

VILLAGE OF ATWOOD

Board of Trustees Meeting

September 21, 2009

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

MINUTES: MOTION: Litwiller made a motion to accept the August 17, 2009 regular board meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Osborne. **VOTING:** All aye; motion carried.

WATER & SEWER: Greek reported that the water and sewer committee meeting was to be held Wednesday, September 16, 2009 at the Municipal Building beginning at 5:30 p.m. Those present were Greek – Chairman, Mayor Wallace, and Streit. Due to a lack of a quorum no meeting was held. Updates read as follows: 1. the wastewater flow meters remain in place and continue to record flow data, but the lack of rain has not generated any useful data. 2. The village has received notification from the I.E.P.A. that after a recent review of the village's lead and copper percentiles, the water system has completed three consecutive years of lead/copper monitoring without exceeding the action level. Therefore the village will need to monitor on a three year frequency. 3. Work on the wastewater treatment plant lift station has not begun, nor is it known when construction will start. In the meantime, the loan funds received have been invested in a series of seven day certificates of deposit. 4. Discussions continue concerning a possible rate increase in the water and sewer service rate structure. No decisions have been made at this time. 5. During the month of August, 2009, the Water and Sewer Department processed an average of 137,729 gallons of finished water per day. A total of 4,269,590 gallons of finished water was produced during the month. The wastewater treatment plant operated within all I.E.P.A. standards. Housing for the standby generator has been completed. Next meeting the committee will be looking at rates and revenue.

FINANCE: Tholen reported that a committee meeting was not held for lack of a quorum. The finance committee will start setting up the tax levy. The committee may have an extra committee meeting this next month to start working on the tax levy and water rates.

STREET & ALLEY: Osborne reported that they also did not have a committee meeting. Myers helped work on the grass infield ball diamond to turn it into a lime diamond. The park now has two lime diamonds so softball can be played on the small diamond also.

POLICE: Wingler reported that a police committee meeting was held September 15, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at the Municipal Building. Those present were Wingler (Chairman), Streit, Litwiller, Mayor Wallace and Chief Ponder. The committee discussed village ordinance violations and fines. Chief Ponder is going to get more information from other towns and we will further review them next month. The monthly police report was average. The committee also went over the current police department budget which is looking good for the year. There are just a few

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places that need to keep an eye on. There will be extra police coverage working during the AHHS Band Festival and Halloween.

Zoning: Wingler reported that the village needs to appoint two zoning board members. There are five individuals that are interested. It appears between the message board, web site and face book that the word gets out about what is going on. The committee decided to have the five candidates write a statement of why they would like to be on the zoning board and attend the next committee meeting to be held on October 13th. Letters will be sent out to the candidates.

Chief Ponder talked about Douglas County Animal Control agreement. Ponder felt the board should not make a decision on agreement until someone from Douglas County Animal Control could present the information to the village board. Ponder attended a meeting in Arthur on Thursday, September 17th and will ask someone if they can attend the September 21, 2009 village board meeting. Meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

CIVIC IMPROVEMENT, TOURISM, & SPECIAL PROJECTS: Streit reported that the committee meeting was held September 15, 2009 at the Municipal Building and was brought to order at 7:37 p.m. with Joe Streit (Chairman), Gloria Litwiller and Tyson Wingler in attendance. Also present was Village President Ron Wallace.

The Committee discussed a new energy cooperative available through the Champaign County Chamber of Commerce that could provide financial savings for the Village by group purchasing natural gas, just as we group purchase electricity. The Committee after considerable discussion felt that the opportunity to reduce our expenses in this area is worthwhile and is making the recommendation to the Village Board that we enter into this agreement.

Streit brought up an opportunity to pursue an ARRA (American Reinvestment & Recovery Act) grant that could provide up to 50% or \$500,000 towards a wind turbine. The Committee discussed the option at length, and Streit is going to pursue grant assistance through the East Central Illinois Economic Development District.

President Wallace spoke about the Atwood Economic Development Committee's desire to expand the building housing the health clinic. The Committee is interested in this project, and would like to get project details so we can pursue our options to help them.

The High School Band has scheduled their parade at a time that conflicts with the annual Halloween festivities. In the interest of safety, the Committee recommends that Trick-Or-Treating times be set on Friday, October 30th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The meteorological tower was put up before the last Village Board meeting, but did not have the data recorder installed until August 25th. The recorder is saving information now, and we will do the first analysis after 6 months of data collection.

The meeting adjourned at 8:21 pm.

BUILDINGS, INSURANCE, PARK AND WASTE MANAGEMENT: Litwiller reported that the committee meeting was held on September 15, 2009 at 8:22 p.m. with Litwiller, Streit and Wingler present. The committee discussed doing a raffle for park equipment. Atwood Processing will donate the processing of a hog. Litwiller talked to the Illinois Gaming Commissioner and no permit is required.

Pole lights at the park east of the pavilion are out. Litwiller will get this taken care of. The committee discussed the condition of the road at the park, winterizing the Municipal Building and the possibility of hiring someone part time to do maintenance on the buildings.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

DOUGLAS COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL: Nicole Mangione was present to take any questions the village board had about the animal control contract between Douglas County and Municipalities. The request for services would have to come from a police officer, village president or village trustee with the DCAC promptly responding to the request. The retrieval fee of \$25.00 would be assessed whenever an agent or employee of DCAC is dispatched to and shall retrieve a dog within the village limits. There is a housing fee of \$10.00 per day that shall be charged for housing and medical care of dogs retrieved up to a maximum of seven days. The retrieval fee and housing fee will be paid by the owner upon picking the dog up. If the dog has to be transferred to another facility or euthanized then the village would be responsible to pay the retrieval fee and housing fee. If adopted the new owner would pay the retrieval fee. Any fees incurred after the seven days shall be the responsibility of the DCAC. The village board decided that they will look over the contract and have an answer at the October 19th board meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

STOP SIGN ORDINANCE AMENDMENT: The village board agreed to amend Ordinance Number 09-O-3 an ordinance establishing stop signs. The board was in agreement that the stop sign should have been located where the south bound traffic on Ohio Street stops before entering West Forest Avenue not the East bound traffic on West Forest Avenue stopping at Ohio Street. An amendment to the ordinance will be presented at the October 19th board meeting.

