

Minutes of
Board of Trustees
Village of Atkinson

August 15, 2011

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees, Village of Atkinson, was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Junior who led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Members Present

August Junior, Mayor
Ryan Rahn, Trustee (arrived 7:53pm)
Beth VanVooren, Trustee
Ken Taber, Trustee
Mike Vergane, Trustee
Ray Elliott, Trustee
RJ Pratt, Trustee (absent)

Others Present

Brooke VanDerSnick
Marty Burroughs
Virgil Thurman
Claudia Loucks

Moved by Elliott and seconded by Vergane to approve minutes of August 1st Meeting of the Board of Trustees. Motion carried: 4 – AYE; 0 – NAY.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN REPORTS

FINANCE/PROPERTIES

No Report.

PUBLIC WORKS

Hydrant Repairs:

Trustee Taber informed the Board that the hydrant at the end of North State Street has been repaired. The shut-off valve was not installed due to a lack of room. If the hydrant ever needs to be fixed and/or replaced in the future another line stop will need to be done.

PARKS & RECREATION

Approve Donation to the Atkinson Heritage Society:

Moved by VanVooren and seconded by Taber to approve donation of \$3,000.00 to the Atkinson Heritage Society. Motion carried: 4 – AYE; 0 – NAY.

American Flags:

Mayor Junior stated that 1,000 American flags are arriving tomorrow for President Obama's visit. The flags are being donated by The Flag Man, Larry Eckhart, and will line Route 6 and County Highway 5.

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY

School Bus Pick-Up/Drop-Off:

Trustee Vergane told the Board there has been a lot of discussion among the mothers of students in town regarding the school bus pick-up and drop-off changes. There is now only one pick-up/drop-off location. It was supposed to be behind the former high school; however, Trustee Rahn was able to get the location changed to the northeast corner of Veterans Park. When Trustee Rahn spoke with Pinks' Bus Service he was told that the bus drivers were complaining to management about children switching buses. They would not ride the same bus on a consistent basis. Trustee Rahn told Trustee Vergane that his daughter would sometimes ride a different bus home because the bus she rode in the morning would be full. Trustee Vergane is working on trying to get a second location on the east end of town. Dawn Schnowske is losing a lot of clients due to the change. She is a licensed daycare and should have a bus stop. Trustee Vergane also stated that the housing addition Oakwood Estates in Geneseo has two (2) bus stops. Trustee VanVooren asked if there was only one (1) bus now since there was only one (1) stop.

Appoint/Approve New Police Chief:

Mayor Junior informed the Board that he and Trustee Vergane selected Mr. Adam Burroughs as the new police chief. He is a good balance of everything: salary, an easy transition, he stood out and really wants to be here. A discussion regarding the approval of the new police chief was held in executive session.

Moved by Vergane and seconded by Rahn to appoint/approve Mr. Adam Burroughs as the new Village of Atkinson Police Chief with an annual salary of \$35,000. Motion carried: 3 – AYE; 2 – NAY. Per Village Attorney Virgil Thurman, Mr. Adam Burroughs approved as new police chief by majority vote.

Appoint/Approve New Building Inspector:

Mr. Joe Morris has applied for the position of building inspector. He is a good candidate and is willing to do the job and do it well. He will, however need to attend some classes. Trustee VanVooren asked if the Village of Atkinson will pay for the classes. Mayor Junior said he feels that it should. Trustee Vergane asked if he would be the building inspector for any other towns. Mayor Junior said no.

Moved by Taber and seconded by VanVooren to appoint/approve Joe Morris as the new Village of Atkinson Building Inspector. Motion carried: 4 – AYE; 0 – NAY.

Swimming Pools without Fences:

A resident voiced concern about the above ground swimming pools in town that do not have fences around them. The resident spoke with Clerk VanDerSnick and Trustee VanVooren while in the Village Office. He is concerned about safety. Trustee Taber said it is terrible that Village employees and a rescue squad volunteer are the ones violating the ordinance. Mayor Junior stated that the ordinance regarding fencing around swimming pools needs to be verified and then enforced. Trustee Vergane asked if letters should be mailed to the residents with pools informing them of the ordinance or if a public notice should be published in the paper. Trustee VanVooren said that letters should be mailed. She also stated that there may be a state law on

the issue; how many inches deep require a fence, etc. Trustee Vergane will research the Village ordinance and state law.

Presidential Visit:

Trustee Vergane asked Mayor Junior if he had contacted Wyffels Hybrid regarding the camper that was parked in anticipation of tickets becoming available for President Obama's town hall meeting. Mayor Junior called Wyffels Hybrid and was told that they were going to allow campers and then the White House said no. Mayor Junior stated that he tried to obtain tickets for the Board Members but was unable to do so.

GRANTS/WEST VIEW ESTATES/PUBLIC LIASON

No Report.

FARM/REFUSE & RECYCLING

Farmland Tenant Letters:

Trustee Elliott will mail out letters to the current farmland tenants stating the end of their lease term. Trustee Taber believes that Mr. Merrill Taber should have the opportunity to match or increase the highest bid being that he is not giving up the farmland; it is being taken away from him. Mayor Junior spoke with Village Attorney Virgil Thurman regarding Trustee Taber's belief and he was informed by Mr. Thurman that the Village must accept one of the sealed bids. The Village is not allowed to give Mr. Taber the option to match or up the highest bid.

Leachate:

Trustee Elliott stated that the Atkinson Landfill has been dumping leachate again without notifying the Village first. The landfill had been taking the leachate to Galva.

Lagoon:

Trustee Taber stated there are little trees growing in the side banks of the Village's lagoon. They need to be removed before they get too big and become a hazard. The trees along the fence line also need to be maintained or it's going to end up like behind the school complex; the trees are going to be so big that the Village will be unable to handle them. Trustee Elliott said the trees around the lagoon cannot be overgrown; they will block the air flow.

BILLS

A discussion was held regarding the fuel charges for the park on the Casey's General Store invoice. The amount is higher than what the Board believes it should be. Does Mr. Floming and/or Mr. Martin have possession of the credit cards or do they leave the credit cards at Casey's? The credit cards are left at the gas station. Is there a dishonest Casey's employee who may be using a Village card personally?

Trustee Taber questioned whether or not the Atkinson Fire Protection District has used any more of the on-site fuel. Clerk VanDerSnick does not believe so but will verify it with Mr. Floming.

Moved by Taber and seconded by VanVooren that all the bills be paid as presented except for the Casey's General Store invoice. The Casey's General Store invoice will be paid after Clerk

VanDerSnick speaks with Mr. Bob Floming regarding the high fuel charge for the park. Motion carried: 4 – AYE; 0 – NAY.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (In at 7:45 pm; Out at 8:29 pm)

Moved by Taber and seconded by Elliott that the Board go into Executive session. Motion carried: 4 – AYE; 0 – NAY.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Elliott and seconded by Rahn that the meeting be adjourned at 8:32 p.m. Motion carried by acclamation.

Respectfully submitted,

Brooke VanDerSnick
Village Clerk