

VILLAGE OF ATWOOD

Board of Trustees Meeting

February 17, 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 Fred Harshbarger, Gene Greek, Jim Tholen, Gloria Litwiller and Joe Streit. Ken Clack was recorded absent.

MINUTES: MOTION: Streit made a motion to amend the police tuition motion to read as follows: that the Village Board authorize four individuals for PTI training at a cost of \$7,800 and expense through account number 01.21.564 (tuition), seconded by Harshbarger. **VOTING:** Greek, yes; Tholen, yes; Litwiller, yes; Harshbarger, yes; Streit, yes; motion carried.

MINUTES: MOTION: Greek made a motion to accept the January 20, 2009 minutes as amended, seconded by Litwiller. **VOTING:** All aye; motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

WAYNE WARD, MFT AUDIT: Wayne Ward, MFT engineer was present to present the 2008 MFT audit and recommend any additional money needing appropriated. **MOTION:** Tholen made a motion to appropriate an additional sum of \$16,250.03 of Motor Fuel Tax funds for the purpose of maintaining streets and highways under the applicable provisions of the Illinois Highway Code from January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008, seconded by Harshbarger. **VOTING:** Streit, yes; Litwiller, yes; Greek, yes; Harshbarger, yes; Tholen, yes; motion carried.

WATER & SEWER: Greek reported that the water and sewer committee was supposed to meet Thursday, February 12, 2009 but a quorum was not present, so a meeting did not occur. Greek gave a report to update the activities of the water and sewer department.

Influent Pump Station: A notice of solicitation for bids has been placed in the local newspaper. The bid solicitation, prepared by the Farnsworth Group, was published in the February 4th and 11th issues. The opening of the bids will be at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 12, 2009 at the Municipal Building. Sources for possible project funding will be considered after the bids have been opened and the project cost is known. In the meantime, correspondence concerning the project has been prepared by the Farnsworth Group, for President Wallace's signature, and forwarded to our federal and state representatives for economic stimulus consideration. Also, President Wallace on February 10th attended an informational meeting at Lakeland College sponsored by the federal Rural Development agency concerning federal loan programs for public and private projects. Completion of the project will be dependent upon available funding sources. Possible Economic Stimulus Funding: In response to our correspondence to our federal representation, the village was informed that any stimulus funding would likely be funneled through appropriate state agencies. With the Farnsworth Group's help, correspondence has been

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sent to the village's state representatives outlining the influent pump station, project and other projects for consideration.

The village has received acknowledgement of our correspondence concerning possible project funding from Chapin Rose's office. Representative Rose's office is forwarding to the village correspondence they have received authorizing a very early and preliminary process for applying for any economic stimulus funding.

Major Water Leak: With the location of a major water leak identified and the installation of a shut-off valve, the finished water output of the water department has declined by approximately 30,000 gallons per day. Repair of the leak will be completed as soon as the weather moderates and arrangements can be completed. In the meantime the fire hydrant can be activated if needed by turning on the shut-off valve. Footnote: Repair of the leak is scheduled for next Tuesday, February 24th, weather permitting.

Water and Sewer Dept. Operations: During the month of January, the water department processed an average of 140,703 gallons of finished water per day. A total of 4,361,780 gallons of finished water was processed for the month, (5,380,610 gallons during December). The wastewater treatment plant operated within all I.E.P.A. standards for the month.

Mayor Wallace reported that he attended a USDA Rural Development meeting in Mattoon at Lakeland College. Wallace received information on wind power funding, guaranteed loans and some grants. The interest rate for the loans was at 8%.

FINANCE: Mayor Wallace in Trustee Clack's absence asked if the departments have submitted their figures for the FY'10 budget. Need these figures to proceed with the preparation of the budget.

STREETS, ZONING & MOSQUITO CONTROL: Tholen reported that there was no committee meeting held. He will follow up on the letter the village received from CSX stating that the crossings in disrepair have been repaired. No one has seen anyone repairing the crossings. The crossings are and have not been repaired. The only thing that has been done to the crossings is what the village's employees have patched.

Some of the roads tilled and oiled last summer need repaired. Tholen will talk with Walker about a follow up and patching of where the road has worn through. Tholen will have Rick Myers wait to do any patching until he has talked with Walker.

POLICE: Litwiller reported that the police committee meeting was held at the Municipal Building on February 12, 2009 with Litwiller, Streit, Chief Ponder and Tyson Wingler present. The meeting started at 7 p.m. Chief Ponder got a good report from the academy on the village's new cadets. Chief Ponder will be gone March 16-20 for an administration orientation convention that will be paid for by a grant. Chief Ponder has hired two more part time police officers. The committee went over the police work schedule and worked on the police budget for next fiscal year. The committee will be proposing a budget increase so that the village will have 24 – 7 coverage. The meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m. The four gentlemen in cadet training

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need to sign papers (contracts); have received from Cliff. Litwiller read the police report for January 2009: Miles driven, 1391; fuel used, 219; traffic stops, 12; citations, 10; warnings, 2; calls for service, 31; theft reports, 4; domestic disputes, 4; criminal arrests, 6; ordinance violations, 4; agency assists, 18; fire/medical calls, 3; motorist assists, 6; traffic accidents, 3; report submitted by Atwood Police Chief Clifford Ponder.

