

VILLAGE OF ATWOOD

Board of Trustees Meeting

January 20, 2009

Village President Ronald E. Wallace brought the Atwood Village Board meeting to order at 7 p.m. at the Municipal Building. Those present were Gene Greek, Ken Clack, Gloria Litwiller, Jim Tholen, Joe Streit and Fred Harshbarger.

MINUTES: MOTION: Greek made a motion to accept the minutes as presented, seconded by Litwiller. **VOTING:** All aye; motion carried.

WATER & SEWER: Greek reported that there was a water and sewer committee meeting held on January 15, 2009 at the Municipal Building at 5 p.m. Those present were Clack, Tholen, Greek – Chairman, Mayor Wallace and Andy Hanfland of the Farnsworth Group. 1) Solicitation of bids for new influent pump station: Hanfland attended the committee meeting to discuss the bidding procedure and time line for the new influent pump station. With the Board's approval, the solicitation for bids will be placed in the local newspaper noting that the bids must be received by 3:00 p.m. on March 12, 2009. The village will have 60 days to accept the low bid, or reject all bids submitted. Acceptance of any bid will depend upon the village's financial arrangements for construction of the project. The contractor may begin any time after acceptance of the bid by the village, but the project is to be completed by October 31, 2009. The estimated cost of project is \$135,000. It is estimated that up to \$85,000 of the cost of the project will have to be borrowed by the village. 2) Location and repair of a major water leak: For several months, the village has experienced an abnormally high demand for finished water. It has been suspected that a water leak existed, but since no physical evidence of a leak could be found the solution to the problem was not known. Finally due to a radical proposal by Allen Romine the leak was located at the northwest corner of the intersection of Forest Avenue and Main Street. The leak was never visible due to the water going directly into an adjacent storm sewer. The leak is presently shut-off until the weather moderates and a more permanent repair can be made. Water production has declined approximately 30,000 gallons per day with the area of the leak being by-passed until it can be repaired. 3) Sump pump discharge into the sanitary sewer system: The committee discussed a complaint received from a resident concerning backup in their sewer discharge line during periods of heavy rain. The problem is believed to be caused by the sump pump discharge of storm water into the sanitary sewer system which pressurizes the sanitary sewer system causing a backup of water. The sump pump discharge of storm water into the sanitary sewer system is prohibited by village ordinances and homeowners will be reminded of this prohibition. In addition the village will explore a cooperative effort with Tuscola, Arthur, and Lovington for the purchase of a video camera system to internally examine sewer lines for problems and possible violations. Some other solutions will also be considered. 4) Water and Sewer Dept. Operations: During the month of December the water department processed an average of 173,568 gallons of finished water per day. A total of 5,380,610 gallons of finished water were processed for the month. The wastewater treatment plant operated within all I.E.P.A. standards for the month. The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

FINANCE: Clack reported that a finance committee meeting was held January 15, 2009 at the Municipal Building at 5:30 p.m. Those in attendance were Chairman Clack, Greek, Tholen and Mayor Wallace.

The committee reviewed the prior month's bills. Discussed the need for each committee head to prepare budget requests for fiscal year 2010 and have ready budget requests for the February board meeting so that final discussions can take place at the March meeting with the approval vote taking place at the April board meeting. Special attention needs to be given to remaining budget funds as we have three plus months to the end of the fiscal year. The Village should be at 83% of the expenditures. The Village also has received the majority of the revenue for fiscal year '09 with three months remaining.

STREETS & ALLEYS: Tholen reported that the street and alley committee met on January 15, 2009 at 5:45 p.m. with all present. Tholen needs a list of expenditure items for fiscal year 2010. The speaker wires and speakers need to be repaired and the system needs to be moved to the police station. Also, need to put some rock along Illinois Street by the elementary school for parking.

POLICE, SAFETY & HEALTH: The police committee meeting was held at the Municipal Building on January 13, 2009 at 7:02 p.m. with Chairman Harshbarger, Streit, Litwiller, Tyson Wingle, Jeremiah Osborne, Officer Tim Jimenez and Police Chief Cliff Ponder present. Discussed the music; receiver needs to be moved from Visitor's Center to Police Station. The committee feels that Officer Gill should be getting health insurance reimbursement. The committee feels that Officer Jimenez's one day of vacation that was left from last calendar year should be allowed to be use within the next three months, since the police staff was short and Officer Jimenez was not able to schedule that vacation day during the 2008 calendar year. Discussed the Police Academy for part time officers, the cost of the schooling is \$1,950 for each cadet. Chief Ponder has five (5) people interested and wondered if the Village would sponsor these individuals. The sponsorship for these cadets would be at a cost of \$9,750. The Village will pay for this tuition with the Village sponsoring these cadets. The Village will receive this sponsorship money back upon completion of the class by a State Grant; if an individual doesn't not complete the academy he will be responsible to reimburse the village the portion that the trainee had not completed. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

CIVIC IMPROVEMENT, TOURISM, & SPECIAL PROJECTS: Streit reported that the meeting was held January 13, 2009 and brought to order at 7:31 p.m. at the Municipal Building with Joe Streit (Chairman), Gloria Litwiller and Fred Harshbarger in attendance. Also present were Tyson Wingle, Chair of the Zoning Board of Appeals and Jeremiah Osborne.

Addressing concerns of residents, Streit met with Mike Haile, the General Manager of Lite Rock 97.5. Mr. Haile gave his full approval of the rebroadcast of his radio station through the downtown speakers in Atwood. He offered his support in this matter, and encouraged discussion of how to help Atwood in future endeavors.

