

# VILLAGE OF ATHENS BOARD MEETING

MINUTES- July 11, 2018 6:30PM

PRESENT: Mayor Peter Alberti, Trustee Gail Lasher, Trustee Shannon Spinner and Trustee Stephan Bradicich.

ABSENT: Trustee Marla Butler

## *Pledge to the Flag*

The Mayor asked that the VB and those attending this evening pause for a moment of silence out of respect for Robert Brunner, a former Mayor of the Village of Athens, who passed away this past week.

## **PUBLIC:**

1. *Michael Pirrone and Eugene Graham* asked if it be okay if he addresses the VB this evening. The Mayor stated that that would be fine.

Mr. Pirrone spoke on behalf of Al Ramm and the Athens Senior Citizens Club. They all want to let the VB know how much they appreciate the Money put aside in the budget for their club. It is very much appreciated.

He also asked what the regulations were for 'sandwich board' signs in the village?

The Mayor stated that 'off hand' he does not remember, but the codes are online and can be looked up off the village website. If there are any questions please contact the Code Enforcement Officer.

Mr. Graham wanted to know when the flag at the park would be replaced as it is in bad shape.

DPW Director Anthony Proper, who happened to be attending the meeting this evening responded that it had been replaced already.

Mr. Graham said 'thank you'.

## **DEPARTMENT HEADS:**

1. *Tal Rappleyea, Village Attorney*, informed the VB of several things this evening:
  - Court date for the Heines property will be July 25, 2018.
  - D.R. Evarts Library closing will be scheduled shortly.
  - Penalty with DOH/DOL for Workplace violence training will be settled shortly.
  - Training for Planning Board members was discussed. Village of Athens Local Law number 3 of 2017states that 'every Planning Board Member must receive at least 4

hours training every year... failure to get this training will result in ineligibility to be reappointed and shall be cause for removal..’

Documentation of completed training by PB members was provided to the Mayor by the Planning Board Secretary and it has been noted that several members do not have the required training documented in the Planning Board’s file.

Discussion ensued regarding the time frame allowable to receive training in order to continue on as a member of the PB.

Mayor Alberti noted that he had attended several PB meetings and informed the PB member’s that training was a requirement.

Trustee Bradicich questioned what constituted a year. Is it calendar year or Village fiscal year?

Trustee Lasher mentioned that a letter should be sent notifying those members that seem to be lacking in the required documented training.

The next step, according to the law, will be to schedule a Public Hearing providing members the opportunity to provide the VB with documentation on PB training.

The Mayor and the Attorney noted several different sources online and otherwise that the members can use to receive their training. This will be noted in their letter as well.

A MOTION was made to set a Public Hearing for August 22, 2018 for the purpose of hearing public comment on the Planning Board members that have not received the mandatory training.

2. *Wayne Butterworth, assistant Fire Chief filled in for Chief David Disbrow:*

- The Department is purchasing 2 new sets of gear from Garrison. They have tried unsuccessfully to get quotes from 2 other vendors. The price is State Bid.

The Mayor noted to be sure to attach the state bid notice to the invoice.

- Purchase of pagers and radios by the department was discussed again.

Monies had been put away in last years budget for this purpose and any cost over that amount must come out of this year’s budget.

- Asst. Chief Butterworth informed the VB that the new swift water rescue boat was damaged in the last call out by the Leeds Fire Department. The lack of rain made the creek very low and rocks on the bottom of the creek caused the damage to the boat.

The Mayor noted that the Fire Chief of the Leeds Fire Dept. should be notified of this damage. Technically, the Leeds Fire Department’s insurance company will pay the repairs to the boat. Do not delay on this.

Mr. Butterworth also informed the VB that the Department is looking into purchasing accessories in order to be able to move the boat over rough terrain easier and safer.

Mayor asked where that money was coming from.

Asst. Chief Butterworth informed the VB that the former Fire Chief submitted a grant application to Senator Amedore's office for the purchase of a water safety boat. The Department did not think that they were going to receive the money so they applied to the Athens Community Benefits Foundation for the same item and received the money.

A few weeks ago Amedore's office called and notified them that they received the grant monies to purchase a swift water rescue boat. After informing Amedore's office that they already received grant funds to make the purchase Amedore's office instructed the AVFD to keep the money and use it towards the purchase of water related equipment.

Trustee Lasher asked where the money is and confirmed that it will be in the Village's account.

AVFD has not received it yet but 'yes' the money will be kept in the Village's account for purchases.

3. *Anthony Proper, DPW Director:*

- Mr. Proper noted that the AVFD asked if the brush pile behind the firehouse could be mulched before the convention in September?

The Mayor stated that he would have to check with the Town since they pay for half the cost.

- Mr. Proper informed the VB that as a result of regularly inspecting the Playscape playground (required per NYMIR) he has noted that the playground needs mulch replacement and also some border material used to keep the mulch in place. The cost for 225 yards of mulch from Miracle playground is \$5625.00 and the border material will cost \$1275.00.

