

## VILLAGE OF ATWOOD

### Board of Trustees Meeting

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

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

**WATER & SEWER:** Greek reported that a water and sewer committee meeting was held Thursday, December 11, 2008 at 5:00 p.m. at the municipal building. Those attending the meeting were Clack, Tholen, Greek – Chairman and Mayor Wallace. 1. Influent Pump Station: In a telephone conversation with Andy Hanfland on Monday, Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>, he reported that work is progressing on the preparation of the design and specifications for the new influent pump station. The design and specifications should be ready for bidding after the beginning of the New Year. Hanfland reported that early conversations with possible contractors indicate that the cost of the influent pump station may be in the range of \$130,000 - \$135,000, possibly as low as \$120,000. The committee will now be able to begin preliminary discussions of financing of approximately \$80,000 of the project cost.

2. #4 Water Well: Work has been completed on the treatment of the well. The treatment process took longer than anticipated due to the need to replace deteriorating pump piping. After treating the well and replacing the pipe an increase of only 10 – 12 gpm was achieved. The committee believes that the village should consider the drilling of test well next fiscal year and eventually new water well.

3. Stand-by Generator: The installation of the stand-by generator is completed, and it is fully integrated into the water plant power system.

4. Water Leak Repair: A water leak was repaired at the corner of S. Kentucky St. and E. Elm Ave. Some concern has been expressed over this water line break due to its being relatively new pipe and the break was lineal at the pipe bell shaped connection.

5. Water and Sewer Dept. Operations: During the month of November the Water Dept. processed an average of 171,360 gallons of potable water per day. A total of 5,140,800 gallons of potable water was produced for the month. The wastewater treatment plant operated within all I.E.P.A. standards for the month. The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

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**FINANCE:** Clack reported that the Finance committee met on Thursday, December 11, 2008 at 5:30 p.m. with Clack – Chairman, Greek, Mayor Wallace, Tholen and Tyson Wingler present. Most of the Committee meeting was spent discussing the tax levy. Streit had notified the committee that the MET Tower Agreement was to be \$3,500 up front and then \$1,500 upon receiving the grant. The signed agreement ended up being \$2,500 up front and \$2,500 upon receiving the grant. The meeting adjourned at 6 p.m.

**STREET & ALLEY:** Tholen reported that the street and alley committee meeting was held Thursday, December 11, 2008 at 6 p.m. at the municipal building with Tholen – Chairman, Clack, Greek, Mayor Wallace and Tyson Wingler, Zoning Board Chairman present. 1.) Primary discussion centered on 20 mph speed limit ordinance on East Central Avenue. (Mayor Wallace was to discuss with Village Attorney to get proper ordinance put together) Speed limit change will be addressed at this meeting. 2.) Myers has provided Tholen with a want list for the coming year on repairs and replacements. These items will be reviewed by the committee for next year's budget. 3.) The Street and Alley Department have completed their pre-winter projects and the equipment is ready to go.

**POLICE:** Harshbarger reported that a police committee meeting was held on Thursday, December 11, 2008 at 7 p.m. at the municipal building with Harshbarger – Chairman, Litwiller, Streit, Wingler, and Jeremiah Osborne present. The committee discussed that they should get a pre – monthly work schedule of the officers. If there are any changes to the original schedule, it needs to be noted and why the change. Recessed at 7:13 p.m. Readjourned at 8:15 p.m. Discussed enforcing ordinances, such as; no bicycles on the downtown sidewalks and loose dogs running the town. Also, discussed the Village's policy on part time police training classes. Adjourned at 8:24 p.m. Harshbarger read the Atwood Police Department report for the month of November 2008: Miles driven, 1647; fuel used, 186.3; traffic stops, 16; citations, 14; warnings, 8; calls for service, 37; DUI Arrests, 1; juvenile complaints, 6; vandalism reports, 1; theft reports, 1; domestic disputes, 3; ordinance violations, 1; agency assists, 11; fire/medical calls, 5; motorist assists, 10; traffic accidents, 2; report submitted by Atwood Police Chief Cliff Ponder.

**CIVIC IMPROVEMENT, TOURISM, & SPECIAL PROJECTS:** Streit reported that the meeting was brought to order at 7:14 p.m. with Joe Streit (Chairman), Gloria Litwiller and Fred Harshbarger in attendance. Also present was Zoning Board Chairman Tyson Wingler.

Streit and Wingler have the music playing through the speaker's downtown. Right now, there is a tuner receiving a signal from 92.5, which is broadcasting Christmas music. \$10.65 was spent on an FM antenna to work with Streit's receiver to make this work. A more permanent solution would be to get an amplifier so that the signal would be sent more strongly to the speakers. Streit will loan his receiver until the Village comes up with a more permanent solution. Also, the Police Department has been asked if they would be willing to house the receiver in their office since a couple of buttons need to be pressed every day to turn the music on. There is no action needed to turn the music off due to a timer. Chief Ponder said that he would be more than happy

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to host it and take care of this action. Currently, Wingler is going into the tourist center every day to turn it on.

Some improvements to the system would be to have the Street & Alley's Superintendent ensure that all of the speakers are screwed in properly to the poles. Some of the speakers are dangling from their wires. Also, the speakers should be aimed to cover the broadest downtown area possible. All in attendance at the meeting have heard no complaints regarding the music. Everyone seems to be enthusiastic to have it back.

Streit had been reporting that the cost to Farnsworth Group for the MET tower application was \$3500. In actuality, the cost up front is going to be only \$2500, with an additional \$2500 due if the grant is approved. This means a lower up front expense, and less liability to the Village.

A lengthy discussion regarding the Civic Pride survey was held. In summary:

Upkeep of the downtown needs to be regular. A thorough fix-up like was held previously is good, but weekly maintenance would go a lot further.

