

VILLAGE OF ATHENS BOARD MEETING

MINUTES – January 8, 2020

PRESENT: Mayor Stephan Bradicich, Trustee Gail Lasher, Trustee Robert Scott and Trustee Amy Serrago

ABSENT: Trustee Dr. Joshua Lipsman

Pledge to the Flag.

DEPARTMENT HEADS:

1. Tal Rappleyea – Village Attorney

Attended the Iroquois gas pipeline open house at the Athens Firehouse. Provided details to the VB.

Discussed the possibility of enacting a local law providing tax incentives to those people that purchase and improve commercial properties. An advisory board would need to be set up to administer (Village Board preferably) these incentives. The credit would allow that no increase in valuation take place on the property for a certain number of years. The VB is very interested in doing this.

Discussed amortization schedules for new firehouse construction. Bond Counsel for this project was also discussed. RFP will go out.

Community Center building conveyance to the town was discussed. The attorney received the new revised covenant so the next step will be to come up with a Memorandum of understanding noting conditions whereas the village have final approval of the design of their workspaces.

2. Wayne Butterworth stood in for DPW Director Anthony Proper

DPW will start to cut down trees behind the firehouse in anticipation for the construction of the new DPW building.

Updated the VB on recent water breaks.

3. Wayne Butterworth filling in for Fire Chief David Disbrow

CPR mannequins were delivered and the Fire Dept. will be scheduling classes soon.

The Department has received money from the Athens Community Benefits Foundation for thermal imaging camera and their Fire prevention day. They did not receive funding for the hood over the pizza oven.

4. Roger Masse – Chief of Police

Informed the VB that their new vehicle will be coming soon.

The Department has received money from the Athens Community Benefits Foundation for computer workstations (\$9,160.00).

The Chief also asked that the VB approve a proposal received from ITS, inc. to set up more secure email accounts (Office 365) and Domain names. Cost would be \$1,819.95. He stated that the State will be requiring more security.

VB will wait until more information is received as to what is actually required by the state. They are unclear about this system and have more questions.

The Chief informed the VB that he has been asked to have an intern from Criminal justice program do a 'ride along' with the APD. The VB agreed as long as the attorney is ok with it and a signed release form are received by the student.

Trustee Lasher noted that the Workplace Violence Training for employees needs to be completed.

5. Mike Ragaini – Code Enforcement Officer

The Mayor asked for an update on the following unkempt properties:

Water Street

Warren Street

Montgomery Street

Code Enforcement asked if the DPW could clean up these buildings and then just bill the property owners. The Mayor stated that he did not want to get into the habit of doing this.

Code Enforcement mentioned the 'nuisance law'.

The attorney reminded the CEO that if he were to enact it then he needs to be sure to follow the steps.

Mr. Ragaini also informed the VB that he is working with the Stewart House regarding an issue they are having with renting the third floor as hotel rooms..

Trustee Lasher asked the Code Enforcement Officer how long after a snowstorm do people have to shovel their sidewalks?

Mr. Ragaini was not sure since the laws have been updated.

A few board members noted that the sidewalks were bad after the last few snowstorms. The Mayor and Trustee Goldberg noted that it will be put on the website and also in the newsletter.

6. North Dome operations- Seth Mann

Provided a monthly report for the Village Board.

VB approved purchase of pump and control panel replacement at the pump station on Schoharie Tpk. (RESOLUTION follows).

PUBLIC:

1. Jason Preisner, of Lamont Engineering, attended the meeting to update the VB on the DPW garage project. There has been a change in location layout due to a desire to decrease the 'light pollution'.

He provided the VB with the revised site plan so that they could review it.

Mr. Preisner noted that the contract and bid documents are all ready to go, Insurance company has what they need, bidding notice will go in the paper and bonding needs to be put into place.

The issue of perhaps having to do an archaeological dig could slow the project down. When the village built the firehouse on the property a Phase IA was completed and Phase IB had to be completed due to the fact that some human bones were found.

Mr. Preisner has contacted the Mohican Nation alerting them to the fact that the Village will be building another building on the site. He has not heard back yet. The Mohican tribe may not have any problem with the project going forward or they may want to dig more.

