

## VILLAGE OF ATWOOD

### Board of Trustees Meeting

August 17, 2009

Village President Pro Tem Gene Greek brought the Atwood Village Board meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Municipal Building. Those recorded present were Tyson Wingler, Jeremiah Osborne, Gloria Litwiller, Jim Tholen and Joe Streit. Village President Ronald E. Wallace was absent.

**MINUTES: MOTION:** Tholen made a motion to approve the July 20, 2009 regular scheduled board meeting minutes, seconded by Litwiller. **VOTING:** All aye; motion carried.

**WATER & SEWER:** Tholen read the water and sewer report for Greek. The water and sewer committee meeting was held August 12, 2009 at the Municipal Building beginning at 5:30 p.m. with Osborne, Tholen, Greek – Chairman, Mayor Wallace, Wingler and Allen Romine. 1.) Updates: A.) Flow Meters: Data continues to be gathered to develop a baseline and variations compiled from rainfall and normal waste water flow. B.) Standby Generator Housing: The building has been re-roofed and the soffits have been clad with aluminum. New siding is in the process of being installed. C.) Water Tower: The base of the water tower has been repainted to cover some rust spots. The cost of re-painting the entire water tower, including the application of a sealant coat, is being investigated for next fiscal year. 2.) Lift Station Project: Construction has not yet begun on the lift station project. Also, no word has been received when the \$100,000 grant from the state will be available. The loan of \$85,000 from the First State Bank of Atwood has been secured and the loan check has been received. The money received from the loan will be invested with the bank in a series of seven day certificates of deposit at a 0.75% interest rate until (and if needed) for construction expense. 3.) Water and Sewer Rates: The committee continues to study the need and the amount of an increase to the village's current water and sewer rate structure. Assistance in developing the new rate structure has been sought from the Illinois Rural Water Association. Some information has been received from the I.R.W.A. which suggests the consideration of a rate structure based upon actual water usage with no allowance for volume of water used. 4.) Water and Sewer Dept. Operation: During the month of July, 2009, the water department processed an average of 133,406 gallons of finished water per day. For the month a total of 4,135,590 gallons of finished water was produced. The wastewater treatment plant operated within all I.E.P.A. standards. Other Business: None Adjourned: 5:45 p.m.

**FINANCE:** Tholen reported that the Finance committee met on August 12, 2009 at the Municipal Building at 5:45 p.m. with all present. The Village needs to transfer funds in the next few months from MFT Fund into the General Corporate Fund for the \$10,500 loan from FY'09. Also, the Village received a letter from Mediacom stating that they will be raising their rates on or about September 7<sup>th</sup>. Broadcast Basic will increase \$2.00 to \$25.95; Expanded Basic will increase \$2.00 to \$37.00 so Total Family Cable will go from \$58.95 to \$62.95 a \$4.00 increase. Mediacom Online w/Video or Phone will increase \$2.00 to \$47.95 and Mediacom Online w/o

VILLAGE OF ATWOOD, minutes  
August 17, 2009

Video or Phone will also increase \$2.00 to \$62.95. In conjunction with the above reference Internet speed increases and rate changes, Mediacom will also be offering a \$1 per month credit to any customer that agrees to move to their paperless EcoBilling program. Meeting adjourned at 5:54 p.m.

**STREET & ALLEY:** Osborne reported that the street and alley committee met at the Municipal Building at 5:54 p.m. with all present. Osborne reported that the committee discussed selling the old 1955 International fire truck (tanker truck). The street and alley employees leased an edger for \$40.00 instead of purchasing one. Osborne complimented Rick Myers and Korey Snodgrass; they did a real good job this weekend during the Apple Dumpling Festival. Meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

**POLICE:** Wingler reported that the police committee meeting was held August 12, 2009 at the Municipal Building at 7:01 p.m. with Wingler – Chairman, Litwiller, Streit and Chief Ponder. The Village has written a check for the new car to Miles Chevrolet for \$20,157.00 on August 4, 2009. The breakdowns of the costs are as follow: Grant Money - \$13,735.00; Village's Expense for the Car was - \$4,540.00; Additional Equipment - \$1,882.00; New Light Bar - \$959.00; New Switch Box - \$228.00; Graphics - \$425.00; = Total Expenditure \$21,769.00. Village's Expenditure was - \$8,034.00 minus \$1,507.00 for old Chevy Police Car which equals \$6,527.00 Total Expenditure for new Chevy Impala Police Car for the Village.

