September 3, 2020

**Atkinson Town Board Meeting**

Board Members Present: Mayor Newkirk, Commissioners: Dee Turner, Denise Lewis, Bryan Stewart, Robert Kenan, Town Attorney and Jason Turner, Atkinson Fire Chief.

Meeting Called to Order by Mayor Elton Newkirk

Prayer: Bryan Stewart

Pledge of Allegiance – All in Attendance.

Boy Scout Troop #709 was present to complete task to receive merit badges. Board members accompanied the troops outside for a photograph.

Approval of minutes from 8/6/2020 – Motion to Accept made by Dee Turner. Motion seconded by Bryan Stewart. Motion carried.

Approval of Agenda as written – Motion to Accept made by Dee Turner. Motion seconded by Denise Lewis. Motion carried.

Mayor Newkirk opened the floor for 3 minute comments from residents.

1. Penny Stith – “I hope our town can get it together”. She stated that a lot of things are being taken care of. She feels that more communication in the town is needed. She also expressed that everyone seemed to be working hard but she has concerns about the town being without a clerk. She feels that maintenance is a “nightmare”. She thinks that the logging trucks are an issue due to them speeding through town. She stated that she “loves this town and again hopes we can get it together”.
2. Elaine Stealer wishes for the town to “hurry up and advertise for the town clerk’s position”.

No other public comments.

Jason presented the fire report. Daytime staffing is completed with 4 people hired and 3 in the hiring process at this time. There will be 2 people on call at the station Monday – Friday from 8am to 5pm.

The department received confirmation last week that the drive thru BBQ could be held. A map will be posted on Facebook and in the Pender Post in regards to the line-up for the sale.

The Group of AmeriCore will be at the fire station on 9/11/2020. This group will consist of 12 people who will be completing some carpentry projects. The fire department will purchase the supplies and there will not be any cost for the labor.

Jason read a letter from the homeowners of the house that burned on Alderman St.

\*\*\*Penny Stith asked if a fundraiser had been set up for the family. No one was aware of any fundraiser being formed at this time.

**Library Report Given by Denise Lewis**

Due to the internet being an issue for some school children the library will be open from 1pm to 5pm on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. And 9am to 1pm on Tuesdays. Hopefully these times will help school children who are enrolled in virtual learning.

**Maintenance Report Given by Bryan Stewart**

Mr. Cary has stepped up to the maintenance position and is doing a great job. It has been noticed that some tools in the maintenance shop are gone and Mr. Cary needs permission to purchase any tools that are needed for town maintenance.

The asphalt patch that is needed for some areas on town road has been priced. Lanier’s Hardware – 50lb bag is $13.50 per bag and comes on a pallet. The cost averages out to 27 cents per lb. Core & Main-$15.75 per 50lb bag and also comes on a pallet. Their average cost is 26.25 cents per lb.

Bryan expressed that the town is making improvements as cost effectively as possible.

The report from Tony with EnviroLink:
31,000 gallons of water were used last month.
38,000 gallons of water has been used this month.
The water system was in compliance August 2020
There needs to be humidifiers purchased for the well houses.
Also, new chemical pumps are needed.

The town lost water pressure 3 times in August.

The water system passed state inspection. 25 chlorine analyses and 18 well site inspections were conducted during the month of August.

There will be someone here on September 11 to thoroughly check the system. The generators cannot be ran on manual due to it “screwing” up the computer system for the wells. Bryan stated that the town board has learned a lot of the past few weeks regarding the water tower and its operation.

Bryan also reiterated that the town’s contract with EnviroLink prohibits any unauthorized individuals from messing with and/or tampering with the system.

Bryan also mentioned that all board members’ phone numbers are listed on the town’s website and residents can call any of them with concerns.

\*\*\*Mayor Newkirk stated “I ain’t scared of nobody but God”. He also told attendees that they can call him and “I will tell you the truth.”

Dee discussed the areas at Main/Rooks, Red Cross and Henry/3rd. She has received a verbal price of $4000.00 but she is waiting on the written quote to come to her.

The issues over at Diane Spencer’s is a separate issue that is partly her responsibility and partly the town’s responsibility. However, the town will not argue responsibility.

The maintenance worker only needs 1 person to report to and that person will give him job duties as well.

As far as the ditches in town that are not flowing properly….The state has to come in first and set the grade of the ditches before the town can work on its ditches.

The mayor stated that he will work on the road signs.
Denise stated that work needs to be done on town roads and not the state roads.

Robert Kenan stated that the town clerk acts as the CFO. He stated that it could also cause a conflict of interest for town board members to handle money. The town needs to start advertising as soon as possible in order to hire a town clerk. Dee stated that she has had 2 towns send her town clerk job descriptions and she will work on composing one for the town.

According to AVS, all water meters have to be read manually. This is due to the hand-held device not picking up the majority of readings.

Denise stated that the town clerk’s positon does not justify 35 hours per week with 4 days being the maximum work week. It is preferred that the new town clerk have experience in Quick Books, as this is the program that is being used at this time for financial matters.

The park grant will be reviewed on September 18, 2020 and Dee will keep the board/town updated as she receives information.

Demolition/Restoration of the old school cafeteria….Bryan is waiting on written quotes/estimates for roof repair and remodel costs.

It could be a possibility to convert the cafeteria into a “community center” and possibly apply for and receive a grant for funding.

Dee made a Motion to Enter Closed Session to discuss personal issues. Bryan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Public dismissed at 8:11 pm for Closes Session