

VILLAGE OF ATHENS BOARD MEETING MINUTES – July 8, 2020

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

Pledge to the Flag

PUBLIC HEARING- Repealing prior local law #1 of 2020 to override the tax levy limit established in general municipal Law §3-c of tax cap law.

Public Comment.
No comments.

CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING

OPEN REGULAR Village Board Meeting

DEPARTMENT HEADS:

- 1) Tal Rappleyea – Village Attorney. Absent.

Mayor asked the Clerk about status of bonding for dpw project.

Clerk noted that there were no petitions filed as a result of the publication of bonding resolution for project. Estoppel period begins. Notice of Estoppel goes into the paper and then bonding will finalize.

- 2) Anthony Proper – DPW Director. Provided report.

Slip-lining project bidding notice will be published on Friday.

The new DPW garage construction is going well. Water/sewer lines are installed and if all goes as planned the Electrical contractor begins work on July 9th and the Plumbing contractor begins work on the 13th.

Discussion of Larry Brooks request for water/sewer line extension across Water Street to the docks, as well as trenching for electric lines under the road ensued. Mr. Brooks will reimburse village for dpw time and materials. Road will be put back to present condition.

Trustee Lipsman noted that perhaps the VB would be setting a precedent.

Mayor said to go forward.

- 3) Wayne Butterworth – Fire Chief. Provided report.

A MOTION was made by Trustee Lipsman, seconded by Trustee Serrago, all in favor, authorizing the Greene County Department of Human Services use of the Athens Firehouse as an emergency backup for Senior Nutrition Program to provide meals for seniors if necessary.

Chief noted that they will require a certificate of insurance from the county, prior notice if possible and also a small donation for use of the kitchen.

- 4) Roger Masse – Chief of Police. Absent. No report.

As police liaison, Trustee Lasher discussed purchase of radar display. MOTION to approve the purchase of a full mounted display radar detector for \$2,728.00 made by Trustee Lipsman, seconded by Trustee Lasher, all in favor.

- 5) Mike Ragaini – Code Enforcement Officer. Absent. No report.

- 6) North Dome Operations- Seth Mann. Provided Report.

PUBLIC:

- 1) Derek Apa attended the Meeting to inform the Village Board of the Little League's plans to go forward with an abbreviated season and noted some of the safety guidelines they have put into place in light of the pandemic. They are following the Little League's safety guidelines.

Trustee Lasher informed Mr. Apa that he must also follow the NYFORWARD guidelines and the safety template put forth by the State. It must be completed and kept in their files.

The Mayor reiterated that it is very important to complete the State Template and he will share the link with Mr. Apa so he can complete it.

A port-o-let was requested at Isabelle Rainey field as well. It will be ordered.

APPLICATIONS:

- 1) Facility Use Applications- Riverfront Park. Revisited from last meeting.

Nathaniel Williams – Free Columbia - puppet show. Prior approval given pending documentation on adhering to COVID-19 guidelines. Village received documentation.

Athens Cultural Center- Art classes. Prior approval given pending documentation on adhering to COVID-19 guidelines. Village received documentation.

RESOLUTIONS:

- 1) Proposed Resolution Approving Minutes

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minutes from Village Board meeting held on June 24th, 2020 be approved:

Offered by: Trustee Serrago

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:

GENERAL FUND - Abstract #2030, vouchers numbered #9919799 through #9919830 in the amount of \$123429.59

WATER FUND – Abstract #10478, vouchers numbered #9919792 through #9919798 in the amount of \$17,932.45

SEWER FUND – Abstract #10463, vouchers numbered #9919783 through #9919798 in the amount of \$13,868.99

Offered by: Trustee Lasher

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

3) Proposed Resolution Approving Local Law #5 of 2020

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board approves local law #5 of 2020

Repealing prior local law #1 of 2020 to override the tax levy limit established in general municipal Law §3-c of tax cap law.