Streit, Wingler, and Village President Ron Wallace met with Steve Smith from the Farnsworth Group twice since the last Village Board meeting to work out the language of the grant application. That application was signed by the Village President and submitted to the Illinois Clean Energy Foundation last week. The Village expects to receive word back within 1 month as to whether or not we should proceed with the full application. At that point, we will have one month to work with Farnsworth Group to provide more info and submit the full proposal. After two months, we should receive confirmation of the grant decision.

Discussion regarding the Norman Hale lawsuit against the Village took place. A meeting will take place on January 19th with the Village Attorney and a new Attorney that will take over all matters regarding Mr. Hale and his properties.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.

PARK, INSURANCE, WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE: Litwiller reported that a committee meeting was held at the Municipal Building on January 13, 2009 at 7:46 p.m. with Chairman Litwiller, Streit, Harshbarger, Tyson Wingler and Jeremiah Osborne present. The committee discussed a proposal to ask different organizations for park donations. Litwiller will look into getting Welcome signs made for the poles at each end of town. Meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

CODE RED PROGRAM: Joe Victor was present to discuss the Code Red Program. The system is currently being run on a trial basis. The system was an anonymous donation by a Douglas County citizen. Victor is now looking for continuous funding for the system. The Code Red Program is an emergency telephone notification system. Citizens can add their names to the system on a website but can only remove their names by calling Victor. This would allow the system to ring into your home phone or your cell phone alerting you to many different things such as evacuations, missing children, Alzheimer patients walking away, tornadoes, water problems, etc. The system has already been used in a missing child case in Villa Grove and a fire in Arcola where a trailer court had to be evacuated. City of Tuscola, City of Arcola, Douglas County and Tuscola and Arcola school districts are on board. Burn minutes up quickly with this system. Need to get as many as possible on board to keep cost down. Can call a 1 ½ mile radius in 2 ½ minutes. Entire County can be notified in 5 minutes. The cost would be based on the current number of boil orders, school closings etc. Victor came to see if the Village is interested and then will bring back numbers. Success is good. Chief Ponder, Mayor Wallace, Water and Sewer Superintendent would be able to active the system from home. This system is also good if the outdoor warning siren has failed. This would ring in and wake up even the hearing impaired. No fees have been established yet (Will be based on minutes). A ground search team could also you this system. The system can also show who picked up and who didn't get the message. (The Village is very interested)

The question was asked on how the Trailer Control Center has been working. "Ran Douglas County Fair out of it". Fourth of July ran out of the trailer, it was used at the shooting in Sullivan and was also used for a five county dive drill. Still need to work out a few bugs. Batteries on wireless mouse went out, now have a battery box.

Victor thanked Chief Ponder for passing the NIMS 400 Class, police department is becoming compliant. NIMS account is set up and the Village of Atwood has a number. The Village has to be NIMS compliant to get grant money. If found not to be in compliance would have to return grant money plus interest.

NEW BUSINESS:

POLICE TRAINING INSTITUTE APPLICATIONS: Chief Ponder reported that the institute is 100% reimbursed this year. The cost for each trainee is \$1,950. Village pays then State reimburses when complete training. If the trainee doesn't complete training he would have to reimburse % not completed. New trainees first have to pass new State regulations (background checks, credit checks, physicals, drug tests, registration, etc.) for part time training institute. There will be a power test Saturday, if pass the first day of class will be the weekend of February 14th and continuing weekends for the next 11 months. Need to have payment for training by March for the four trainees for the amount of \$7,800. The Village will be reimbursed by the State in December 2009 or January 2010. A discussion was held on where to take the money out of budget to pay for the training. If trainee doesn't pass Saturday's power test will be out the \$50 and the trainee will not be able to continue with the program or ever take the program again.
MOTION: Clack made a motion that the Village Board authorize four individuals for PTI training at a cost of \$7,800 and expense through account number 01.21.421 seconded by Streit.
VOTING: Harshbarger, yes; Litwiller, yes; Tholen, yes; Greek, yes; Streit, yes; Clack, yes; motion carried.

SOLICITATION OF BIDS: MOTION: Greek made a motion that the Village of Atwood authorizes the Farnsworth Group to solicit bids for the construction of an influent pump station at the wastewater treatment plant. The Village reserves the right to reject all submitted bids, seconded by Harshbarger. **VOTING:** Tholen, yes; Clack, yes; Streit, yes; Litwiller, yes; Harshbarger, yes; Greek, yes; motion carried. Sixty days after bids received need to decide if the Village can afford project and total funds the Village needs to solicit.

REVIEW AND PAYMENT OF INVOICES: MOTION: Clack made a motion to pay the invoices as received, seconded by Harshbarger. **VOTING:** Litwiller, yes; Greek, yes; Tholen, yes; Streit, yes; Harshbarger, yes; Clack, yes; motion carried.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MEETING: Doris Elmore reported that there will be a Chamber meeting held at the Village Pub 6 p.m. Thursday night. A dinner will be served so need to know who will be attending by Wednesday. Those attending will be paying for their own meals and ordering from the menu. There has been a table already reserved for twenty. Items to be discussed will be the Apple Dumpling Festival and any new ideas anyone has. Streit, Mayor Wallace and wife, Tholen and wife, Wingler, Greek and Harshbarger will be attending.

Village of Atwood, minutes
January 20, 2009

ADJOURN: MOTION: Harshbarger made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Clack. **VOTING:**
All aye; motion carried.

Cindy L. Ard
Village Clerk

Ronald E. Wallace
Village President