CIVIC IMPROVEMENT, TOURISM, & SPECIAL PROJECTS: The meeting was brought to order at 7:43 p.m. with Joe Streit (Chairman) and Gloria Litwiller in attendance. Also present was Tyson Wingler, Chair of the Zoning Board of Appeals and Atwood Chief of Police Cliff Ponder.

The committee has not seen any progress on the addition of new rock near the grade school, fixing of the speakers downtown, or of the movement of the stereo system to the Police Department. The Committee would like for the Street and Alley Committee Chairman to again ask the Street and Alley Superintendent to make these adjustments. The Committee again reiterated it's appreciation for Tyson Wingler and his generosity in turning the music on each morning.

The Committee, as asked to do by the Finance Committee Chairman at the January Village Board meeting, looked over the funding needs for FY10. The Committee would like to maintain the \$7K allotment, and pledge \$2K to the Atwood Chamber of Commerce for help with the Atwood Apple Dumpling Festival, with the understanding that this would be the last year that money would be allocated for this purpose. In the future, the Committee would like to see funding for the Chamber as more of a grant to go towards new services for the businesses of Atwood or as an opportunity to bring a new tourist/outside interest event to the community.

The Committee would like to keep the \$5K allocated for business development, with the intended purpose for distribution of these funds to be an incentive for a new business to locate into a facility within the business district.

Additionally, the Committee would like to ask for \$5K to be added for grant writing assistance. The purpose of this funding is to secure help with proposals for future expansion of the Village or its services. The \$700 targeted for web site creation can be removed, but in talks with the Parks Committee, this Committee would like to see that funding be moved to be used to help secure new park equipment. The Committee recommends keeping the \$1200 allocation for the Tourist Center if that facility will be used as it has been in the past by the Chamber and Atwood Economic Development Committee.

Wingler and Streit attended wind energy conferences in Champaign and Peoria and gained new information that will help address the concerns of citizens of Atwood in regards to a possible wind turbine in Atwood. Streit has been in communication with TEDI and the Mayor of Gibson City regarding a regional plan to capitalize on economies of scale. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

PARK, BUILDINGS, INSURANCE & WASTE MANAGEMENT: The committee met at the Municipal Building on February 12, 2009. The meeting started at 8:16 p.m. with Chairman Litwiller, Streit and Wingler present. Harshbarger was absent. Litwiller showed the committee the proposal that was sent to Lyondell for park improvement donation. The committee worked on proposals for the FY'10 budget. May recommend \$700.00 be put into the park fund for play equipment. There will be a zero overall budget increase request. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m. The Fire Department will be holding their soup supper with the proceeds from the supper being donated to the village for new park equipment. The supper will be held on February 28, 2009.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION: MOTION: Greek made a motion to enter into executive session at 7:36 p.m. for the purpose of a pending lawsuit, seconded by Litwiller. **VOTING:** Tholen, yes; Streit, yes; Harshbarger, yes; Litwiller, yes; Greek, yes; motion carried.

REGULAR SESSION: Re-entered regular session at 8:15 p.m.

ILLINOIS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE: The Village received an e-mail concerning the Illinois Comptroller's office about the State's 9 billion dollar budget deficit. There was a survey that the Village could respond to about the tax increases being suggested in Springfield. Motor Fuel Tax increase: proceeds would go into the general fund not the MFT tax fund (Village Opposes). Sales Tax: 1.75% of sales tax revenue would be removed from the Villages to go towards preschools and Truancy (Village Opposes). Taxation of Services: This would implement sales tax on haircuts etc. (Village Opposes). Income Tax: 3% would increase 1% with all of the revenue going into the State general fund (Village Opposes). Cigarette Tax: .98 and would increase by \$1.00 (Village Agrees). Village Clerk Cindy Ard will submit the survey on line.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The board discussed the budget for FY'10.

PROPOSALS: The Village has added more proposals to the stimulus package want list. First: Wastewater project. Second: Storm Water Project, Indiana to Goose Creek with an increase of the 24 inch line to a 34 – 36" line being run from the corner of Indiana and Hickory to Goose Creek with an estimated cost of \$400,000. Third: Resurfacing of Main Street Project, for an estimated total cost of \$950,000. Fourth: Park Improvements, \$50,000. Fifth: Water Department: New well project.

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

Cindy L. Ard
Village Clerk

Ronald E. Wallace
Village President