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

4) Proposed Resolution Approving Appropriation Transfer

WHEREAS, the Village has budgeted for department of public works laborer salary, social security/Medicaid and health insurance in the current fiscal year, and

WHEREAS, the department of public works has had an employee resign and has decided to delay replacing the laborer at this point and would prefer to use those funds towards the purchase of a much needed pickup truck,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the following Appropriation Transfers take place in preparation for the purchase of a new pickup truck to be paid out of the department of public works equipment line item;

\$25,000.00 from line item A5110.1 (Streets laborer) to A5110.2 Streets equipment
\$1900.00 from line item A9030.8 (SS/Medicaid) to A5110.2 Streets equipment
\$9000.00 from line item A9060.8 (health insurance) to A5110.2 Streets equipment

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

5) Proposed Resolution Approving the Purchase of Pickup Truck

WHEREAS, the department of public works has had numerous costly repairs on the pickup truck over the past several months, and given the age of the vehicle and the nature of the repairs being safety issues, and

WHEREAS the VB has found that the state bid price for new pickup trucks is favorable to putting money towards more costly and unguaranteed repairs, and

WHEREAS the village will be able to auction off the old pickup to defray the cost,

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the VB authorizes the Department of Public Works to purchase a new Ford pickup truck from Romeo Ford at a cost of \$43,000.00;

Offered by: Trustee Scott

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

BUSINESS:

Trustee Serrago noted that she has been working on the Airbnb registration forms per local law enacted and will be forwarding them to VB members so they may review and provide feedback.

Trustee Serrago and Trustee Lipsman discussed the possibility of providing customers an on-line payment option for village water and sewer bills.

The Clerk noted that she will be discussing that option as an 'add-on' to the water/sewer billing software currently being used to process bills and payments. Hopefully by next meeting there will be a proposal.

Discussion took place regarding water rates in the village.

The Clerk also noted that it may be time to revisit the rate structure since we now have actual meter readings and correlating histories. This has not been done in several years. She also advised revisiting the whole fee schedule. Perhaps a committee could be formed? The office had begun researching other municipalities rates and fee schedules pre-Covid19.

Trustee Scott asked if it were possible to move forward with selling the old dump truck that was declared surplus property at a previous meeting?

Mayor noted 'not yet'.

DPW laborer Wayne Butterworth informed the VB that the vehicle is not safe to drive. DPW Director Anthony Proper agreed. It will require expensive repairs to make it safe again.

Trustee Lipsman inquired on the status of letters to tree committee members thanking them for their commitment and informing them that the committee has been disbanded due to the CAC.

Trustee Lipsman also noted that the prescription medical bags will be distributed to the police and fire departments. Perhaps Trustee Serrago would publish the information on the website.

Trustee Lipsman gave an update on the survey to be distributed by the Comprehensive Plan update committee. Trustee Lipsman informed the VB that the Town has agreed to split the cost of postage (\$575.00) as well as \$4,000.00 previously promised.

Dissatisfaction with the gym as a venue for future meetings was discussed. The Athens Firehouse will be used for the next VB meeting.

The Mayor discussed the results of meeting with Delaware Engineering and NYSDEC regarding the past gas spill at WWTP water street location years ago. Quarterly sampling had been taking place for several years and then it stopped. NYSDEC wants it to continue.

NYSDEC is willing to work with the village over the next 5-10 years to complete the clean-up. They just require a formal plan be put into action. Cost this year will be \$10,000.00.

Scenic Hudson may possibly be purchasing 133 N. Washington Street.

The Mayor noted that he met with Peckham. Peckham provided him with a list of things that they are going to do in order to improve the air quality around their facility.

SCADA discussed. Project cost overall is approximately \$150,000.00. The Mayor noted that there is \$50,000.00 available but the Village will need to bond out \$100,000.00.

The Mayor informed the VB that there have been 9 possible committee members chosen to work on this NYS Police Reform Collaborative.

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Scott, seconded by Trustee Lasher, all in favor to enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues at 8:08 PM.

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Serrago, seconded by Trustee Lasher, all in favor to exit Executive Session and resume regular Village Board meeting.

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Scott, seconded by Trustee Serrago, all in favor, approving the Contract for the Village of Athens DPW for 6/1/20 through 5/31/23.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION made by Trustee Serrago, seconded by Trustee Lasher, all in favor to adjourn the meeting at 8:25PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Mary Jo Wynne

Clerk-Treasurer