

VILLAGE OF ATWOOD

Board of Trustees Meeting

March 16, 2009

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

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

WATER & SEWER: Tholen read the water and sewer committee report submitted by water and sewer chairman Gene Greek. The water and sewer committee met on March 12, 2009 at the municipal building at 5 p.m. Those present were Tholen, Greek – chairman, Mayor Wallace, Allen Romine, Tyson Wingler and Streit. **1. Repair of Water Leak:** The major water leak at the corner of Main Street and Forest Avenue has been repaired, and the adjacent fire hydrant has been re-activated. The sidewalk and ground repair will be completed as weather permits. **2. Application for Government Funding:** The submission of a pre-application for possible government funding for the influent pump station has been submitted to the I.E.P.A. The amount requested was \$150,000. It is not known when notification of a possible award will be made, but it is hoped the village will be notified before May 12, 2009. In the meantime other available funding sources will be explored. **3. Influent Pump Station Bids:** At 3 p.m. on March 12th, construction bids for the construction of the influent pump station at the wastewater treatment plant were opened. Two bids were received in response to the villages bid solicitation. The high bid received was for \$141,942, the low bid was for \$134,000. The engineering cost estimate was \$135,700. The bids will be reviewed by the Farnsworth Group for completeness; and the village will have 60 days from March 12th to accept the low bid or reject all bids. **4. Flow Meter Purchase:** The committee received a request to purchase 3 flow meters for the determination of storm water entrance into the sanitary sewer system. The recent one half inch rain increased the flow of water into the wastewater treatment plant from a normal 125,000 gpd (gallons per day) to a level of nearly 500,000 gpd. The flow meters would be located in a triangulation pattern through out the village sanitary sewer system to determine storm water entrances. The flow meters will cost approximately \$11,000 initially but would be sold after the study was completed. Purchase of the flow meters would be from the FY 2010 budget. **5. Billing Abatements:** The committee reviewed two requests for water and sewer billing adjustments for large amounts. In both instances the large amounts were due to unusual circumstances. One billing for a vacated residence will be abated; the other billing will be calculated at twice the most recent highest monthly amount. **6. Water and Sewer Dept. Operations:** During the month of February, the water department processed an average of 123,511 gallons of finished water per day. A total of 3,458,320 gallons of finished water was processed for the month. The wastewater treatment plant operated within all I.E.P.A. standards for the month. **7. Other Business:** None. **8. Adjournment:** 5:30 p.m.

FINANCE: The finance committee meeting was held March 12, 2009 at the municipal building at 5:30 p.m. Those present were Greek, Tholen, Mayor Wallace, Tyson Wingle and Streit. The committee reviewed a proposed budget for the fiscal year 2010. During discussion of the proposed budget some minor changes were suggested. The proposed budget is being presented to the Board for further review and any further changes. The final budget will be presented at the April Board meeting for approval. The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

STREETS: The street and alley committee met March 12, 2009 at approximately 6 p.m. with Tholen, Chairman, Greek, Mayor Wallace, Streit and Tyson Wingle. After preliminary budget discussions the CSX crossing concern was addressed. On the 6th of March, Tholen, Mayor Wallace and Street and Alley Superintendent Rick Myers met with Jim Crain of The Department of Transportation – Federal Railroad Administration. Crane was doing a follow up on the correspondence Tholen had sent to the CSX railroad and Tim Johnson's office last July 21st, 2009 on the Village's crossing concerns and also on the response letter of February 12th, 2008 we had received stating that the crossings had been inspected and repaired. We relayed our concerns that it had not been fixed, and the only repair work that had been done, Myers had taken care of last August. Jim Crain and a CSX representative were both taking pictures and documenting the concerns. Myers also relayed to them that the crosswalks at both crossings need to be handicap accessible and kept in good repair, which has been pretty difficult with the condition it is in. Another correspondence will be drafted this week explaining what we've discussed and sent to Tim Johnson's office keeping an open dialog on this issue. Tholen may also check with Mike Sullivan of the Mahomet office of the Illinois Department of Transportation. ***The committee also talked about moving the radio receiver to the Police Station from the visitor's center which will get done soon. ***Also a rep from Walkers, that did the road work last year, met with Myers on some repair issues at Orchard Avenue and Main Street and Walker has a plan for that repair. The area was tilled too deep and dirt keeps pushing out, will dig out and fill with road pack. The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