Road maintenance needs to be regular

The park needs to be expanded

A new welcome sign/marquee should be added either downtown or on US 36

The flower pots need to be leveled. More flower pots were expected by this point, but no more have been made and put out. The pots should not be empty—one suggestion agreed upon was to have a perennial in the middle and then have the Atwood Woman's Club plant annuals around the outside.

The corn stalks growing on the awning by the old hardware store need to be removed. The committee favored restoring the awning to a presentable state instead of removing the awning completely.

The Atwood water tower already is dirty again. The committee would like to know if it would be possible to get a mold resistant/clean wipe surface so that we don't have to clean it as regularly. Also, a suggestion was made to only clean it after the annual harvest as that is when it gets the dirtiest.

Habitat for Humanity has never paid more than \$2500 for a lot to build a home. They would like to purchase the available lot discussed last month for this amount. The committee discussed this and feels that getting the home built in Atwood is very important, and even if we don't cover all of the costs associated with the sale, the long-term benefits for the Village and the local businesses outweigh the short-term losses, if any.

The meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

**PARK, BUILDING & INSURANCE COMMITTEE:** Litwiller reported that the Park, Building and Insurance committee met Thursday, December 11, 2008 at 8:07 p.m. with Chairman – Litwiller, Streit, Harshbarger, Wingler and Jeremiah Osborne present. Discussed the street that goes through the park and how it needs to be repaired. Litwiller will talk to the Forest Preserve about this issue and their playground equipment. Litwiller is working on proposals for

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park repairs and new equipment to give to some local companies and organizations that donates to these projects. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**MET TOWER GRANT APPLICATION:** The Village Board approved the Met Tower Grant application at last months meeting. The letter has been sent asking for permission to apply for the grant. There will be a meeting tomorrow to discuss with Steve Smith of the Farnsworth Group the procedures involved in filling out the grant application.

**ORDINANCE BOOK: OK**

**20 MPH SPEED LIMIT: MOTION:** Tholen made a motion to make East Central Avenue from N. Main Street to N. Kentucky Street 20 mph, seconded by Clack. **VOTING:** Greek, yes; Harshbarger, yes; Streit, yes; Litwiller, yes; Clack, yes; Tholen, yes; motion carried. Referenced 13.104 (B) of the Village Ordinances. 20 mph speed limit signs will also be posted 500 feet north and south of the current 20 mph signs located on North and South Main Street for enforcement purposes.

**TAX LEVY:** Clack stated that the finance committee believed that the most appropriate avenue to get money for water and sewer projects was to levy for employee expenses that were being taken out of the water and sewer account with the ordinance being drawn up to support this. It will leave the Village of Atwood so water and sewer rates won't have to be raised right now. **MOTION:** Clack made a motion to accept ordinance number 08-O-04 an ordinance for the levy and assessment of taxes for the fiscal year beginning May 1, 2008 and ending April 30, 2009 of the Village of Atwood, Piatt and Douglas Counties, Illinois in the total amount of \$131,215.00, seconded by Tholen. There was a lengthy discussion about water and sewer expenses being taken out of the tax levy to free up monies in the water and sewer department. This will be revisited next year along with the possibility of a water and sewer rate increase after the costs for the sewer project come in and after all contracts expire with supplied water facilities. **VOTING:** Clack, yes; Litwiller, yes; Tholen, yes; Streit, no; Greek, yes; Harshbarger, yes; motion carried. It was stated that these expenses were being put back they way they were two years ago.

**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY:** The property that habitat was looking at as been put on hold and looking at another property.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**JOE VICTOR – CODE RED:** Ponder reported that Joe Victor could not attend tonight's meeting and would like to be put on January 2009's agenda.

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**ANIMAL CONTROL:** Ponder reported that he attended the November Douglas County board meeting. Kathy Rhoades has been appointed interim animal control office for Douglas County. There is no animal control facility for Atwood to use right now. If an animal is found outside the village limits on Piatt County's side Sonny Dodds will pick up the animal. Ponder is going to check into a grant next spring for an animal holding facility. Ponder would like input on where a good location would be to locate the holding pen. The hope is that the Village can have somewhere to take an animal after the first of the year at Douglas County. Approximate cost for a pen, concrete, etc. would be \$5,800. The Police Department would be the one that would have to watch after the holding pen for the temporary holding of animals (10 days). Douglas County is looking at wanting to charge \$35 to leave an animal plus \$10/day.

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

**MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:**

**APPLE DUMPLING FESTIVAL:** Streit reported that the Atwood Chamber of Commerce is having trouble finding support. If the Chamber did happen to disband may not be able to have an Apple Dumpling Festival. The Village needs to help to have the Festival. There is currently an Atwood Chamber of Commerce meeting scheduled for December 17, 6 p.m. but this date and time may be changed do to the busy time of year. There may not be an Atwood Chamber of Commerce, need help and support. Doris Elmore reported that the Christmas Fun Fair held at the Elementary Gymnasium was held December 5, with not as good a turn out as last year. The Learn and Serve Team from the school helped tremendously. Santa and Mrs. Clause were present along with the bounce house and several other activities (cake walk, etc.). Think businesses should want to bring people to town. A question was asked on why a business should want to join the Chamber. It was brought up about holding the Apple Dumpling Festival at the Atwood Park. The park would be lacking power and water hookups and wouldn't promote the downtown area.

The Village Board asked the Village Clerk to send letters to the Village Pub and Kel's Place allowing them to be open until 2 a.m. New Year's Eve to allow the establishments' time to get all the people out of their buildings.

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

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Cindy L. Ard  
Village Clerk

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Ronald E. Wallace  
Village President