSmith, Jagers. Motion carried: 4– AYES; NAYS;

iii. LP Contract

- Rahn, Thomas received this in the mail the day of the last meeting; had her reach out to see if they would extend the date to be voted on and signed
- Thomas, I did reach out, and they have extended the date for us to get it to them tomorrow if approved
 - Last year we paid \$1.45 a gallon; this year, lock in at \$1.47 a gallon

Motioned: Rahn and DeSmith seconded to approve River Valley LP lock-in contract at \$1.47 per gallon. Burton, Rahn, DeSmith, Jagers. Motion carried: 4– AYES; 1-NAYS;

- Rahn looked at replacement windows at ROE area
 - Put on future agenda
 - Labor & Material estimates from Double S Masonry & Carpentry for 11 windows
 - 1.) Weather shield aluminum frame- awning insert & screens *Estimate \$63,000.00
 - 2.) Anderson fiberglass frame-Awning insert & screen * Estimate \$36,530.00
 - Will have to get another estimate
- Thomas, Rahn, you put in \$100,000 in the budget for improvements for that building
- Mayor, sod needs to have something done with it
- Burton, just do a few now, then next budget
- Rahn, do ½ of them this year; good idea

PUBLIC WORKS

- DeSmith, Nothing
- Scott, Nothing

PARKS & RECREATION

i. Estimate Bathroom Outlets

- Jagers, Rahn suggested one power panel will have (2) 50 amp 240V receptacles and a 20 amp 120V GFI duplex receptacle. The other power panel will have (4) 20 amp 120V GFI duplex receptacles. Just east side of park

Motioned: Jagers and Rahn seconded to approve labor and materials to install (2) power outlet panels on the South side of the restroom building in Veterans Park. One Power panel will have (2) 50 amp 240V receptacles and a 20 amp 120V GFI duplex receptacle. The other power panel will have (4) 20 amp 120V GFI duplex receptacles for \$ 3,075.00. Burton, Rahn, DeSmith, Jagers. Motion carried: 4– AYES; NAYS;

- Scott: they want to put drainage in the playground area
 - If we don't, water is going to sit under the rubber
 - No estimate of cost; they will do it runs to the north side
- Jagers, mulch was over 10 inches deep
- Mayor, we have to vote; not on agenda; no price
- Jordan, a special meeting
- Jagers, Scott, can you get a hold of them
- Mayor, if Scott gets an answer, then call a special meeting
- Jagers, asphalt has been delayed a month; I let the Heritage Days Committee know
- Mayor, have Jim from landfill sweep Blvd.

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY

i. Fireworks

- Jagers, I am all about fireworks but going off till midnight
 - It rained on the 4th and has had fireworks going off every weekend since, over by rt 6
- Mayor, Chief, have you noticed or have an idea how to handle this
- Chief, public post only from 8:30-10
 - If shot outside of the window time, potentially get a citation
 - July 4th is one of my favorite holidays
 - If I do a drive-by and ask them to stop, they do
- Jagers: a timeline
- Rahn, agree with window
- Chief, there will be fireworks Friday night at Heritage Days
- Mayor, did Mr. Zwicker respond to the citation?
- Chief, still working with the state's attorney on it
- Chief met with Heritage Days committee for the weekend
 - Leading the parade

- Little change in route: turn towards the post office instead of out at the fountain

TIF

- Burton, nothing

FARM REFUSE & RECYCLING

- Mayor, open house at LRS is this Friday; Thomas will post again on FB 9-12; they will have food at the gathering place
- Rahn, farm lease has till March 30th; do we want to put it back out?
 - I think we need to put it back out for bids
- Jordan, October 1st state statute for verbal lease
 - Written lease: I would still do October 1st
- Rahn, letter to current tenant and put out for bid
- DeSmith, had it for the last 5-6 years so far
- Rahn, 332 per acre