POLICE: Harshbarger read the police committee report. The police committee meeting was held at the Municipal Building on Tuesday, March 10, 2009 with Harshbarger (Chairman), Streit, Chief Ponder and Tyson Wingle present. Litwiller was absent. The meeting started at 7 p.m. Chairman Harshbarger signed the contracts for the cadets enrolled at the part time training institute (PTI). The committee had a lengthy discussion about full time police coverage. Chief Ponder will be gone to an Administration Orientation convention, which is paid for by a grant, March 16 – 20, 2009. Chief Ponder reported on some new information received concerning the animal control facility in Douglas County. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Harshbarger read the police report for February 2009 as follows: Miles driven, 1916; fuel used, 223.3; traffic stops, 16; citations, 11; warnings, 5; calls for service, 33; theft reports, 1; domestic disputes, 1; criminal arrests, 2; ordinance violations, 2; agency assists, 19; fire/medical calls 4; motorist assists, 10; police report submitted by Atwood Police Chief Cliff Ponder.

CIVIC IMPROVEMENT, TOURISM, & SPECIAL PROJECTS: The meeting was brought to order at 7:48 p.m. with Joe Streit (Chairman) and Fred Harshbarger in attendance. Also present was Tyson Wingler, Chair of the Zoning Board of Appeals and Cliff Ponder, Chief of Police.

The committee began by noting the positive things in the Village, most notably the newly opened “Fran’s & More” shop downtown and the soon to be opened “Atwood Meat Processing” and “Rosy’s” restaurant. The committee will make sure that these entities are aware of the water abatement incentive the Village can offer new businesses.

The committee saw progress on the addition of new rock near the grade school, but still wants to fix the speakers downtown and have the stereo system moved to the Police Department. The Committee again reiterated it’s appreciation for Tyson Wingler and his generosity in turning the music on each morning and pledged to have this corrected soon.

Streit has identified a particular grant that might help the Police Department, and will try to get assistance to apply from Piatt or Douglas counties, which have a partnership with the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission that offers this service.

The Village has been invited to apply for the Grant from the Illinois Clean Energy Foundation. The deadline to apply is March 19th. Streit and Village employees are gathering data to be used in the application.

The Zoning Board is being encouraged to adopt a wind ordinance for the Village. The availability of smaller, home-use turbines has increased, and it is crucial that the Village act quickly to set standards for implementation, and also to set standards for a possible larger turbine for the Village’s use. Streit encouraged the Zoning Board to look into expanding the corporate limits of Atwood again so we can entice new businesses and housing developments and expand our tax base.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20pm.

PARKS, BUILDINGS & INS.: Litwiller reported that the park will be opened soon.

OLD BUSINESS:

MET TOWER GRANT: Streit reported Tuscola has a 200 ft. Met Tower purchased and installed through private donations located 13.66 miles from Atwood. This Met Tower is not located close enough for Atwood to use for their wind study. The data from this tower can help Atwood. Atwood would have quarterly and monthly meetings to review data and then special meeting to review total data with school district.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Litwiller reported that the Atwood Fire District donated \$400.00 towards park play equipment. Lyondell is taking proposals and reviewing them for a downtown project.

NEW BUSINESS:

POLICE COVERAGE: Discussed cutting and adding coverage. Need to bring up for a full discussion. The Village of Atwood is currently spending 53% of its current general fund budget for police. Clack is concerned that the infrastructure of the village is suffering because of the police spending. The board decided to hold a special meeting so the citizens of Atwood have an opportunity to express opinions on what coverage they wanted.

