

VILLAGE OF ATHENS BOARD MEETING

MINUTES – March 25, 2020

PRESENT: Mayor Stephen Bradicich, Trustee Gail Lasher, Trustee Rob Scott, Trustee Amy Serrago and Trustee Dr. Josh Lipsman.

Village Attorney Tal Rappleyea was also in attendance.

Meeting was conducted via online teleconferencing software as per emergency changes to Open Meetings Law in response to COVID-19 / Executive Order 2020.1 by the State of New York.

RESOLUTIONS:

1. Proposed Resolution Approving Abstracts

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board approve payment of the following vouchers as presented on Abstracts:

GENERAL – Abstract #2020, vouchers numbered #9919518 through #9919533 in the amount of \$22,373.20

WATER – Abstract #10470, vouchers numbered #9919534 through #9919535 in the amount of \$14,842.16

SEWER – Abstract #10455, vouchers numbered #9919536 through #9919538 in the amount of \$3,662.58

Offered by: Trustee Lasher

Seconded by: Trustee Scott

Record of vote: All in favor

2. Proposed Resolution Opposing Article 23

WHEREAS; New York State Constitution and the Municipal Home Rule Law grant local autonomy to municipalities, particularly in the area of local land use regulation, due to the particular and unique understanding of the most appropriate local legislation; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Athens like many small Villages has worked diligently engaging residents to develop local land use laws that reflect the acceptance of the majority of local landowners and are consistent with the adopted Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, these local laws have taken into consideration the best value of the Village's open space, river front development and revitalization regulations that would assist local boards in the proper siting for renewable energy projects that are proposed within the Village; and

WHEREAS, the Village understands there is a proposed amendment contained in the 2020 budget that create a new commission that will remove the authority of local boards to regulate future projects; and

WHEREAS, this proposal was introduced in a manner that precludes local municipalities from properly analyzing the proposal, and the Village objects to the inclusion of major policy initiatives in the state budget; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Village Board of the Village of Athens implores the governor to remove this amendment from the present budget proposal and supports the efforts of the Village to continue to properly regulate renewable energy projects that are proposed in our community; and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution shall be filed with the Village Clerk, the Clerk of the Greene County Legislature; the NYS Assembly, the NYS Senate and the NYS Governor's Office.

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

3. Proposed Resolution regarding Discovery and Distribution

WHEREAS, the NYS Bail Reform Act additions contains a provision that allows criminal defendants to discover the personal information of First Responders; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees is opposed to such distribution and discovery due to the safety and personal privacy of First Responders.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Village Board of Trustees of the Village of Athens hereby opposes the discovery and distribution of personal information of First Responders to criminal defendants in order to protect the safety and privacy of First Responders in the Village of Athens and throughout the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution shall be filed with the Village Clerk, the Clerk of the Greene County Legislature; the NYS Assembly, the NYS Senate and the NYS Governor's Office.

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Greene County Legislature. Re: State of Emergency Declaration- Executive Order #1 of 2020. COVID-19.
2. NYS Public Service Commission. Re: CASE 10-T-0139. Notice postponing information forums and public statement hearings.
3. NYS Board on Electrical Generation Siting and the Environment. CASE 17-F-0619. HECATE Energy Greene 2 LLC and HECATE Energy Greene 3 LLC
Ruling adopting amended protective order.
4. Greene County Soil & Water Conservation District. Re: NYSDEC Endorsed 4 hour Erosion and Sediment Control (ESC) Training. June 16th 2020.
5. Capital Bicycle Racing Club. Re: Cancellation.
6. Rivertown Housing Development Fund Company, Inc. Re: Thank you.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Tentative Budget was emailed to all VB members by the Clerk-Treasurer. She noted the timeline for adoption of budget including the repeal of the tax cap, if that is what the VB decides to do. The Clerk-Treasurer also noted that considering the State of Emergency due to COVID-19 elections have been delayed and there is a good probability time lines for budget adoption may be as well. Clerk-Treasurer asked that VB review the Tentative Budget and get back to her with any questions or omissions.

There is no assessed value for the Village as of yet. No Assessor. She will contact the County as soon as she can to get that information.

OTHER BUSINESS:

The Mayor stated that he would like to move forward with the Public Hearings for Short-term rentals, Waterfront Moratoriums and repeal of the tax cap in April.

Trustee Lasher noted that the new police car has arrived.

Trustee Lipsman informed everyone that the Steering Committee for the update to the Comprehensive Plan will be having a remote meeting via Zoom.

Trustee Scott will be contacting Jason Preisner from Lamont Engineering to get an update on the DPW garage project.

Trustee Serrago is working on communications and getting information to the public on changes for meetings and hours, etc. Everything else is on hold.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:00PM

Offered by: Trustee Serrago

Seconded by: Trustee Lasher

Record of vote: All in favor

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jo Wynne