

VILLAGE OF ATHENS BOARD MEETING

MINUTES – May 13, 2020

Pledge to the Flag.

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

Village Attorney Tal Rappleyea was also present.

PUBLIC HEARING

Tonight's public hearing is being held for the purpose of receiving public comment on the proposed Budget for the Village of Athens fiscal year ending May 31, 2021.

The Mayor stated that the budget stays within the 2% tax cap this year.

The Mayor also noted that the first payment for the construction of the DPW garage does not take place until next fiscal year.

Mayor opens public hearing for public comment.

Robert Brunner asked if there were any changes to the budget due to the conveyance of the village building to the Town?

Mayor responded 'no'.

No public comment.

Trustee Scott discussed the line item for Lawn care. \$28,000.00 has been budgeted and he stated that he felt that that was a drastic increase from previous years. The budget increase from \$12,000.00 to \$28,000.00 is too much in his opinion.

He would like the VB to re-bid the lawn care proposal. He asked the Clerk how quickly the ad could be run in the paper and she stated it could be published on Friday and run 5 days which means bids could be opened by the next meeting on the 27th. Therefore mowing could possibly begin the first of June.

Trustee Scott noted that he has other lawn care companies that have approached him and stated that they don't read the newspaper where the notice looking for bidders is advertised. The village should use social media to reach more contractors.

Trustee Scott asked members of the VB if they would consider re-bidding the lawn care?

Mayor Bradicich stated that the last company with the lowest bid was fired because they were inept. The contractor that stepped in to finish the season did a great job. This is the contractor that bid the contract this year.

The Mayor also stated that other issues come into play. The DPW is down manpower and they will be starting a lot of projects. He also mentioned

The VB all agreed that the sole bidder did a great job last year.

Another concern noted was that if they receive no bids then they are 'stuck' because they cannot go back to the first bid.

Village Attorney concurred.

Trustee Lipsman agreed with Trustee Scott to re-bid the service contract using social media as well as the newspaper. There is time to get the 'word' out and award the bid at the meeting on the 27th.

VB agrees to re-bid the contract. Clerk instructed to publish in official newspaper. Trustee Serrago will publish on the village website.

Trustee Serrago asked about the budget line item for the police labor. Are we budgeting enough considering the COVID-19 and possible problems related to it.

Trustee Lipsman thanked Mayor Bradicich and Clerk-Treasurer Mary Jo Wynne for their work on the budget this year. It is a balanced budget that stays under the 2% cap while also allowing for some important projects to begin.

Trustee Lasher (liaison to the APD as well) stated that the Chief is going after grants and also there are so many cancellations of events this summer so those shifts will not be filled.

Trustee Serrago also noted that the Fire Protection Contract still needs negotiating.

Close PUBLIC HEARING-7:45PM.

Open REGULAR VILLAGE BOARD

DEPARTMENT HEADS:

1. Tal Rappleyea – Village Attorney
 - Informed the VB that PHASE II of reopening NY will include Professional Administration and the VB should have a committee set in place to establish protocol for village employees and buildings.

The Mayor asked Trustee Lasher if she would help with that process.

- Village Attorney also asked if the VB wanted to renew the Cultural Center Lease. Should he continue with working on that?

'yes'

- The Village Attorney also informed the VB that he has made some revisions to the Short-term rental law. A new Public Hearing should be scheduled due to the fact that the changes are substantial.

- Bonding for the DPW construction was discussed. Does it have to go out to bid? The attorney stated that it did not but it is customary to do so. Mayor stated he felt better putting it out to bid as well.
2. Anthony Proper – DPW Director
Wayne Butterworth filled in for Anthony Proper this evening.
- Valves for the DPW sewer repair (pumpstation) need to be purchased. A MOTION was made by Trustee Lipsman, seconded by Trustee Scott, all in favor, to pay up to \$5,000.00 for repairs to pump station. Monies to be expended from the sewer misc. expense line item.
 - May 21st the floats/docks will be put in the water.
 - Truck repairs are complete at Ben Funk.
 - Received 2 quotes for repairs on pickup truck.
 - Culvert pipe on Washington St. by Millers property will be replaced this week.
 - May 19th the test digging for DPW garage will take place.
3. David Disbrow - Fire Chief
Wayne Butterworth filled in for Chief Dave this evening.
- Two sets of gear have been purchased.
 - The fire department would like to purchase another infrared camera for the fire department with funds leftover from money not used in the budget this year. He will be trading in an old one for a better price.
- A MOTION was made by Trustee Serrago, seconded by Trustee Lipsman to purchase the camera by re-allocating some monies left over from line items with funds not expended. Transfer from repairs, HVD, misc. expense to equipment line item.
4. Roger Masse – Chief of Police- no show
Trustee Scott proposed that Charles Cole be sent a letter commending his actions at an incident that took place in the village. MOTION made by Trustee Serrago, seconded by Trustee Scott, all in favor approving the letter be written and put in his personnel file.
- Discussion regarding equipment needed on new police vehicle ensued. They would like to use \$3,000.00 from this year's budget and \$2300.00 from next year's budget.
- Clerk-Treasurer stated that the APD needs to get the voucher and invoice to the clerk's office before the end of the year (May 31, 2020) in order to have the \$3,000.00 expenditure reflected in this year's budget.

