

ATHENS VILLAGE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
July 24, 2019

Pledge to the Flag

Present: Mayor Stephan Bradicich, Trustee Gail Lasher, Trustee Amy Serrago, Trustee Rob Scott, and Trustee Dr. Joshua Lipsman

PUBLIC:

John Severance-stated that he lives on Farm to Market Road in a sub division called the Orchards in a single-family dwelling. He said he recently turned in a complaint about a Motor cross track that exists on Lot #3. He stated that he lives on #9 near the corner. He stated he simply wants the zoning looked at and to see what is going on there.

Mayor Bradicich said the noise ordinance says that you can't disturb with a motorcycle.

John Severance said at this point I just want to handle the zoning.

Mayor Bradicich asked John what he meant by zoning.

John Severance said when we get our due process we will all get to talk about (inaudible). John said here is a table for the village that explains it clearly and I also have copies of the code. He proceeded to show the board the RL district on the zoning map he explained that RL used to be RV and pointed out low-density residential code 250.9. He said that 250.9-sub section I of the code says all uses in the RL district would be subject to site plan review except family dwellings. He said a motor cross track is not a family dwelling and a review is required short and simple and that's all I want. We will all have our due process at a public hearing and there will be a public hearing required if there is public interest and there is a lot of public interest. He said he would just like the codes followed and the property owner of lot #3, whoever it may be, he said that Mr. Ragaini just mentioned he might know who it is, I'm not aware. He is in violation, as it exists today.

Mayor Bradicich said it looks fairly clear. He said he will talk to Tal and he and I will discuss to see what the next steps are. I have also spoken to Wayne and I will ask you to do the same thing record the times it is happening not on audio so that I can keep track from that standpoint. We want to make sure (inaudible) and when you hear it please call the police and they are aware of it and they know the code that applies, so if we have Athens police on board, which we tried last Friday night, since I was told that this is generally when it happens and we will go out and site them.

John Severance said He appreciates that, I'm pretty much aware that the property owner knew the intentions (inaudible). Again, I don't even know who the property owner is.

Mayor Bradicich asked for Mr. Severances contact information.

John Severance said that a lot of this land is still undeveloped so this sets a precedent.

Mayor Bradicich thanked John for coming to the Meeting and said he understands.

Jessica Vermilyea---Wayne Butterworth spoke on Jessica's behalf, as she could not attend tonight's meeting. Wayne stated that Jessica would like to start a farmers market next year.

Mayor Bradicich said he feels there is an interest and would be happy to sit 1 on 1 to see what the plans are and what the support is maybe get a committee together for it.

Wayne Butterworth said that Jess has spoken to a few people and vendors and Sunday mornings seem good.

Mayor Bradicich said that Sunday is a good day and that he had someone else that wanted to open up a vegetable stand that contacted him.

Trustee Serrago said that there aren't any farmers markets on a Sunday and she would like to help Jessica put it together and the liaison for it.

Rick Surrano on agenda but did not show

Marla Butler on agenda but did not show

Jill Falchi-Heck and Tara came to talk about the unified solar program.

Trustee Lipsman said that after tonight after a few steps or 2 we will become a clean energy community, we needed to do 4 out of the 10 actions.

1. LED lights
2. Benchmarking residents
3. Code enforcer took a required class
4. Unified Solar Permit

This now gives us access to a \$30,000 dollar no match grant that can be used for example; a new DPW building. Energy efficient windows and heating as well as passing the permit. We will see what else Tara says we can do.

Tara then stated the other thing to do is to choose to become a Community Choice Aggregation Community—we can choose to purchase energy that should help reduce peoples bills.

Mayor Bradicich said that he can see the benefit in it, but because it impacts a lot of people I would like to bring that to a public hearing.

Trustee Lipsman said what I am seeking this evening is to begin the process and Jill says that it can take several years.

Jill said that she is just going to introduce the topic.

Trustee Lipsman said let's start with the Unified Solar Permit.

Jill said that she has worked with Mike Ragaini to do the template. She said there might be a few you might want to deliberate tonight. Basically this is for someone who wants to put solar panels on their house not for commercial. She said if you want to adopt this document a resolution needs to be passed.

Mayor Bradicich said there was a concern with #2 of the document and that it should read, is not subject to architectural review by the planning board, so this would be a planning board /architectural review? Because this is a yes/no on the document.

Mike Ragaini said its something we would have to look into.

Trustee Lipsman said I think this implies the planning board not subject to review by an architectural or review board, it covers what our looking for.