BILLS

- Thomas, bills are going to seem high, but these are bills for the rest of August and the beginning of September due to no quorum for the meeting

Motioned: Jagers and Rahn seconded that all bills be paid as presented, \$103,786.05 Burton, Rahn, DeSmith, Jagers. Motion carried: 4 – AYES; NAYS;

OTHER ITEMS

- Jordan, condemnation property; this is kind of like the one problem parcel we have with ROW
 - Issue with real estate title
 - Name: MaryAnn Vanormer, passed away; she took via affidavit of heirship from Glen Vanormer
 - Married two times, 1st produced child, 2nd marriage none, no probate was open
 - Have to find the daughter Susan; Susan has been married 5 times, can't get a hold of her
 - Stakes are relatively high; start search for Susan
 - Probably unsuccessful, then publication
 - Quick claim deed from son might help
 - Another will I will be pulling while at the courthouse this week
- Jordan, spoke to Larry Zein today via phone, also in person
 - The board had empowered me to move forward with action against Atkinson Cattle Company to hook up to the sewer
 - We have two options

- 1. Have every day of non-compliance on the sewer ordinance; the fine is \$35-750 for each violation
- 2. Court order, injunction for 60 days
- Larry did say he had a conversation with the mayor
- Larry was under the impression to have longer time to get another tenant
- Mayor, he asked for another 60 days; I brought it to the board
- Jordan, village and state statute requires you to do what it takes for health and safety
 - Larry was looking for leniency for another 90 days
 - Told him I will not ask the board on his behalf; he needed to do that
 - Have the chief send out ordinance violations
- Rahn, it pains me; wait out landfill to buy it
 - It is for sale at \$133,000 per acre
 - He doesn't want another tenant
 - Force him to do it; he just sits there
 - But it's the ordinance
- Jagers, by next board meeting, has to have a contractor
 - Can't sell it if not hooked up
- Jordan, depends on what the buyer is going to do with it
- DeSmith, he has wasted our time
- Rahn, forced everyone else to do it, and it's the ordinance
- DeSmith, put a lien on it and, if it gets high enough, can't sell
- Jordan, chief, write a ticket; have you ever held a hearing here like something like this?
- Mayor, no hearings here
- Jordan, I will write a letter, send it, and also make a phone call

Motioned: Rahn and Jagers seconded to go to Executive Session at 8:19 p.m. Burton, Rahn, DeSmith, Jagers. Motion carried: 4 – AYES; NAYS;

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- i. 6-month Review
- ii. Rate/Credits
- iii. Review Executive 2024 for the last 6 months of Sessions
- iv. Review Executive 2025 for the year of sessions

Motioned: Rahn and Burton seconded to go to Open Session at 8:54 p.m. Burton, Rahn, DeSmith, Jagers. Motion carried: 4 – AYES; NAYS;

FINAL ACTION

- i. Final Action: 6-Month Review
 - Mayor, Rahn will speak with Thomas; have employee do self-evaluation
 - Rahn, sometime next week

ii. Final Action: Rates/Credits

- Rahn, continue giving all accounts credits that are due

iii. Final Action: for open or closed sessions 2024 last 6 months

Motioned: Rahn and Burton seconded; the last six months of executive sessions for 2024 to stay closed. Burton, Rahn, DeSmith, Jagers. Motion carried: 4 – AYES; 0-NAYS;

iv. Final Action: for open or closed sessions for the 2025-year sessions

Motioned: Jagers and Burton seconded; to open the following executive sessions: 2/3/25, 5/19/25, 6/16/25, 7/7/25, 7/21/25, 11/17/25, and the rest for 2025 to stay closed. Burton, Rahn, DeSmith, Jagers. Motion carried: 4 – AYES; 0-NAYS;

Motion made by Rahn, seconded by Burton, to adjourn the meeting at 8:57 p.m. Motion carried 4-AYES, 0-NAY

Respectfully submitted, Krystle Thomas, Village Clerk