5. Mike Ragaini – Code Enforcement Officer- no show
6. North Dome operations- Seth Mann
Seth Mann provided a monthly report for the WWTP's and the WFP

PUBLIC:

1. *Kathy Jackson, member of the D.R. Evarts Library Board*, attended the meeting to discuss a project she would like to have permission from the VB to accomplish.

She would like to have a 'story walk' at the Riverfront Park. Sections of a book would be laminated on stakes and set throughout the park to encourage reading and walking.

Mayor Bradicich would like to approve the design in the park.

A MOTION was made by Trustee Serrago, seconded by Trustee Lipsman, all in favor, approving the library using of Riverfront Park for story walk this summer, pending final approval of layout with Mayor Bradicich.

2. *Good Energy – Edward Carey and Javiar Barios.*
Administrators of the Village's Community Choice Aggregation Program have received a good proposal for lower cost of electricity.

RESOLUTIONS:

- 1) Proposed Resolution Approving Minutes

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minutes from Village Board meeting held on April 22nd, 2020 be approved:

Offered by: Trustee Scott

Seconded by: Trustee Lasher

Record of vote: All in favor

- 2) Proposed Resolution Approving Payment of Vouchers as Presented on Abstracts

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

GENERAL FUND – Abstract #2025, vouchers numbered #9919641 through #9919664 in the amount of \$34,233.62

WATER FUND – Abstract #10474, vouchers numbered #9919632 through #9919633 and vouchers numbered #9919640 and #9919666 in the amount of \$900.49

SEWER FUND – Abstract #10458, vouchers numbered #9919634 through #9919639 in the amount of \$8,477.56

Offered by: Trustee Lasher

Seconded by: Trustee Serrago

Record of vote: All in favor

- 3) Proposed Resolution Approving Legal Services for Bond Counsel

WHEREAS the village will be constructing a DPW garage and will need to issue serial bonds to finance a portion of the project,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board approve the agreement, not to exceed \$3,000.00 for services with Whiteman Osterman & Hana, LLP Attorneys at law to provide legal services as bond counsel:

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

4) Proposed Resolution Approving Issuance of Serial Bonds for Construction of DPW garage

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board agrees to finance construction of DPW garage (as per Resolution attached) through issuance of up to \$1,075,000 in serial bonds and also using monies from the DPW Garage Reserve Fund:

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

5) Proposed Resolution Approving adoption of Budget

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board adopts the Proposed Budget for Fiscal year June 1, 2020 through May 31, 2021 with the balance of appropriations raised by real property taxes being \$1,107,508.60 with a tax rate of 6.75 per thousand.

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

6) Proposed Resolution Approving Constellation Energy Contract

BE IT RESOLVED, that Good Energy, whom received 2 bids for energy for the village as part of the Community Choice Aggregation Program for Athens recommends that the VB sign a 24-month contract with Constellation Energy which would provide a 6-10% annual savings for consumers;

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

7) Proposed Resolution to Reject Lawn Care Bids

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board reject the bid received for lawn care and refuses to award the bid for lawn care service for 2020;

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

8) Proposed Resolution to Re-bid Lawn Care Services

WHEREAS the Village of Athens rejected the lawn care bid received for service this summer due to the fact that there was only one bid received and it was felt to be cost prohibitive and,

WHEREAS the village would like to try to obtain more competitive bids,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the VB will advertise for bidders for lawn care service. Bids will be opened at May 27, 2020 meeting;

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Claire Parde- Chairperson of Community Day. Re: Cancellation.
2. Carol Bernard- APAC. Re: Concert series.

The VB discussed the letter in that APAC was looking for guidance/support on the ability to conduct outdoor concerts perhaps at the end of the summer, pending COVID-19 restrictions and guidelines.

There was a consensus on the VB that they want to be positive and supportive but at this point in time there are too many unknowns.

3. Antonio Fuentes. Re: Resignation.
4. NYCOM. Re: Extending the Interest –Free Period on property tax payments.

Trustee Lipsman publicly acknowledged the profound awareness of the loss of some of our community activity due to the pandemic.

Trustee Lasher informed the VB that it is time to renegotiate the DPW contract.

Trustee Serrago gave the VB an update on the Farmer's Market.

Mayor Bradicich informed the VB that he followed up with a complainant regarding Peckham Materials odor and they have hired a consultant to investigate and be proactive with the community.

Mayor noted 3 public hearings to schedule for next meeting:
Conservation Advisory Committee
Short term rental law
Moratorium on Waterfront property and M/U waterfront Property

The Mayor also informed the VB that he had a meeting with Recreation Director, Library president and Cultural Center Director to discuss the Summer Recreation Program. A lot of unknowns but good ideas.

Discussion of reapplying for BOA Grant.

ADJOURNMENT:
9:00PM

Offered by Trustee Scott
Seconded by Trustee Serrago
All in favor

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jo Wynne