The new car will be ready in time for the Apple Dumpling Parade on Saturday. As soon as everything is out of the '02 Impala the company in Chicago will be called to pick up the old police car.

Wingler has talked with Chief Ponder about taking the new car to a certified mechanic for all maintenance while we have a warranty on the new police car, to make sure it is properly maintained.

The monthly police report is average and nothing noticeable needs to be discussed.

With A.J. Ruggieri not coming back the village is going to try to cover his full time position left open with the part time employees that we have at this time. The committee feels that the hours can be covered. The committee would like to try this for six months and then review to see if it is working.

The committee discussed some ordinances that Chief Ponder would like for them to take a look at. The ordinances will be looked at in more detail at next month committee meeting.

Litwiller talked about the foxes in her yard. The committee will look into getting some live traps from Piatt County Animal Control.

Talked about some complaints that the police department had received but no decisions were made on any of the matters. The committee discussed and is looking into some safety concerns and at what cost they can be resolved. Meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Wingler ask the board if they had any problems with the metal sign on the SW corner of the police building being cut down. The board had no problem with the sign being cut down. Wingler stated that this would allow the police cars to be parked on the south side of the police department building and open up for more parking in front of the police department and for a better handicap parking space.

**CIVIC IMPROVEMENT:** Streit reported that the Civic Improvement Committee met on August 12, 2009 at the Municipal Building at 8:14 p.m. with Streit – Chairman, Wingler, Litwiller and Chief Ponder present. The MET Tower did not go up on Friday as planned. The company installing the tower had to get some parts that were missing. The tower did go up on Sunday. There are still some electrical issues that have to be completed. The downtown looked nice for the festival. Myers and Snodgrass decided that they didn't need any community service help before, during or after the festival. The committee discussed the donation request by the Atwood Chamber of Commerce for the festival. The committee decided to honor what had been discussed during the budget process for the festival donation. The village has received the completed lease agreement from the attorney for where the MET Tower stands. The easement agreement has not been completely executed and received. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

**PARK, INSURANCE, BUILDINGS AND WASTE MANAGEMENT:** Litwiller reported that the committee meeting was held on August 12, 2009 at the Municipal building at 8:20 p.m. No discussions were held. Insurance for the new police car was discussed in the police committee meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**LEASE AGREEMENT:** Streit reported that lease agreement was signed on July 3, 2009 which was made up the Village's Attorney. The lease agreement requires the Village to pay \$130 per month for 1 acre use of ground. The Met Tower went up Sunday, August 16, 2009 and was assembled on Saturday, August 15, 2009. The Data box wires are not connected to date. The tower will be up and taking readings for a year unless want to extend. The lease agreement is open ended but need to take down before 2011. **MOTION:** Streit made a motion to enter into the lease agreement with Phyllis Stiehl for \$130 per month until return the land to a farmable state as per the lease agreement, seconded by Wingler. **VOTING:** Tholen, yes; Litwiller, yes; Osborne, yes; Wingler, yes; Streit, yes; motion carried.

**TIME CLOCK POLICY:** Wingler stated that still working on the time clock policy. The time clocks are in use. Tabled.

**EASEMENT AGREEMENT:** Streit stated that the Village has not received the easement agreement. The village's attorney also made up this agreement. The Grantor has agreed to grant an easement in consideration of \$5.00 in hand paid and in consideration of the growth and progress of the Village of Atwood, Illinois and other valuable consideration, paid for and provided by the Grantee to utilize a grass lane. Any damage to crops will be reimbursed at fair market value. Tabled.

