

VILLAGE OF ATWOOD

Board of Trustees Meeting

August 18, 2008

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

MINUTES: MOTION: Greek made a motion to accept the minutes with changes, seconded by Litwiller. **VOTING:** All aye; motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

WATER & SEWER: Greek reported that a water and sewer committee meeting was held August 14th at 5 p.m. at the municipal building. Those present were Tholen, Clack, Mayor Wallace and Greek – Chairman. The replacement of the water main at the end of West Orchard Avenue and the customer service hook-ups has been completed, and is functioning normally. All maintenance repairs and planned projects for the department have been completed except for the upgrading of the digester at the sewer plant. The scum box has been fabricated and installed, the weirs are awaiting installation, and the bafflers are being fabricated. Completion of the sewer plant upgrade may not be completed until next summer. One bid was received for the purchase of a standby generator and its installation. The bid received from the Harris companies was for the amount for \$21,253. This amount may be reduced by \$320 if the village provides the concrete for the mounting pad. The bid is based upon the use of the present manual switching gear at the service entrance. Automatic switching gear would be an additional add-on to the total bid. The additional cost would be \$3,792.00. This was not in the original bid. The committee began the process of consideration of possible rate increases for water and sewer services. The committee reviewed data concerning present water and sewer usage by all parties involved. The water and sewer rate increases are being considered due to increased operating costs and the need to replace the influent pump station (dry well) at the sewer plant at an estimated cost of \$135,700. The current combined water and sewer rates for the village of Atwood rank 61st out of 69 (#1 being the highest) in a survey of selected communities in Central Illinois as compiled by Berns, Clancy and Associates. The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

STREETS & ALLEYS: Tholen reported that a street and alley committee meeting was held at the municipal building at 5:30 p.m. Those recorded present were Greek, Clack, Mayor Wallace and Tholen – Chairman. The committee talked at length on the bid letting that the village had for the work that needs to be completed on the streets. The total for the oil and gravel came in at \$6,600.00 over the original estimate. The oil was 65 cents per gallon higher than the original estimate furnished. To spread the gravel was \$3.95 per ton higher than estimated. The village will have to appropriate more monies for the project. The overall project could be \$9,000 more than estimated.

On this same subject the committee also discussed that the village needs to be more selective on the areas that are to be chipped and tarred. There is a need to do more tilling. (The committee feels that the village has been taking a band aide approach and not fixing the real problem areas).

The committee is going to have a representative from Earl Walker Construction come to Atwood to go over the streets and decide which areas need work the worst. United States Congressman Tim Johnson's office called Tholen and stated that they have issued a letter on the Village of Atwood's behalf to the CSX Railroad listing our concerns of our two crossings that CSX is responsible for. Tholen hopes that something will happen sooner in repairing the crossings. Meeting adjourned.

POLICE: Harshbarger reported the police committee met on August 12th at 7 p.m. with Chairman – Harshbarger, Litwiller, Streit, Officer Ponder and Tyson Wingler present. Officer Ponder gave a report on the mechanical problems with the Ford squad car. The committee discussed the options on a grant for a new squad car. The committee also discussed the options of replacing Officer Ruggieri while he is off serving in the armed forces overseas. The committee did feel that the village should still reimburse Ruggieri for health insurance while he is serving our country. Officer Ponder reported that there is a taser training August 20th and 21st in Bellville. The tuition for this class is \$275.00. Officer Ponder will be attending this meeting and will be reimbursed for the cost of his hotel. Officer Ponder will then be certified to teach the taser classes. Officer Ponder turned in the necessary information to Litwiller on the new equipment for insurance coverage. The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m. Harshbarger read the Atwood Police Department Report for July 2008. Miles driven, 2319; fuel used, 189.6; traffic stops, 14; citations, 5; warnings, 8; calls for service, 29; motorist assistance, 9; traffic crashes, 1; juvenile complaints, 13; theft reports, 2; domestic disputes, 2; criminal arrests, 9; ordinance violations, 2; burglary, 1; agency assists, 21; fire/medical calls, 6; report submitted by Police Chief Cliff Ponder.

CIVIC IMPROVEMENT: Streit reported that the civic improvement committee met on August 12th at 7:41 p.m. The village website is up and running at www.atwoodil.com. There are a lot of photos on the site from the 2007 and 2008 Apple Dumpling Festivals. Streit would like to see more contact information added to the website with home addresses and phone numbers included with everyone's e-mail addresses. On August 7th Streit met with Chapin Rose and expressed the Village's interest in a wind turbine and ask for money. There is a plan to go to the Governor with a proposal for a plan that includes five different districts in the State asking for funding for wind turbines. The Strategic Planning Meeting scheduled for August 25th has been canceled and rescheduled for September 22 at 7 p.m. at the Grade School.

