

VILLAGE OF ATWOOD

Board of Trustees Meeting

September 15, 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 Jim Tholen, Fred Harshbarger, Gene Greek, Ken Clack, Joe Streit and Gloria Litwiller.

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

WATER & SEWER: Greek reported that there was no official committee meeting, September 11, 2008, 5:00 p.m. for lack of a quorum. Greek and Mayor Wallace were present. Installation by Harris Companies has begun on the standby generator for the water department and emergency siren. Water and Sewer rate increase due to the need to replace an aged facility and cover increased department operating costs was discussed. There are many factors to be considered such as: Financing – how much, what source; proposed rate structure – how big an increase, dollar amount or percentage, separation of water and sewer rates; effects of an increase – minimum amount, citizen hardship; determining water rates only for non-residents, Village of Garrett and West Prairie Water Company. During the month of August, the water department processed an average of 171, 970 gallons of potable water per day. A total of 5,331,060 gallons of potable water were processed during the month. The wastewater treatment plant operated within all I.E.P.A. standards.

FINANCE & PERSONNEL: Clack reported that there was no quorum for a committee meeting. The committee has received a note from Connie England, treasurer for the Village of Atwood stating that there are utility invoices that continually are received after board approval of the current invoices to be paid which then incur late charges if wait until the next board meeting to pay. England is asking the board for a motion to be able to pay just regular utility bills that come in late. England has talk with the village's auditor and he said this was ok to do. Proposed Tax Levy is being worked so can pass and deliver to the counties before the last Tuesday in December.

STREETS & ZONING: Tholen reported that there was no quorum. Tholen had talked with Jim Wheeler and told him what street the village wanted tilled which is West Orchard Avenue between Main Street and North Missouri Street. After being tilled W. Orchard Avenue will be oiled and chipped twice. Wheeler should be in this week and job completed by the end of the week. Patching of the roads had already been completed in anticipation of the roads being oiled.

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POLICE, SAFETY & HEALTH: Harshbarger reported that a committee meeting was held Thursday, September 11, 7 p.m. at the municipal building. Chairman – Harshbarger, Streit, Litwiller, Police Chief Ponder and Tyson Wingler were present. Officer Ponder discussed a scam that is going on around town and will notify the paper of the scam. Julie Workman of Animal Control service was to provide the committee with additional information and Officer Ponder will contact her about this issue. Workman's services are still under consideration. The committee went over Christopher Gill's contract, the officer that will replace Officer A.J. while he is serving our country. Police Chief Ponder reported that there will not be a grant for a new squad car this year. Chief Ponder is looking into other options such as older cars or dealer auctions. The Village will probably nurse the police cars for another year. The police department would like to purchase a lock out system. The lock out system is a device that will unlock cars. The residents of Atwood will not be charged for this service. Persons living out of town will be charged a fee of \$25.00. A form confirming the vehicle ownership and a release form will be filled out and filed. This lock out system is for vehicles only. The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m. Harshbarger read the police activity report for the month of August as follows: Miles driven, 1910; fuel used, 195 gallons; traffic stops, 33; citations, 17; warnings, 21; calls for service, 23; juvenile complaints, 5; vandalism reports, 1; domestic disputes, 2; criminal arrests, 6; ordinance violations, 1; burglary, 1; agency assists, 16; fire/medical calls, 6; report submitted by Atwood Police Chief Cliff Ponder.

CIVIC IMPROVEMENT, TOURISM & SPECIAL PROJECTS: The meeting was brought to order at 7:59 p.m. with Joe Streit (Chairman), Gloria Litwiller and Fred Harshbarger in attendance. Also present was Tyson Wingler, Chairman of the Atwood Zoning Board of Appeals and Atwood Police Chief Cliff Ponder.

A discussion of the Zoning Ordinances took place. The Police Chief was unaware of the Zoning Enforcement Notification Form, which is to be submitted back to the Zoning Board upon issuance of any citations for zoning violations. The Police Department was informed that information regarding the Zoning Ordinances is placed on the web site, so every resident has easy access to the regulations. Village Ordinances will be added to the web site soon.

As of the meeting the atwoodil.com web site has received over 700 hits since the last Village Board meeting. New features have been added to the site, and Streit would like to encourage everyone on the Board and all Village employees to contribute biographical information to the General Info page.

The committee feels, just like last year, that Halloween Trick or Treating should take place on October 31st, regardless of any conflicts with area organizations and their planned events. As it turns out, there doesn't appear to be any conflict on the night of October 31st this year, so there is no reason to move the Trick or Treat times at all, in this committee's opinion. Extra police coverage will be available during the appropriate hours.

A strategic planning meeting will take place at 7pm on September 22nd at the Atwood-Hammond Grade School.

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Norman Hale has acquired new legal counsel. This representative has been in contact with the Village Attorney, and this committee agrees with Mr. Bequette that Mr. Hale should be again afforded the opportunity to address the Village Board at the October meeting. However, nothing has changed that affects the Zoning personnel's opinion of the situation.

Streit and Wingler have identified possible locations for a MET tower. The committee would like the Village Board to have a discussion regarding the possibility of retaining the services of the Farnsworth Group to pursue a grant which would result in the placement of a MET tower. Securing the grant would mean a guaranteed expense of \$3500, with a possible \$1500 expense upon approval. In addition, the site would have to be prepared and a lease would have to be granted for the duration of the tower's life span.

The meeting adjourned at 8:24 pm.

