

Minutes of  
Board of Trustees  
Village of Atkinson

August 1, 2011

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees, Village of Atkinson, was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Junior who led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Members Present

August Junior, Mayor  
Ryan Rahn, Trustee  
Beth VanVooren, Trustee  
Ken Taber, Trustee  
Mike Vergane, Trustee  
Ray Elliott, Trustee  
RJ Pratt, Trustee (absent)

Others Present

Brooke VanDerSnick  
Marty Burroughs  
Bob Floming  
Claudia Loucks

Moved by Taber and seconded by Rahn to approve minutes of July 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Board of Trustees. Motion carried: 5 – AYE; 0 – NAY.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN REPORTS

FINANCE/PROPERTIES

Discussion on Sales Tax Revenue:

Mayor Junior asked the Board to please consider raising sales tax 0.25%. The State of Illinois is likely going to reduce the amount of money distributed from income tax. The Village of Atkinson currently receives close to 10% but that could be decreased to 7%. Mayor Junior estimates that the Village will lose \$25,000 due to the cut. If the Village would decide to raise the sales tax rate in an attempt to recover the lost funds, it would not need to raise property taxes. Village residents would therefore not be the only ones affected. Raising the sales tax rate will need to be on a ballot. Trustee Vergane asked if there would need to be a special election. Mayor Junior and Trustee Rahn feel that the Village could wait until the next regularly scheduled election. Mayor Junior asked the Members of the Board to think about this option for the future.

Village Office Rugs:

Trustee Rahn would like the Village to consider hiring a rug company to switch out the rugs in the Village Office once a month or to purchase new non-slip rugs. Over the weekend, Mrs. Susan DeSplinter cleaned the carpet in the office and Trustee Rahn cleaned the rugs. He stated that they need to be done more often. Trustee Vergane suggested clear runners. Trustee Rahn said clear runners would work as long as they are non-slip. He will investigate rug rental companies.

## PUBLIC WORKS

### Approve Utility Equipment Co. Bid for Line Stop and Valve for Hydrant Repairs:

Trustee Taber informed the Board that after the bid for the line stop was approved from the City of Geneseo they contacted Mr. Floming and said they would be unable to complete the job. Mr. Floming stated that he was told it was a liability and insurance issue. A discussion was held regarding the new bid that was received from Utility Equipment Company. The bid is higher because it also includes a shut-off valve.

Moved by Taber and seconded by Rahn to approve Utility Equipment Company bid for line stop and valve with the understanding that Mr. Floming will contact additional companies to verify that the line stop and valve cannot be acquired at a lower rate. Motion carried: 5 – AYE; 0 – NAY.

### New Building Inspector Needed:

Each Member of the Board was given a copy of the resignation letter from Mr. Kent Anderson. Trustee Pratt has spoken with Mr. Joe Morris and he is interested in the building inspector position. Trustee Taber and Trustee Rahn stated that he would be a good choice. He is a union carpenter and knows building codes. Trustee Vergane asked what qualifications are required. Clerk VanDerSnick spoke with Mr. Anderson and the minimum requirement is a building code certification. She will research where Mr. Morris or another applicant can receive the certification needed to fill the position.

## PARKS & RECREATION

### Sand Hornets at Veterans Park:

Mr. Floming stated that he thinks the sand hornets at Veterans Park are multiplying. He has been going to the park each night around 9:30pm to spray Sevin into the holes/nests they live in. It has not corrected the problem. Is there some type of “bomb” that can be used?

### Summer Recreation:

Trustee VanVooren informed the Board that the summer recreation program has ended for this year. Stacy Hanks and Brooke Anderson, the summer recreation directors, hosted a movie in the park on Saturday, July 30<sup>th</sup>. There were approximately thirty (30) people who participated. .

Clerk VanDerSnick said she received a call from Mr. Brian Johnson with the Kewanee Park District. Mr. Johnson waived the fees that were to be invoiced to the Village of Atkinson for a visit the summer recreation program had made to the pool. Thank you cards were made by the summer recreation kids. Clerk VanDerSnick sent the cards to the Kewanee Park District along with a thank you letter from the Village.

### State Street Park Fountain:

Trustee VanVooren said that the valves have been replaced on the small jets. However, some of the small jets are still plugged. Trustee VanVooren told Mr. Floming that Dr. Tom VanVooren may be contacting him to help blow the jets out with the Village air compressor. The skimmer and filter are up and running properly. The fountain has also been vacuumed out.

## PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY

### Donations for the Varland Family:

Trustee Vergane stated the flyers displayed around town accepting donations for the Varland family, who lost their home to a house fire, have been very successful. There has been a great response; numerous donations have been brought to the Village Office. The Board also thanked Mr. Floming and the Atkinson Fire Protection District for the great job they did pertaining to the fires at the Varland home and the Congregational Church. Mr. Floming said that he was very proud of his team. He couldn't ask for better. He also commended the surrounding communities that helped. Mr. Floming said that after the loss of the home it was nice to see what they were able to save. Close to 99% of the photos in the Varland home were recovered.

### Police Chief Positions:

Trustee Vergane informed the Board that six (6) interviews were completed for the police chief position. He felt that all the interviewees were very good. There were a few, in his opinion, that did stand out. At this time, Mayor Junior, Trustee Vergane and Chief Burroughs are waiting to receive the background checks. Chief Burroughs said he will hopefully have them back by Friday, August 5<sup>th</sup>. He has received the background checks for two (2) of the top three (3) candidates. Mayor Junior said a new police chief will hopefully be approved at the next regularly scheduled Board Meeting. This will allow the new police chief to give notice at his current position and begin with the Village of Atkinson the first part of September.

## GRANTS/WEST VIEW ESTATES/PUBLIC LIASON

No Report.

## FARM/REFUSE & RECYCLING

### Landfill:

Trustee Elliott mailed a letter to the Atkinson Landfill Company regarding the licensing fees due the Village of Atkinson. The letter was received on July 28, 2011. Trustee Elliott received a call from Mario with the landfill about the letter. A copy of the section of the agreement pertaining to licensing fees was faxed to Mario at his request. The ball is now in their court. Mayor Junior told the Board that if anyone would like a copy of the letter Mr. Elliott sent that Clerk VanDerSnick can provide it for them.

### Current Farmland Leases:

Trustee Elliott asked if the Village needs to contact the gentlemen currently leasing the Village farmland this month. Trustee Taber said they need to be notified by September 1<sup>st</sup>. Clerk VanDerSnick believes that Mr. Merrill Taber was sent a letter earlier this year. She will double-check.

A brief discussion was held regarding the bid process. Trustee Taber thinks that the current tenant should be given a chance to offer more than the highest bid once the sealed bids are open. It would be a courtesy to him. Mayor Junior does not know if the Village of Atkinson is legally able to do this.

## BILLS

Moved by Taber and seconded by Rahn that all the bills be paid as presented. Motion carried: 5 – AYE; 0 – NAY.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Taber and seconded by Rahn that the meeting be adjourned at 7:43 p.m. Motion carried by acclamation.

Respectfully submitted,

Brooke VanDerSnick  
Village Clerk