**POLICE OFFICER RESIGNATION:** Wingler read an e-mail that Chief Ponder received from full time Atwood Police Officer A.J. Ruggieri stating that he will not be able to return to duty after his tour of duty in Afghanistan and would like for his resignation to be accepted as of July 20, 2009. Ruggieri has been accepted into law school at Michigan State University's School of Law. **MOTION:** Wingler made a motion to accept the resignation of Atwood Full Time Police Officer A.J. Ruggieri with regrets, seconded by Streit. **VOTING:** Litwiller, yes; Tholen, yes; Osborne, yes; Streit, yes; Wingler, yes; motion carried.

**FESTIVAL DONATION: MOTION:** Streit made a motion to donate \$2,000 to the Atwood Chamber of Commerce for the Apple Dumpling Festival 2009, FY'10, seconded by Litwiller. **VOTING:** Wingler, yes; Osborne, yes; Tholen, yes; Litwiller, yes; Streit, yes; motion carried.

**INVESTMENT OF LOAN FUNDS: MOTION:** Tholen made a motion authorizing the village treasurer to invest the loan money of \$85,000 received from the bank loan in a series (as needed) of seven day certificates of deposit with the First State Bank of Atwood until the loan money may be required for construction expenses, seconded by Osborne. **VOTING:** Streit, yes; Wingler, yes; Litwiller, yes; Osborne, yes; Tholen, yes; motion carried.

**REVIEW & PAYMENT OF INVOICES: MOTION:** Tholen made a motion to accept the invoices as presented for payment, seconded by Litwiller. **VOTING:** Osborne, yes; Streit, yes; Wingler, yes; Litwiller, yes; Tholen, yes; motion carried.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:**

**STOP SIGNS – JOE SCHWEIGHART:** Schweighart had a question of why a stop sign was set where he is the only one that has to stop. T's are supposed to stop by State Law. Schweighart believes the sign should be at the end of Ohio Street where it meets W. Forest Avenue. Also, Forest is a through street and Ohio is not. Vehicles are always supposed to yield to vehicles on their right. The Street and Alley and Police Committees will look into this situation. There may need to be an amendment to the stop sign ordinance that was passed.

**USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Streit ask Doris Elmore to put in the Atwood newspaper about the low interest loans available through the USDA Rural Development for people to repair, improve or modernize their home or remove health and safety hazards.

**CHAMPAIGN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE:** Streit reported that the electric co-op the Village is in has saved the participants 19.3% in electric costs. The Champaign Chamber of Commerce is starting a new program for a natural gas cooperative. There will be a meeting September 2, 2009 at noon at the Champaign Chamber office located at 1817 S. Neil St., Champaign. Streit will be attending this meeting.

**APPLE DUMPLING FESTIVAL:** Stephanie Wierman, Atwood Chamber of Commerce President reported that they had a good festival. Wierman thought that the crowd was down on Saturday because of the heat but that the beer tent on Friday was great with 755 paid customers through the gate and 15 kegs of beer sold in three hours. Wierman also stated that the beer tent made a \$2,000 profit. The 3 on 3 basketball was a success with 15 teams participating. The chamber pays for trophies, ads, entertainment etc. The parade cost an estimated \$1,650 with the Eagle float being sponsored by the Village of Atwood for \$300. The Celtic Dancers cost \$500 plus, \$250 for the horses merry-go-round and it also costs for the Shriners. Lincoln's Challenge and one of the Shriners groups couldn't attend. The vendors selling ribs and pork chops sold out. Apple Dumplings sold out in front of the police station but there was some home made ice cream left. It was stated that the Chamber needs more help; they feel it brings people to town even though it may not help all the businesses for one day. The car show costs \$750 and took the first 30 entries for trophies but it is all run by one individual and the people he gets to help him. There were 84 entries in the car show with the chamber giving each entry a free apple dumpling. If the chamber could find enough local people to run the blow ups it would save a lot of money.

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

---

Cindy L. Ard  
Village Clerk

---

Gene A. Greek  
Village President Pro Tem