

# VILLAGE OF ATHENS BOARD MEETING

MINUTES- June 12, 2019

**PRESENT:** Mayor Stephan Bradicich, Trustee Gail Lasher, Trustee Robert Scott, Trustee Amy Serrago and Trustee Dr. Joshua Lipsman.

*Pledge to the Flag*

## **DEPARTMENT HEADS:**

### *1. Village Attorney Tal Rappleyea*

Mr. Rappleyea informed the village board that an agreement has been reached in the wording of the Resolution for the the conveyance of the Community Center Building from the Village to the Town of Athens as discussed. The reverter clause was the 'sticky point' which has been worked out.

The 'Brownfields Establishment Opportunity' was discussed as well. The VB can act on this when the following items have been completed:

- establish the area and what qualifies it.
- SEQOR – short form needs to be completed at the next meeting.

Mr. Rappleyea also noted that he has been working on the issue with the Maurer property located on N. Franklin Street. He has been contacting the bank which owns the property and trying to get their consent to have the building taken down. No success yet but will keep working on it.

### *2. Code Enforcement Officer - Michael Ragaini – no show.*

### *3. DPW - Anthony Proper*

Mr. Proper informed the VB that the dump truck has a bad leak in the oil pan. Requested VB permission to have the truck towed to Ben Funk to have it repaired. Permission granted.

The DPW has received the mulch and will be working on installing it at the Village Green. The lining will go in next.

The pickup truck needs a new transmission. The money for this expense was budgeted.

Paving and repairing culvert pipe on Union Street was discussed. The cost for the culvert and paving of that section of Union Street is over \$140,000.00 and so will not be completed this year. Mr. Proper would like to use the EWR money (Emergency Winter Recovery money) and money allocated to road materials this year to fix the pot holes and pave a portion of Union Street. He can then carryover or rollover the CHIPS money this year (approximately \$70,000) to next year and then probably the village will receive the same amount therefore doubling the amount that will be available to use on this project next year.

Mayor Bradicich mentioned that perhaps funding will come from Climate Smart or CFA grant money to help defray the cost.

Mr. Proper also asked permission to purchase a Road Planer for a cost of \$12,678.32. The money for this purchase was put in the budget this year.

Mayor Bradicich and Trustee Lipsman bought up the subject of possibly using shared services with the County as opposed to purchasing this item. Would this be a piece of equipment that could perhaps be borrowed from the County?

DPW Director Mr. Proper stated that this piece of equipment is used by many municipalities this time of year making it hard to plan a project. 'No' is the answer.

Trustee Scott affirmed that the problem with this type of equipment is that it is in high demand this time of year. It is a very short span of time that village's have to perform this type of work as well.

Trustee Serrago asked if the equipment in question will make the project more efficient? 'Yes.'

Trustee Lipsman questioned the process by which shared services are used in the county. Should the Administrator be consulted about the process of borrowing equipment.

RESOLUTION was made to purchase the Road Planer (RESOLUTION attached).

Trustee Lipsman voted 'no' and stated that he is not opposed to the purchase in principle but it appears that there has been no effort to address the sharing system.

Trustee Lasher noted that it appears to her that the County needs to work on the sharing system on their end if it is not working for the municipalities.

Trustee Serrago noted that she feels that the purchase cannot wait until the problems with shared services be worked out.

Mr. Proper also informed the VB that smoke testing will take place August 20- August 21, 2019 for a specific area in the Village to be determined.

Mr. Proper also noted that Frank Pedatella asked if he could plant more trees on his property bordering the WWTP.

The Clerk-Treasurer informed the VB that there were concerns regarding that property in that there is a history of public access to the riverfront that runs along Mr. Pedatella's property and the WWTP. This access leads to a small piece of property with a couple of benches where people may look out at the river.

While Mr. Pedatella was going through the permitting process with the LWRP and Planning Board it was noted that any type of activity that limited that access should be avoided. According to the findings of the LWRP that area has been accessible to the public in the past and should remain as such.

The Mayor stated that Mr. Pedatella should come before the village board and ask permission.

#### *4. Fire Department – Chief David Disbrow*

Pricing for turn-out gear is quoted at \$28,000.00 for 5 sets. Budgeted.

