

## **VILLAGE OF ATWOOD**

### **Board of Trustees Meeting**

**December 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 Gene Greek, Jim Tholen, Jeremiah Osborne, Joe Streit and Tyson Wingler. Gloria Litwiller entered at 7:05 p.m.

**MINUTES: MOTION:** Tholen made a motion to accept the minutes of the November 16, 2009 board meeting as presented, seconded by Greek. **VOTING:** All aye; motion carried.

**UNITED CHURCH THANK YOU:** Mayor Wallace read a thank you note from the United Church on repair work Rick Myers, Village Street and Alley Superintendent did to the public parking lot next to the church, it was much appreciated.

**WATER & SEWER:** Greek reported that a water and sewer committee meeting was held December 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. at the Municipal Building with Osborne, Tholen, Chairman – Greek, Mayor Wallace and Wingler present. 1) New Lift Station: The new lift station at the wastewater treatment plant has been completed and is on line and functioning properly. Final site work consisting of grading and fencing replacement will be completed in the spring. The contractor, Universal Mechanical, has submitted their final invoice of \$29,990 for payment. 2) New Water And Sewer Rate Structure: A new water and sewer rate structure has been developed by the water and sewer committee for consideration and future action by the village board. It is proposed that the board take action on the new rate structure at the January monthly meeting. Because the proposed new rate structure is a change to an existing village ordinance an amending ordinance would have to then be prepared and voted on at the February board meeting. 3) Water and Sewer Department Operations: During the month of November, 2009, the water department processed an average of 131, 978 gallons of finished water per day. For the month a total of 3,959,350 gallons of finished water were produced. The wastewater treatment plant operated within all I.E.P.A. standards. 4) Adjourned: 6:00 p.m.

**FINANCE:** Tholen reported that the Finance committee meeting began at 6:00 p.m. at the Municipal Building with Tholen – Chairman, Osborne, Greek, Mayor Wallace and Wingler present. The committee held a discussion on the Tax Levy. The police committee revised their budget numbers. A discussion was also held concerning Water and Sewer payroll taxes and IMRF on whether to take expenses out of the tax levy or out of water and sewer expenses. Last year these expenses were taken out of the tax levy. The year before that they were taken out of water and sewer expenses. Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Village of Atwood, minutes  
December 21, 2009

**STREET AND ALLEY:** Osborne reported that a street and alley committee meeting was held at the Municipal Building on December 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. with Greek, Tholen, Osborne – Chairman, Mayor Wallace and Wingler present. The committee discussed snow removal with Osborne stating that there are people on standby if Myers needs help with snow removal. Meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

**CIVIC IMPROVEMENT, TOURISM & SPECIAL PROJECTS:** Committee Meeting, December 15, 2009 @ 8: 10 p.m. Municipal Building. The meeting was brought to order at 8:10 p.m. with Joe Streit (Chairman) and Tyson Wingler in attendance. Also present was Chief of Police Cliff Ponder.

Streit will be presenting an update on the wind turbine progress to the Atwood-Hammond School District Board of Trustees on December 17<sup>th</sup>.

The Committee discussed the good publicity that may result in the reduction of a tax levy, given that no communities in the area have been able to maintain their services without burdening their citizens with higher taxes.

The Industrial Park was also discussed, with the east side of Atwood, between US 36 and the railroad tracks being the ideal location. The Committee would like to hear the board's opinion on the merit of the project and ideas for site location. Additionally, other interested parties should be included so as to leverage all resources. The meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

**BUILDINGS & INSURANCE, PARK:** Wingler reported that the meeting was held at 8:42 p.m. at the Municipal building with Streit, Wingler and Chief Ponder present. Litwiller was absent. Wingler reported that the Hog Raffle was held in the Clerk's Office on December 1<sup>st</sup> with Doris Elmore, Village Clerk Cindy Ard and Wingler present. Ard drew the names of Gary Gee and Diane Riley. The hog cost the village \$273.20 and \$1,180 was raised for new park equipment from the Hog Raffle. The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

The Needy Fund raised over \$8,000 at the fund raiser in December.