PARK, INSURANCE AND BUILDINGS COMMITTEE: Litwiller reported that the Park, Insurance and Buildings Committee met on August 12th at 7:48 p.m. with Chairman – Litwiller, Harshbarger, Streit and Wingler present. Litwiller turned in the insurance forms to Randy Lane for insurance quotes. Lane has not gotten the quote back to Litwiller at this time. A discussion was held on the fact that the park pavilion needs to be kept clean.

The committee also discussed forming a subcommittee for the park so that there can be more help with fund raising ideas and implementing these ideas in order to raise money for new park equipment. As mentioned in the police report, the committee feels that the village should continue covering Officer Ruggieri's insurance while he is serving our country. Meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m. Water valve at the park is still in the works.

FINANCE: Greek reported that the finance committee has begun work on the tax levy which needs to be ready for review at the November board meeting and passage at the December board meeting.

ZONING MEETING: There is a zoning board meeting scheduled for September 11, 2008 at the municipal building.

OLD BUSINESS;

STANDBY GENERATOR BIDS: MOTION: Greek made a motion to accept the bid the Village received from Harris Companies for an emergency generator in the amount of \$21,253.00 and that an add on be made for the automatic transfer switch for \$3,792, seconded by Streit. **VOTING:** Harshbarger, yes; Litwiller, yes; Tholen, yes; Greek, yes; Streit, yes; motion carried. Any additional monies needed for the project will be taken out of water and sewer funds.

ROAD OILING BIDS: MOTION: Tholen made a motion to accept the bid received from the Earl Walker Company for road oiling in the amount of \$28,441.50 with the additional amount not budgeted of \$9,000 coming out of the general funds, seconded by Litwiller. **VOTING:** Streit, yes; Greek, yes; Harshbarger, yes; Tholen, yes; Litwiller, yes; motion carried.

WEBSITE: MOTION: Greek made a motion to reimburse the Atwood Chamber of Commerce \$300 for part of the hosting of Atwood's website, seconded by Tholen. **VOTING:** Litwiller, yes; Streit, yes; Harshbarger, yes; Greek, yes; Tholen, yes; motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

INSURANCE QUOTES: Litwiller already reported that insurance quotes have not been returned yet.

HEALTH CARE REIMBURSEMENT: Village Board o.k.'s Ruggieri's health insurance reimbursement, Ruggieri is still considered an employee.

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

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

APPLE DUMPLING FESTIVAL: Stephanie Wierman, Chairman of the Atwood Chamber of Commerce was present to report on the 2008 Apple Dumpling Festival. Friday during the day was slow. Gunny Sack Review played music and Battle Creek was playing music for the beer garden, Friday evening. One man had to be escorted out, asked to leave and went willingly. Vendors were pleased. This is Phyllis Hendrickson's last year to oversee the vendors. Hendrickson is closing her store, The Family Shoppe. Next year may only have beer garden on Friday night and have motorcycles connected somehow with the beer garden. The Pop Rocks singing group is breaking up.

There were 108 cars at the car show. This was the biggest car show the people that put it on had in the ten years they had been doing car shows. No one showed up for the apple dumpling eating and carving contests. The Kiddies' Tractor Pull was good and keeps growing every year. The Ice Carving gentleman did a very good job. The Chamber wants to have him back next year. Wierman stated that the Chamber appreciated all the trustees, clerk and mayor on stage. The parade had a solid crowd from Magnolia Avenue all the way uptown. There were ninety or more entries. The teachers were good. The little girl that was hit by a Shriner's three wheel motorcycle was ok. The cost of the parade was around \$2,000. There was a discussion on whether candy should be thrown from moving vehicles. The festival went well as far as the police department was concerned. There were over 1,080 apple dumplings sold. Lake Fork Church ran out of ice cream at 7 p.m. Saturday night. Need to put on vendor applications that gas bottles need to be tied off. There was a safety concern about water hoses being strung across sidewalks, posing a trip hazard. Mayor Wallace complimented the police department. There was a request to find an area to hold mud volleyball, it was missed this year. Horse shoes did well and went until 2 p.m. Rick Myers, Korey Snodgrass and Allen Romine's help was great. Need downtown to be cleaned up better before the festival next year. The Wall building windows were cleaned, very happy, but now can see in windows. Wierman does not think it is going to be as good as last year as far as income. Two tents cost \$300, stage for beer garden was \$800 and there was a cost for sound and lights. Took out \$118 rain insurance so could still pay the bands even if it rained. Tractor marathon was very good. The Chamber fed the Lincoln's Challenge group and the tractor drivers. The church breakfast downtown was very good. Wierman liked the lids on the trash cans at a cost of \$15/lid (great). The porta potties were cleaned after Friday night. The security personnel were great. Overall pleased (weather is 90%) of how the festival will go.

MOVIE NIGHT: Friday, August 22nd at 7:30 p.m. will be movie night at the park with the movie Camp Rock being shown.

ADJOUR: MOTION: Greek made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Harshbarger.
VOTING: All aye; motion carried.

Cindy L. Ard
Village Clerk

Ronald E. Wallace
Village President