Hoses have been tested and inspected.

The AVFD will be attending parades in Chatham, Coxsackie and Hudson this Summer.

5. *Police Department – Chief Roger Masse*

Water hose running across Water Street has been addressed by the APD. They will keep on it.

Discussion regarding the purchase of a new vehicle led to a RESOLUTION (attached) for the purchase of a new police vehicle. There will be a lease agreement with a 14,000 deposit and 10,000 financed for 3 years.

A Grant for a bulletproof vest was awarded to the APD. They are now seeking grant funding for a new computer.

6. *Water and Sewer - Northdome*

Seth Mann provided the VB with a report of activities for the month of May for the WWTP and WFP.

**APPLICATIONS: (RESOLUTIONS ATTACHED)**

1. Facility Use Application (renewal) – Community Center gym. Applicant: Brent E. Rozell Jr.
2. Facility Use Application/Outdoor entertainment- Rainey Field. Applicant: Janice Masse
3. Facility Use Application- Athens Riverfront Park (in case of rain –community center gym). Applicant: Stacey’s Building Blocks.

**MOTIONS and RESOLUTIONS:**

1. Proposed Resolution Approving Minutes

BE IT RESOLVED, the Minutes from Village Board meeting held on May 22nd, 2019 be Approved:

Offered by: Trustee Lasher  
Seconded by: Trustee Serrago  
Record of vote: All in favor

2. Proposed Resolution Approving Payment of Vouchers as Presented

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board Approves payment of the following vouchers as presented:

GENERAL FUND –Abstract #1996, vouchers numbered #9918780 through #9918810 in the amount of \$31,317.74

WATER FUND – Abstract #10450 , vouchers numbered #9918811 through #9918816 in the amount of \$19,676.74

SEWER FUND – Abstract #10432, vouchers numbered #9918817 through #9918822 in the amount of \$20,125.01:

Offered by: Trustee Serrago  
Seconded by: Trustee Lasher  
Record of vote: All in favor

3. Proposed Resolution Approving the Athens Sportsman Club's Request to Sell Beer at the Street Festival

WHEREAS, the Village Board has approved the Athens Fire Department's request annually to sell beer at the Athens Street Festival, and

WHEREAS, the Athens Fire Department has decided not to sell beer this year and the Sportsman's club, under the leadership of John Cameron and Lawrence Palmateer have decided to continue the activity thereby requiring permission by the VB in order to obtain insurance,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Athens Village Board approve the Sportsman's Club request to sell beer at the Athens Street Festival on July 13, 2019:

Offered by: Trustee Lipsman  
Seconded by: Trustee Serrago  
Record of vote: All in favor

4. Proposed Resolution Approving Application for funding through Brownfields Opportunity Area Nomination Grant

WHEREAS the Village of Athens has several underutilized, abandoned and deteriorated sites along the waterfront; and

WHEREAS the Village proposes to establish a Brownfield Opportunity Area to support improvement of these sites for the benefit of the community; and

WHEREAS the Village will cause to be prepared a Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) for the Brownfield Opportunity Area Nomination Study under the Department of State; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Village Board authorizes the Mayor, pending further investigation regarding the affect using the term 'brownfield' will potentially have on property values in the village, to sign on behalf of the village and submit a CFA grant application for a Brownfield Opportunity Area Nomination grant and

The Application will be made available for public review and comment between June 25<sup>th</sup> and July 25<sup>th</sup> with a Public Hearing regarding said application to be held on July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 6:30PM in the Village Clerk's office, and also that written public comment regarding said application for funding will be accepted by the Village at which time the public comment period will be closed:

Offered by: Trustee Lasher  
Seconded by: Trustee Lipsman  
Record of vote: All in favor

5. Proposed Resolution Approving conveyance of the Village Community Center to the Town of Athens

WHEREAS the Village has previously agreed to the conveyance of the Athens Community Center building located at 2 First Street in the village of Athens to the Town of Athens;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the attached full Resolution for said conveyance of the building known as the Community Center building be approved by the Athens Village Board:

Offered by: Trustee Lipsman  
Seconded by: Trustee Lasher  
Record of vote: All in favor