**POLICE:** Wingler reported that the Police Committee meeting was held on December 15<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. at the Municipal Building with Wingler – Chairman, Streit and Chief Ponder present. Police coverage for the Village of Hammond: Chief Ponder and Wingler have talked about this a great deal and feel this is something that the Village of Atwood Police Department can do. There are some legal aspects that need to be looked at, and Wingler has asked Hammond to agree to pay for any legal fees acquired. The Village of Hammond has agreed and is bringing this issue up at their next village board meeting. There will need to be more discussions and investigation into this before can be presented to the board.

Hiring of part time officers: The board was in agreement that there be no more part time officers hired until the number of part time officers on the current roster can be lowered. The board feels that only those part time employees able to work the open shifts should be on the roster. Not thirteen that require uniforms, badges etc. and can not work. There was a discussion of part time police and coverage. The hiring of any part time police will be tabled for now and work on getting the number of part time officers on the roster lowered.

Drug screens for new employees: Talked about in the committee meeting if a part time employee could show a recent drug screen from their current employer and if so the village would not have them screened. The board was not in favor of this. Radom drug testing for all employees was discussed and the board was in favor of. More discussion will be held on these subjects.

Went over the budget for next year, the committee saw where they could make some cuts and looked at raises for next year.

Chief Ponder stated that the animal control agreement was working well. The police department has had a few animals picked up already. Meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**TAX LEVY:** There was a lengthy discussion on whether the payroll and IMRF expenses for water and sewer should be taken out of the tax levy or out of water and sewer expenses. **MOTION:** Streit made a motion that water and sewer payroll taxes and water and sewer IMRF expenses be removed from the tax levy and put into the water and sewer expenses, seconded by Wingle. **VOTING:** Tholen, yes; Osborne, yes; Streit, yes; Greek, no; Wingle, yes; Litwiller, yes; motion carried. **MOTION:** Greek made a motion to adopt ordinance number 09-O-06 an ordinance for the levy and assessment of taxes for the fiscal year beginning May 1, 2009, and ending April 30, 2010 of the Village of Atwood, Piatt and Douglas Counties, Illinois, seconded by Tholen. **VOTING:** Osborne, yes; Litwiller, yes; Streit, yes; Wingle, yes; Tholen, yes; Greek, yes; motion carried.

**WATER & SEWER RATES:** Greek reported that the figures are up in the air right now. Had figured 1cent per gallon increase but with the water and sewer payroll taxes and water and sewer IMRF being taken out of water and sewer expenses this next fiscal year the increase may have to be 1.2 or 1.3 cents per gallon. So there can be a surplus of funds for any unforeseen emergencies or future projects. Greek would now like for the increase to be the March 15<sup>th</sup> reading billed March 31, 2010 due April 15, 2010.

**INDUSTRIAL PARK:** Streit would like any board comments on paperwork that was passed out at the last board meeting concerning an Industrial Park. TIF District for Industrial Park? Crane Building available for rent or purchase.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**HAMMOND, IL POLICE COVERAGE:** Tabled.

**PART TIME POLICE OFFICER HIRING:** Tabled.

**GREENWAY LAWN CARE:** Mayor Wallace reported that he had been approached by a representative of Greenway Lawn Care on the possibility of vacuuming leaves up for the Village of Atwood. This would be if the Village wants to enforce a no leaf burning ordinance? There are more and more complaints about leaf burning do to asthma sufferers and there also could be IEPA mandates in the future. Just think about it. The representative is speaking with other Villages in the area. One suggestion was to attach an extra \$2.00 charge per month on the water bills for the service.

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

**MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:**

**NEW YEARS EVE EXTENDED BAR HOURS TO 2 A.M.: MOTION:** Tholen made a motion to extend the bars closing hour for one hour from 1 a.m. to 2 a.m. on New Year's Eve or until 2 a.m., January 1, 2010 New Year's Day, seconded by Greek. **VOTING:** Wingler, yes; Litwiller, yes; Osborne, yes; Streit, yes; Greek, yes; Tholen, yes; motion carried.

**MUNICIPAL TAXES:** Mayor Wallace reviewed a municipal property tax rate data sheet survey conducted by Berns, Clancy and Associates for selected communities in central Illinois.

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

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Cindy L. Ard  
Village Clerk

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Ronald E. Wallace  
Village President