BUILDINGS, INSURANCE, PARK & WASTE MANAGEMENT: Litwiller reported that a committee meeting was held on September 11, 2008 at 8:25 p.m. with Chairman Litwiller, Harshbarger and Streit. Tyson Wingler, Zoning Board Chairman was present for the first half of the meeting. Wingler mentioned that a letter was sent to the Village from Mrs. Hayford's second grade class on recycling. They would like to attend the October village board meeting.

The committee discussed the water value at the park. This is the value that High School approached the Board about and it was passed by the Board to install this shut off valve. Litwiller will talk to Mayor Wallace on this issue. There is a problem with installing a shut off valve, it would not be IEPA certified. The village will check with the IEPA before home softball practices and games start in March 2009. There are home softball games scheduled for March 23, 25, 27, April 2, 10, 13, and 17.

Litwiller presented quotes on health insurance and disability insurance for the village employees. The committee feels this issue needs to be discussed in executive session. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS:

VILLAGE SPEED LIMITS 20MPH: To change the speed limit to 20 mph the village would have to have an ordinance amending the current ordinance and also have a traffic investigation. The Mayor would like for the whole town to have a speed limit of 20 mph except for where traffic comes in off of Rt. 36. Mayor Wallace will contact IDOT about a traffic study and find out more information on what can and can't be done. Mayor Wallace also feels that if golf carts are someday allowed on village streets it would be safer with the speed limit being 20 mph.

NEW BUSINESS:

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WARNING SIREN: Griffin Tower Connection Inc. installed a refurbished overload switch on the warning siren. The Village paid for labor and travel time only. The Village has received two quotes from Griffin Tower for siren replacement: Quote #: A9908 \$14,218.80 (115 dB equivalent to rating of existing siren) \$14,218.80 and a (130 dB rotating Omni directional siren) \$20,750.00. Optional new pole change-out additional \$1,500.00. (55ft. Class 2 pole) Same type of pole current siren is on.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY: Roger Harshbarger was present representing Piatt County Habitat for Humanity. Habitat is looking for lots in Atwood to build a home. They have an option to buy on the lot located at the corner of North Indiana and West Forest Avenue. The lots back taxes were bought by Joseph B. Meyer last November. There more delinquent taxes accumulated now. If county would waive back taxes, Meyer would waive interest. Need variance, lien on property and back taxes owed the village waived. There were neighbors of this lot present to complain that if a house was built there it would be built higher which would cause more water on their properties in heavy rains. There was also a question about how the sewer line is run on that property.

CHRISTOPHER GILL, CONTRACT: MOTION: Streit made a motion to approve a one year contract with Christopher Gill to fill the vacancy left by full time Police Officer A.J. Ruggieri while Officer Ruggieri is deployed to Afghanistan for a year, seconded by Harshbarger. **VOTING:** Litwiller, yes; Clack, yes; Greek, yes; Tholen, yes; Harshbarger, yes; Streit, yes; motion carried.

MET TOWER: Streit reported that a favorable location for the met tower has been found west of the Village. Streit will contact the farmer to see if he would be willing to allow the tower on his property through a lease agreement. Met tower will be tabled until Streit has an opportunity to discuss lease agreement with the farmer that owns the property.

REVIEW AND PAYMENT OF INVOICES: MOTION: Clack made a motion to allow Connie England the Village's Treasurer to pay regular utility invoices when they arrive so village will not be paying late charges, seconded by Litwiller. **VOTING:** Harshbarger, yes; Streit, yes; Tholen, yes; Greek, yes; Litwiller, yes; Clack, yes; motion carried. **MOTION:** Greek made a motion to approve the invoices for payment as presented, seconded by Clack. **VOTING:** Tholen, yes; Litwiller, yes; Streit, yes; Harshbarger, yes; Clack, yes; Greek, yes; motion carried.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

424 N. MISSOURI STREET: The new homeowner at 424 N. Missouri Street is asking if they can bring in dirt and raise a corner of their lot so water will run off and not stand on their property.

MEDIACOM: Mediacom sent the Village a letter stating that it will now be carrying the Big Ten Network.

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ATWOOD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE: Mayor Wallace read a thank you letter received from the Atwood Chamber of Commerce for the attendance of the Mayor, Trustees and Clerk at the opening ceremonies of the Apple Dumpling Festival and for the Village's contribution to the Festival. Next year's Apple Dumpling Festival will be August 14th and 15th, 2009.

ENGINEER WAYNE WARD RETIRING: Sodemann and Associates, Inc. sent the village a letter offering their services in lieu of the upcoming retirement of the village's engineer Wayne Ward. The Village did receive a letter from Wayne Ward stating that after providing engineering guidance for Atwood regarding Motor Fuel Tax Maintenance and other related work for the past 33 years, that he has decided that he would like to slow down and retire from the work. Ward will still be completing the 2008 M.F.T. records by preparing the "Maintenance Expenditure Statement" after the end of the year and will submit his statement for providing the 2008 service after the Expenditure Statement has been prepared. The Farnsworth Group is also interested in the position Wayne Ward will be vacating.

TRICK OR TREAT: MOTION: Streit made a motion that trick or treat be held in the Village of Atwood, Friday, October 31, 2008 from 6 – 8 p.m., seconded by Litwiller. **VOTING:** Clack, yes; Tholen, yes; Harshbarger, yes; Greek, yes; Litwiller, yes; Streit, yes; motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: MOTION: Streit made a motion to enter into executive at 8:30 p.m. to discuss personnel, seconded by Litwiller. **VOTING:** Greek, yes; Harshbarger, yes; Clack, yes; Tholen, yes; Litwiller, yes; Streit, yes; motion carried.

REGULAR SESSION: The Village board returned to regular session at 9:13 p.m.

ADJOURN: 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