6. Proposed Resolution Approving use of the Community Center gym

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Village Board approves/renews the Facility use application as submitted by Brent Rozell for use the gym:

Offered by: Trustee Lasher  
Seconded by: Trustee Scott  
Record of vote: All in favor

7. Proposed Resolution Approving use of Isabelle Rainey Softball Field

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Village Board approve, pending review of the schedule of games with the Athens Little League, the application for use of Rainey Field as submitted by Janice Masse:

Offered by: Trustee Serrago  
Seconded by: Trustee Scott  
Record of vote: All in favor

8. Proposed Resolution Approving use of Athens Riverfront Park/Community Center building

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Village Board approve use of either facility as requested by Building Blocks Nursery School:

Offered by: Trustee Serrago  
Seconded by: Trustee Lasher  
Record of vote: All in favor

9. Proposed Resolution Approving the purchase of a Road Planer

WHEREAS the DPW Director has recommended that the Village purchase a road planer for the DPW's use in making their job in maintaining roadways more efficient and,

WHEREAS, the County was not able to provide this equipment in the past when the Village has needed it and is unable to provide it now to the Village DPW, and in order to complete the tasks set forth for this Summer as scheduled, and,

WHEREAS, the Village Board had budgeted \$15,000.00 in the line item used to purchase small equipment and the purchase of an 18" Planer, High Flow has been quoted at a price of \$12,678.32 the DPW Director has asked that the Village Board grant him permission to purchase said item at the State Bid Contract price;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the VB approve the purchase of a Bobcat 18" Planer, High Flow at a cost not to exceed \$12,678.32:

Offered by: Trustee Scott  
Seconded by: Trustee Lasher  
Record of vote: Trustee Serrago votes aye  
Mayor Bradicich votes aye  
Trustee Lipsman votes no

RESOLUTION carries.

10. Proposed Resolution approving letter of interest to NYSDEC Hudson River Estuary Program

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Village Board authorize the Mayor to sign a letter of interest to the NYSDEC Hudson River Estuary Program to become a host community on behalf of the Village of Athens for the Cornell University Department of Landscaping Architecture's Climate Adapting Design (CaD) Studio during the fall of 2019:

Offered by: Trustee Serrago  
Seconded by: Trustee Lipsman  
Record of vote: All in favor

11. Proposed Resolution approving advertisement for DPW Laborer

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the VB agree to advertise for a DPW Laborer in the legal publication.

Offered by: Trustee Lipsman  
Seconded by: Trustee Scott  
Record of vote: All in favor

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Clean Energy Communities.  
Followup to last meeting. Trustee Lipsman would like the village to pursue designation as a clean energy community enabling them the opportunity to become eligible for grant monies by completing 4 tasks by the end of September:
  - Benchmark energy used by each building
  - Change 50% of street lighting to LED
  - Adopt a process for solar power permitting
  - Complete Training for Energy code by CEO
2. Climate Adaptive Design.
3. Interest in Walnut trees. Re: Kenneth Rebusmen.
4. Public Hearing for Repeal of tax cap has been rescheduled for June 26, 2019.
5. Franchise fee. Re: Mid-Hudson Cablevision vs. State Telephone.
6. Recreation program. Re: Running swimmingly.
7. Firehouse Hall Rental Use Applications. FYI

Mayor Bradicich talked about establishing a 'Brownfield Opportunity Area' after discussions with Delaware Engineering. The proposed area would run from Peckham (Route 385) to Elco (Water Street) and then up Second Street to Warren Street. This would have to be approved. Certain criteria that the village has identified included are real or perceived areas of contamination and un- or- underutilized commercial properties.

If it is approved it makes monies available to the village for projects such as a new DPW building.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Reverse 911 training for Clerks.
2. AWQR- changes made.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

1. Badger Meter. Re: Change in contact support for radio read water meters.
2. Gail Stacey. Re: Light out.
3. CDPHP. Re: Rate increase.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

9:30PM

Offered by: Trustee Serrago  
Seconded by: Trustee Lasher  
Record of vote: All in favor

Respectfully submitted,

***Mary Jo Wynne***