2. Marty Miller, member of the Paddock club, attended the meeting to discuss their idea to put flags in the park. The flags would be donated and would stand 10' high every 16'. They would stay up from Memorial day to Flag day.

The VB was receptive but asked that there be something in writing (facility use app.) with more details.

RESOLUTIONS:

1. Proposed Resolution Approving Minutes

BE IT RESOLVED, the Minutes from Village Board meeting held on December 11th, 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 vouchers as presented:

Offered by: Trustee Scott

Seconded by: Trustee Lasher

Record of vote: All in favor

3. Proposed Resolution Approving Undertaking for the benefit of the NYSDOT in connection with work affecting state highways.

(RESOLUTION attached)

Offered by: Trustee Scott

Seconded by: Trustee Lasher

Record of vote: All in favor

4. Proposed Resolution Approving Proposal for computers for the APD

WHEREAS, the Athens Community Benefits Foundation has granted monies to the APD for the purchase of a new computer system with 3 workstations,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the VB approve proposal as submitted to the ACBF for workstations to be purchased and installed by Intelligent Technology Solutions, inc. for the Athens Police Department in the amount of \$9,160.78

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

5. Proposed Resolution Approving 'ride along' for the APD

WHEREAS, the Chief of police has been asked to provide training for a student of the criminal justice program in the way of 'riding along' with an active on-duty Athens police officer and,

WHEREAS, the Village Board agrees to this training as long as the Attorney states that it is okay and that a release provided by the village's attorney is signed beforehand,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the intern may ride along with the APD as long as both attorney are in agreement and a proper release is signed.

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

6. Proposed Resolution Approving the purchase of pump and control panel

WHEREAS, the VB has been advised months ago by Northdome and the Village DPW that the pump and control panel needs to be replaced as soon as possible at the pump station on Schoharie Turnpike and,

WHEREAS, Northdome has been soliciting responsible quotes and has received only one for a cost of \$15,286.00 and,

WHEREAS, the replacement of this equipment is vital and that there is money in the sewer capital account specifically set up for this purpose ,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the VB approve the purchase of a pump and control panel for a cost of \$15,286.00 from monies to be taken from the SEWER CAPITAL RESERVE account.

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

APPLICATION:

Facility use application- gym. Applicant: M. Wynne.

Application approved by Motion made by Trustee Lasher, seconded by Trustee Serrago, all in favor.

Facility use application- gym. Applicant: Jason Lasher – baseball.

Application approved by Motion made by Trustee Serrago, seconded by Trustee Scott, all in favor.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Food Studio Athens, Inc. Re: Notice form New York State Liquor Authority.
2. NYS Department of State. Re: CFA #90918 Brownfield Opportunity Area Nomination Study – Application denied.
3. PERMA. Re: Change of Member Services Representative.
4. Young/Sommer LLC. Re: Case 10-T-0139 Application of Champlain Hudson Power Express, Inc. filing of a minor supplement to petition.
5. Williamson Law. Re: Increase in cost for software support.
6. Hecate Energy Greene I LLC. Re: Notice of submission of application.
7. NYSDEC. Re: Notice of Violation – WFP.
8. Greene County Real Property Tax. Re: Senior Citizen & Disabled Tax Exemption Maximum Income Limits for 2020.
9. Cummins Sales and Service. Re: Planned Maintenance Agreement.
10. NYS Public Service Commission. Case 10-T-0139. Application of Champlain Hudson Power Express, Inc. Notice soliciting comments and requiring additional service.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Discussion of Revolving Loan Fund.
2. Tax incentives for commercial properties.
3. Received Grant monies from ACBF – Recreation Program. Police computers and Pumpkin Parade.
4. Steering Committee meeting and letters to go out to prospective members.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Re-visit the discussion on repairing/replacing the sewer panel on Schoharie Tpk.
2. Air bnb – water/sewer billing.

ADJOURNMENT:

All in agreement to close the Village Board Meeting at 8:35PM

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jo Wynne