Mr. Proper mentioned that the Playscape chairperson has handed over the rest of the money in their original account (700.00) to help defray the cost.

- Mr. Proper also noted that the extension cord and water hose are still lying across Water Street.

- Paving will begin the middle of August.

4. *Mike Ragaini – Code Enforcement Officer. No Show*

5. *Roger Masse – Police Chief*

- Discussed the purchase of a new vehicle for the department.

- The issue of the extension cord across Water Street was discussed as well. Chief Masse stated that he does not think it is a problem for him to address. It is a Code Enforcement issue.

The Mayor noted that the Code Enforcement Officer will write the property owner a violation tomorrow.

6. *Seth Mann, Northdome Operations, LLC, attended the meeting to update the VB on the WWTP's and the WFP.*

- Provided the VB with a June 2018 Operations Report.

- NYSDEC inspections were completed on all plants. Everything was fine. Mr. Mann informed the VB that NYSDEC is going to allow them to pump sludge from Brick Row plant to WWTP on Water Street. This should cut the cost of hauling it to Albany.

- The new pump that was approved by the VB at the last meeting is in the process of being installed at the Brick Row WWTP.

**MOTIONS and RESOLUTIONS:**

1. Proposed Resolution Approving Minutes

BE IT RESOLVED, the Minutes from Village Board meeting held on June 27th, 2018 be approved:

Offered by: Trustee Lasher

Seconded by: Trustee Spinner

Record of vote: All in favor

2. Proposed Resolution Approving Payment of Vouchers as Presented

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

GENERAL FUND – Abstract #1968, vouchers numbered #9917981 through #9917999 in the amount of \$8,185.42.

WATER FUND – Abstract #10426, vouchers numbered #9918000 through #9918001 in the amount of \$1865.50

SEWER FUND – Abstract #10408, vouchers numbered #9918002 through #9918005 in the amount of \$4160.75

Offered by: Trustee Spinner

Seconded by: Trustee Bradicich

Record of vote: All in favor

3. Proposed Resolution Approving Rate of pay for Recreation Director

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board Approve the rate of pay for the new Recreation Director at \$15.00 per hour:

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

4. Proposed Resolution Approving new procedure for applying for use of the gym for the November 1, 2018 through March 31, 2019 season

Whereas, the Village Community Center gym has become a desirable location for various athletic groups to practice during the inclement weather, and;

Whereas, the Village Board has spent many hours arranging schedules and then re-arranging schedules to accommodate all of these clubs or organizations while trying to be fair and considerate to all who desire it, therefore;

BE IT RESOLVED that all applicants that have a desired interest in using the gym must apply to the village office by September 30, 2018 for usage through the November 1, 2018 – March 31, 2019 season. After the applications have been reviewed those applicants, if approved, will be notified in writing of their allotted spot:

Offered by: Trustee Spinner  
Seconded by: Trustee Bradicich  
Record of vote: All in favor

5. Proposed Resolution Approving the date of August 22, 2018 for Public Hearing

Whereas, the VB has become aware of the fact that several members of the Planning Board have not received the required training as per village law,

As per village law, a public hearing must be set to allow the members to provide evidence of proper or required training, therefore;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Public Hearing be scheduled for August 22, 2018 at 6:30PM for this purpose:

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

6. Proposed Resolution Approving the purchase of mulch and border material for the Playscape playground

Whereas, the DPW director has noted in his regular inspection of the Playscape Playground that part of the border which holds the mulch in place needs to be replaced and;

Whereas, the mulch level is very low and needs approximately 225 yards of mulch in order to keep a safe level of mulch, and;

Whereas, the DPW has received a quote for both items from Miracle playground equipment and will attempt to get prices from other companies for 'child safe' playground mulch:

BE IT RESOLVED that the VB approves the purchase of 225 yards of mulch and border material for the Playscape Playground at a cost not to exceed \$5625.00

Offered by: Trustee Spinner  
Seconded by: Trustee Bradicich  
Record of vote: All in favor

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. PESH violation penalty.
2. Library investments.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. County Bids for fuel oil, propane, diesel and unleaded fuel.
2. Fire Protection Contract expires 12/31/18.
3. Planning Board and ZBA training.
4. Civil Service Certification.

Clerk-Treasurer noted the difficulty she has had this year in completing the annual certification of employees for the village. The number of part time police officers that the village takes off the list for employment and then do not complete their paperwork or do not actually receive a paycheck becomes very difficult to keep track of. Are they actually employees of the village or not?

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

1. NYS Homeland Security and Emergency Services. RE: NYS Emergency Services Revolving Loan Agreement Number #F170008.
2. NYSDEC. Re: Annual SPDES Inspections WWTP, Brick Row WWTP, Water Filtration Plant.

The Village Board discussed the wire and the water hose going across Water Street. Code Enforcement issue or police issue?

DPW garage was discussed at length.

**ADJOURNMENT: 8:20PM**

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