Sergeant Jimenez read a letter from Chief Ponder on his feelings about police coverage. Chief Ponder strongly feels that the board needs to make a firm decision with regard to extended 24/7 police coverage based on what the village can afford and with regard to the safety of the residents of Atwood.

Ponder feels there needs to be a M-F day shift; the purpose of this shift would be public relations and interaction with the residents and businesses of Atwood.

Ponder also feels there must be evening and weekend coverage as more than 80% of all crimes or calls happen within the evening hours, after dark and more so during weekends.

Ponder has spoken both with Douglas and Piatt County and both Counties have agreed that in the event there is no Atwood Officer on duty that they would respond to emergency calls only.

Chief Ponder strongly feels that the Village of Atwood needs a 24 hour a day 7 day a week police department and the board needs to come to a solid agreement on this matter.

SPECIAL MEETING: MOTION: Clack made a motion to hold a special meeting to discuss police coverage at the municipal building, April 6, 2009 at 6 p.m. seconded by Streit. **VOTING:** All aye; motion carried.

DORIS ELMORE: Elmore stated that the met tower over by Tuscola is being done by a private individual not the City of Tuscola. The data will not be public knowledge per Elmore. Streit: The grant the Village of Atwood is working on for a met tower, if awarded would then provide the village with data to hopefully receive a grant for a wind turbine. The met tower subject has been brought up at a school board meeting. Elmore ask about the former Wall property. Clack answered that the small business administration won't relinquish loan owed on the property so whoever would want the property has to pay off the loan.

STEPHANIE WIERMAN: Wierman reported that a Meet the Candidates Night will be held at 6:30 p.m. Monday, March 23, 2009 at the Elementary School Gymnasium.

BUDGET FY'10: Greek wanted to make mention that there could be reduction in operating revenue in the water and sewer fund. West Prairie will begin putting in a new water line West of Arthur Road. Greek doesn't know if West Prairie will continue getting water from Atwood. The Finance committee has figured in six months of revenues from West Prairie into the FY'10 Budget. There is an anticipated savings in the water and sewer department due to the location and repair of a major water leak. It will take less electricity, softener salt and other chemicals with the plant running fewer hours. The surplus shown of \$8,000 in water and sewer will change. An outside funding source will be needed to pay for the effluent pump. Flow meters could be purchased with this surplus. When budget is completed will be balanced.

General Corporate Account revenue will be working on anticipated or estimated revenues from Income Tax, Sales Tax, etc. MFT is based on a per capita base of 1290 people. The Village does not know what they are going to do about street repair. The State may also start delaying Income Tax and Sales Tax Revenue checks. There is a \$700 increase in the administrative account. In the police account a \$6,000 increase provides for three full time officers. Street account is up \$11,000 for the costs of the increase in fuel and payroll. Payroll costs, such as Medicare, Social Security and IMRF have been covered in the tax levy. General Corporate Account is balanced right now. Audit, ESDA and Insurance funds are funded by the tax levy. MFT is funded per capita at \$26.00 per person. Reserve by Development is covered by a transfer. The Park fund has been increased by \$700 for park equipment. Piatt Co. Forest Preserve Agreement amount is in the Park fund and also funded by a transfer. Street Lighting fund receives \$5,200 from the tax levy the rest of the \$10,000 cost is transferred into the street lighting account from general corporate account. The tax levy was \$131,215 revenue and expenses. Water and sewer account will end up balanced. Greek asked that all board members take a look at FY'10 proposed budget and make changes so he can have to Cindy by the middle of April. Streit has recommendations and passed out to the trustees. E-mail Streit sent didn't get to Cindy so his recommendations are not in the current proposed budget. Streit recommended monies be added to salaries police for part time filling in for sick days and vacations, double coverage, (\$5280) total \$5,500. Add \$1,200 for leasing Met Tower ground; DUI \$3,000 in and \$3,000 out and a part time position to full time, 25% out of water and sewer account.

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

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

Cindy L. Ard
Village Clerk

Ronald E. Wallace
Village President