EASEMENT AGREEMENT: MOTION: Streit made a motion to enter into an easement agreement with the Hines Homestead and Reed Fombelle, seconded by Wingler. **VOTING:** Greek, yes; Litwiller, yes; Tholen, yes; Osborne, yes; Wingler, yes; Streit, yes; motion carried.

TIME CLOCK POLICY: Next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

1955 FIRE TRUCK (TANKER TRUCK): Osborne stated that the committee recommends selling the tanker truck. Streit will put the truck on different web sites to see if there is any interest. See what the interest is and make a decision at the November 16, 2009 board meeting.

COMMUNITY RENEWALBE ENERGY PROGRAM: Streit reported that he has resource for free grant help and would like to pursue a grant that would provide 50% or up to \$500,000 of a wind turbine project. The Village (and the school would be asked if want to participate) would have to spend funds, if received, by February 2012. Since there is no cost involved the board asked Streit to proceed.

The met tower will be up for twelve months with a report on data at six months, nine months and twelve months. Meetings at monthly village board meetings to report data with the school board joining in at the twelve month meeting.

TRICK OR TREAT: MOTION: Streit made a motion that Trick or Treat be held Friday, October 30, 2009 from 6 – 8 p.m., seconded by Tholen. **VOTING:** Litwiller, yes; Wingler, yes; Osborne, yes; Greek, yes; Tholen, yes; Streit, yes; motion carried.

NATURAL GAS CO-OP: Streit reported that the Village can also get into a natural gas coop like the electrical coop currently in. Streit researched the Village's natural gas bills. The village would save \$300.00 and some dollars if at bid day the rate is 10% lower that what the village is paying now. The fee to get into the coop is \$200.00. The agreement that would be pursued would be for 36 months but could be for just 9 – 12 months. **MOTION:** Streit made a motion to enter into an agreement with the Champaign County Chamber of Commerce for wholesale natural gas pricing up to \$200.00 maximum, seconded by Wingler. **VOTING:** Osborne, yes; Tholen, yes; Greek, yes; Litwiller, yes; Wingler, yes; Streit, yes; motion carried.

HOG RAFFLE: Litwiller reported that the Park committee would like to recommend holding a Hog Raffle to raise money for park equipment with the tickets costing \$5.00 and the cost being at less than \$300.00 to the village. **MOTION:** Litwiller made a motion for the village to spend up to \$300.00 to purchase two hogs to raffle off for park equipment, seconded by Tholen. **VOTING:** Streit, yes; Wingler, yes; Greek, yes; Osborne, yes; Tholen, yes; Litwiller, yes; motion carried. There will be two winners of the hog raffle and Atwood Processing will process the two hogs.

CIMOA MEETING: The CIMOA meeting will be held Thursday, October 22, 2009 at the Savoy Recreation Center located at 402 Graham Dr. in Savoy. The keynote speaker will be Representative Chapin Rose (R-110), who will be speaking on "A Blue Print of the Impeachment Process in Illinois" and "The Illinois Fiscal Situation and Looking for Solutions in 2010". CIMOA meeting reservations need to be made no later than October 14, 2009.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

CODE RED: Mayor Wallace reported the Village of Atwood will not join the Code Red system at this time that is connecting with Douglas County. This system would cost the Village \$500, with more costs being incurred per minutes used over the allotted amount by the county. The village board would like to ask Gary Bryant to come speak at the Next Village Board meeting on October 9th about the Atwood Fire Departments free system for individuals.

LAWSUIT: Mayor Wallace stated that a lawsuit against the village was dismissed on September 10, 2009 at the Piatt County Courthouse.

IMLRMA: The Illinois Municipal League Risk Management Association informed the village by letter that the Village has earned the IMLRMA Safety Award for the year 2008. This is for outstanding loss statistics for the 2008 program year with the criteria for receiving a 2008 Safety Award including having a 50% or below loss ratio and an indices rate equal to or less than the average indices rate of your respective class size.

IMRF: Mayor Wallace informed the village board that the Village's IMRF contribution for 2010 will be 13.94%.

MUNICIPAL SALES TAX DATA: Mayor Wallace reported that Berns, Clancy and Associates sent the village a report of the municipal sales tax data for municipalities in Champaign County and surrounding communities in central Illinois. 2007 annual sales tax receipts for Atwood is \$66,536 with a ranking of 24th and 2008 annual sales tax receipts for Atwood is \$49,256 with a ranking of 29th at \$40.47 per capita. The report has Atwood's population at 1,217 and it should be 1,290 so the per capita wouldn't be correct.

SEPTEMBER TREASURER'S REPORT: The board reviewed the September Treasurer's Report.

POLICE CAR: The new police car equipment and paperwork is all installed and completed.

HEROES' PARADE: Stephanie Wierman reported that the Heroes Parade held September 12, 2009 was great. Jeremy Schrock did a great job organizing the parade.

There is also a festival report in last week's Southern Piatt Record – Herald. Wierman stated that the Chamber would still like a \$2,000 donation from the Village for next years' festival.

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

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

Cindy L. Ard
Village Clerk

Ronald E. Wallace
Village President