Jill said it refers to planning board which we can change that. She said it could easily be amended.

Trustee Lipsman said we could amend that, it should read is not subject to review by the planning board.

Mayor Bradicich said there is certain (inaudible)

Jill said that the, if it is subject to is worded improperly.

Mayor Bradicich said that the historic district does require a review. I just don't want this to circumvent the planning process that was just my concern.

Trustee Lipsman said I think this doesn't say these all must be yes or no , so you just might want to change the #2 to is subject to review by planning board and then if that's a yes ..it just sounds...people have problems with double negatives.

Mayor Bradicich said parenthesis right there (only historic district) just clarifying that.

Trustee Serrago stated that she thinks it gets weird, because seeing them all checked. I know it's a double negative, but it's made up to say yes all the way down even though it doesn't say it has to say yes all the way down. Am I the only one that thinks it would be weird?

Mike Ragaini explained (but was inaudible)

Trustee Serrago said so it's intended to say yes all the way down?

Mayor Bradicich said it is only rooftop installations or can it be backyard installations?

Jill stated it would need to be 25 kilo

Mayor Bradicich said so its based on size?

Trustee Lipsman said lets make a motion with the two changes. #2 should say is subject to review by the Planning Board (Historical District) and #3 Planning review not required for installations of this size unless in the Historic District.

Mayor Bradicich said to hold the motion for a minute

Trustee Lipsman said so I am moving to allow the permit

Attorney Rappelyea said planning review does not require approval of installation of this size system unless the property is in the Historic District.

Jill said that the permitting fee also needs to be decided; she said she thought the suggested fee is \$50.00

Mayor Bradicich said I think that \$50.00 is reasonable

A RESOLUTION was made to approve participation in the unified permitting process with approved modifications a motion was made by Trustee Lipsman, seconded by Trustee Lasher and all were in favor.

Jill then stated that the resolution would be submitted and she will work with Mike Ragaini to get him certified and MJ will submit paperwork through the portal to NYSERDA then MJ will get an email saying Congratulations and then we are eligible for a match free \$30,000 grant for clean energy project with a 3 month deadline, we should hear about it in about a week.

Trustee Lipsman asked if we had to apply for the grant within 3 months and do we need to spend it right away?

Jill answered no. It will take another 2-3 months for NYSERDA to approve the project. If you do not get the grant you have a chance to fix and reapply.

Trustee Lipsman asked what if we were thinking of building a DPW garage can we hold the use of the grant?

Jill said that's tricky. When you apply for the grant there is a 20-year payback and if green house emissions are reduced and used within 3 years. It's a great question for our consultant. Greg's consulting service is free (he writes the grant) the project must begin within 6 months.

Trustee Lipsman said he wants to make sure we don't miss the September 29th date with NYSERDA. He then asked if the Village was eligible for anything else.

Jill said there is a Community Aggregation program and it would model residence to get the program, they would pick a 3rd property provider and still have Central Hudson as the deliverer. The municipality chooses the supplier. New Baltimore, Coxsackie, and Cairo are participating. It would be aggregated with other communities. A third party acts as administrator and would educate the residents, but they (the residents) can opt out if they want. Depending on how many people you get it may be a good price or not. You would lock in at a rate of 1-3 years. You are also taking a slight risk that it may go up.

Mayor Bradicich asked what data do you give us to see historically how the rates are going.

Jill said we are encouraging people to get a hold of the administrators we cannot recommend anyone, but we can point them out and then you can decide.

Mayor Bradicich asked if the administrator is a state employee.

Jill said the administrator is a third party. There are 3 Mega, Good Energy, and Jewel Assets, they make a small profit per kwh and are brokers.

Mayor Bradicich asked do you have the administrators contact information?

Trustee Lipsman said he was waiting for permission to go forward.

Trustee Bradicich said I think we can talk to administrators.

Trustee Lipsman asked if the next step would be to interview administrators.

Jill said yes and we have a list of questions to ask.

Attorney Rappelyea said that he has seen this in other municipalities and it is working well and they have passed local laws.

Jill said the interest element is you don't choose but Central Hudson Chooses.

Trustee Lipsman asked how long the process is.

Jill answered that it usually takes about 2 years from exploring the idea and choosing an administrator. The public and residents have up to 2 years.

Mayor Bradicich said that he would reach out to Mark Evans again.

MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS:

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Serrago, seconded by Trustee Scott and all were in favor to approve the Board Meeting Minutes from June 26th, 2019 and July 10, 2019

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lasher and seconded by Trustee Serrago , all were in favor to approve the payment of vouchers as presented

General Fund- Abstract # 1999, vouchers 99189-99920, in the amount of \$ 3910.81

Water Fund- Abstract # 10453, vouchers 9918921-9918928, in the amount of \$22,057.93

Sewer Fund- Abstract # 10436, vouchers 9918929-9918932, in the amount of \$4417.40

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lipsman, seconded by Trustee Lasher, and all were in favor to approve participation in the unified permitting process.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mayor Bradicich asked Attorney Rappleyea what the timeline for demolition of the Maurer property is?

Attorney Rappleyea stated it should be done quickly.

Mayor Bradicich indicated that Howard Czar is interested in saving if possible.

Trustee Lipsman asked why? And state it is not good. He said a new house would look better than what is there?

Mayor Bradicich said he just wanted to assess if he was serious.

Trustee Lasher said that a resident came to her about putting a guardrail on North Washington and 2nd street.

Mayor Bradicich asked if this was in front of Bruds. He said that Anthony could call the State about that.

Anthony Proper of the DPW said it's posted no parking and all day long people park.

Mayor Bradicich said to send pics of what you are talking about and let's get this done at the next meeting. Send me photos and I will send to the board and we will see what the state says.

Trustee Lasher said that Johnny Pulice is concerned about ticks in the park.

Anthony Proper of DPW said they do not have a license to spray.

Johnny Pulice stated we gotta be careful kids can get sick

Mayor Bradicich said we would keep the park mowed better.

Johnny Pulice said again kids and ticks

Mayor Bradicich said they can get them in their yards.

Trustee Lasher said she commends the DPW for helping with the Street Festival. Gail said she has been approached by a few distilleries that would like to host an Oktoberfest, would this be doable?

Mayor Bradicich asked if they would come and talk to us and maybe get a committee together.

Trustee Lasher said the Street Festival Committee would like to work on this. We would like to do after Columbus day we were thinking October 19th..

Mayor Bradicich said okay street festival..good I wanted a committee.

Trustee Lasher said there would be food trucks as well and we will charge for Oktoberfest. They can also get a DD ticket for a bracelet letting people know they are a designated driver.

Trustee Scott said that summer recreation is going well and swim lessons have wrapped up. Director is excellent and I am hoping she comes back. I overheard the discussion with the DPW about the truck and Anthony gave me a copy of the specs. The International is 20 years old, it's getting tired and needs more work now. If we order sooner we could save \$10,000.00. We have to go thru one more winter with the old truck.

Mayor Bradicich said he and Anthony spoke and he thinks it should be pushed into next years budget. I would have to find extra money in the budget.

Anthony from the DPW said that \$5,000.00 could be moved from the drainage per Mary Jo as I wont be using it all.

Mayor Bradicich said he would like a full budget review at the next meeting before we start moving money from here to there.

Trustee Serrago said a lot has been done on the website it is not live yet and I have a meeting the beginning of August on it.

The other thing I have is trash removal. The garbage by Bonfiglio was full. Can rental properties provide proof they have trash removal? I don't think it's too much to ask a rental property to provide. I don't think it's too much to ask being a rental property makes money.

Trustee Lipsman said we don't know for sure that the household garbage in the cans came from an apartment.

Trustee Serrago said It's not a bad thing for the community to prove they have pick up.

Mayor Bradicich asked if the cans could be locked.

Trustee Serrago said she really wants to keep the garbage cans. But not household trash.

Trustee Lasher said they were put there to alleviate garbage on Second Street.

Mayor Bradicich said to lock the cans.

Anthony Proper of the DPW said that he will move the can further up the street.

Trustee Serrago said she would like to see village code have trash removal for tenants.

Attorney Rappelyea said it would be easy to add to what we have on the books.

Trustee Lipsman said he didn't think it would pass would be lots of opposition.
Trustee Serrago said that multi family dwellings need to take responsibility. Charge the tenant if you must.

Trustee Lipsman said that landlords would not like. A community hearing would need to be done a law like that need a public hearing and landlords will line up to say they don't like it. I'm just saying it won't be popular and how it would be received.

Trustee Scott said he agrees with Amy. Landlords should provide trash removal.

Mayor Bradicich said let's find examples, lock the cans and move the can up the road.

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Scott, seconded by Trustee Serrago and all were in favor to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn M. Palmateer
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer