

ATHENS VILLAGE BOARD MEETING

AUGUST 26, 2020

Pledge to the flag

Present: Mayor Bradcich, Trustee Lasher, Trustee Serrago, Trustee Lipsman , Trustee Scott, and Attorney Rappleyea.

PUBLIC

Sandra Strauss: Sandra told the board that there is a problem with the water on Brick Row. She brought a sample of her brown water and the filter that she has. The Brita filtered water is what she feeds her cats. She stated that the rust on Brick Row is terrible. She also had a sample from her dishwasher.

She also said she is concerned about fluoride in the water. She said it is not good for the elderly. She would like it to be taken out. If not she will do a petition and get people to sign it.

Mayor Bradcich said that he will do some research on this. He said this was brought up once before and we went with what the DOH recommends.

Sandra said she believes that Catskill or Coxsackie may have already removed it.

Trustee Serrago said that Seth brought this up in April and was thinking of getting rid of it.

Mayor Bradcich said that the village has been flushing hydrants and has developed a plan to flush at night. The pipes are very old and it is a major renovation. He said that there is going to be a full review of the water system. We will have to fix gradually as it will take a decade to change.

Renee Merryman: She has not heard back from Mike Ragaini and still has concerns about the garbage cans and the commercial vehicle being parked up on Ebs Lane. She said she does not know what the protocol is. She has checked for the ordinances. She said she knows that circumstances happen and maybe he needs someone to be appointed to help him out by sending letters and answer calls for him until he gets caught up.

Mayor Bradcich said that Mike Ragaini will cite them tomorrow and at the end of the meeting we will speak about a change in code enforcement.

Ms. Merryman said that the truck is there nearly every day 30 to 45 minutes and sometimes overnight.

Mayor Bradcich said he spoke with the police about this the other night and they will figure out how to handle this.

Ms. Merryman also said she has a sign for Field Goods and I'm not sure when there will be a new Code enforcement officer.

Mayor Bradcich said that there are rules and Mike will be here until October.

Applications:

An application was presented for use of Riverfront Park by the Athens Cultural Center for 08/29/2020.

A **MOTION** was made to allow the Cultural Center to use Riverfront Park on 08/29/2020 from 10am to 11pm. If it should rain that day they are allowed to use the Gym. Offered by Trustee Serrago, seconded by Trustee Lipsman, all were in favor.

Resolutions:

A **Motion** was made to approve the minutes from the Village Board Meetings held on July 22nd and August 12th with one correction being that the battery amount be changed to \$22.80 as there was a typo per Trustee Serrago. Offered by Trustee Serrago, seconded by Trustee Scott, all were in favor.

A **MOTION** was made to approve payment of the vouchers as presented:

General Fund- Abstract#2035, Vouchers 9919948-9919967 in the amount of \$12,346.19

Water Fund- Abstract#10482, Vouchers 9919970-9919971 in the amount of \$4947.29

Sewer Fund- Abstract#10468, Vouchers 9919978-9919983 in the amount of \$8160.12

Offered by Trustee Scott, seconded by Trustee Lipsman, all were in favor.

A **MOTION** was made to approve the bid for the Slip Lining Project. Green Mountain Pipeline Services, LLC. Was the lowest responsible bidder at \$42,308.00. Offered by Trustee Lipsman, seconded by trustee Lasher, all were in favor.

Mayor Bradicich said that the slip line amount of \$42,308.00 was discussed and the amount over \$30,000 (NYSERD) would come from the sewer account.

Trustee Lipsman said that the other \$3-4,000 could come out of engineering fees.

Mayor Bradicich said not to expect a big impact, there will be one just going forward and Anthony knows where the hot spots are

CORRESPONDENCE:

Mayor Bradicich said that there is something from the NYS Board on Electric Generation Siting and the Environment that everyone can read as well as NYS DOT

NEW BUSINESS:

TRAFFIC

Mayor Bradicich said if we want to move forward I will speak with the DPW and the police to see about benefits and hazards

One Side parking North Franklin Street from Morton Firehouse to Market Street:

Trustee Serrago thinks that this is a good idea.

Trustee Lasher said Jane is here. She is one of the residents. Let's ask her. Jane Cole-Rafferty said that it's an obvious issue of clearance. She was wondering what side of the street they would be talking about. It's been an issue as well as the parking of oversize vehicles with no low back. Jane said she is very interested as this is a safety issue. She said it impacts her everyday life. People park on the sidewalk. She said the other side has a good sidewalk and our side has a patchy one.

Trustee Serrago said to go ahead with the study.

Jane said maybe some signs to slow people down for now

Mayor Bradicich said that parking on one side will actually slow people down. He said there will be a public hearing on this.

Two way east from Washington Street to Water Street

Mayor Bradicich said he knows the Stewart house would like to see this.

Wayne Butterworth(DPW) asked why this is being considered as it was changed because of the close calls at the intersection.

Trustee Lipsman said that Wayne said this was already looked at before. He also said he remembers the Police Chief being in favor of the way it is now.

Mayor Bradicich asked if he should move ahead.

Trustee Serrago said don't move ahead.

Trustee Scott said there had once been talk of a traffic light.

Wayne Butterworth(DPW) said that a study had been done and the board decided on the "one way".

Trustee Lipsman said if this is a business request maybe there is another solution.

Mayor Bradicich said he will let them know

Attorney Rappleyea said that we would have to check with NYS and that could take 6-8 months

Mayor Bradicich said he is hearing do not proceed with this.

Air B and B

Mayor Bradicich said he sees a list in the email on these.

The clerk asked if the fee was to be charged per house or unit.

Mayor Bradicich said to do per house as there was nothing put into the application at this time.

The clerk also asked about Sleepy Hollow being included as some of the village homes are there and was told by Mayor Bradicich that it would apply to Sleepy Hollow as well.

OLD BUSINESS

DPW BUILDING

Bidding on the bond will be the 9th of September and will be executed on the 17th. We have the ability to borrow up to 1.075 million but presently it looks like \$950,000.00. With the cash we have we went a little lower and the sale of the old DPW building.

DPW CONTRACT

Wayne Butterworth stated that a few of the items were not spelled out correctly. It was redone and will be signed after it is resent.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Trustee Lipsman said that the Comprehensive Plan survey closed this afternoon and there were around 500 responses. The consultant will analyze and we will meet the end of September.

LIGHTHOUSE SIGN

Mayor Bradicich asked if everyone liked the lighthouse sign and where it should be put.

Trustee Serrago thought that it should go to the southern end of the park near the lighthouse and Trustee Lipsman agreed.

A **MOTION** was made to put the Lighthouse sign and the south end of the Park. Offered by Trustee Lipsman, seconded by Trustee Lasher, all were in favor.

TOWN

Mayor Bradicich said that there has been no money given from the Town towards the comprehensive plan and no rent for the Community Center. He stated that he and Attorney Rappleyea will need to do a letter.

MAYOR and TRUSTEES REPORTS/ISSUES

Mayor Bradicich said that there has not been a formal letter yet, but Mike Ragaini would be stepping down as the code enforcer as of 09/30/2020.

Mayor Bradicich said that he will appoint 2 Athens Police Officers to the position and it will be known as Code Enforcement Collateral Duty. The officers will need to complete 126 hours of training. The officers will receive \$2.00 additional pay an hr once training is completed, \$1.00 until training is completed and they will be given 4 hrs additional time to do paperwork out of uniform. He said that he wants 2 officers and 3 are interested so he will have interviews. They will do building permits and attend board meetings.

Trustee Scott said that he thought this was an excellent idea. He asked if they would get call out time like the officers would for court. Trustee Scott said he thinks village residents will be very happy.

Jane (resident) asked if this is a permanent solution? It would be the police? She asked who will oversee this as they won't know the job for a while.

Mayor Bradicich said that he will.

Mayor Bradicich said this will be an appointment.

Robert Brunner said no one will be in the office?

Mayor Bradicich said no one.

Trustee Lipsman asked if there was a reason there would be no office hours?

Mayor Bradicich said he is not sure we need them.

Trustee Lipsman said people want information to be in compliance.

Mayor Bradicich said that people would need to make an appointment.

Trustee Lipsman said he thinks there should be a certain amount of appointment hours, maybe 1 to 2 hrs. worth.

Mayor Bradicich said that by apt is do able

Molly Little (resident) said she believes that it would be harder to go to Police as it is a different interaction. It would feel like a law enforcement issue and not building department. It changes the dynamic. Escalating when a police officer says no to something.

Mayor Bradicich said that is why he said 4 hrs un uniformed.

Trustee Lipsman said that he has the same reaction.

Mayor Bradicich said that he has reached out for months trying to find a new one. He had a print out from the region and people are unwilling to do it. This will get the police more involved in the community. Tal and I will write the policy of what they can and cannot do in uniform.

Trustee Lipsman asked if this doesn't work can the Mayor change this in the future?

Mayor Bradicich said yes.

Trustee Scott

Rob said that he met with an Auctions International sales rep to get rid of items that are at the sewer plant. They need to be declared surplus before we can do that.

A **RESOLUTION** was made to declare the following as surplus equipment to be auctioned by Auctions International: 4 by 6 utility trailer, 6hp Evinrude engine, 11 foot Sundolph boat and an Aaron snow blower. Offered by Trustee Serrago, seconded by Trustee Scott, all in favor.

Trustee Scott also discussed propane for the new DPW building. He said that it would need to be put out for bid. He said that Anthony recommends we buy the tank as suppliers can change as it goes out to bid.

Mayor Bradicich said that Nolan has the state bid so no resolution is needed.

Trustee Scott also said that there is some concern over moving the 1000 gal Diesel tank. Anthony really doesn't want to mess with it as it can mess with the trucks. He said that Anthony can get a 500 gal tank instead of the 1000 gal tank for around \$4,000.

Trustee Scott said he will find money in the budget to do this and make a resolution at the next meeting.

Trustee Lipsman

Trustee Lipsman started off by thanking the members of the public for turning out to tonight's meeting. He then asked Stephan if he had written letters to the tree committee and Mayor Bradicich said he spoke with Mary Ellen.

Trustee Lipsman said that the first CAC meeting went well and that the next would be on 09/17 at 6:30pm in the gym. This is a public meeting he said and the meeting will have a speaker from DEC and one from Hudsonia.

Trustee Lipsman said he would also like to pursue state money for a charging station to be put in one of the municipal parking lots. He said that the remainder of the money could possibly come from the Community Benefit Foundation if the board would like him to pursue this.

Trustee Lipsman asked where we were with the online water/sewer payment software. The clerk let the board know that we have everything together and she thought the next step was to email the information to the board members.

Trustee Serrago

Trustee Serrago said that Larry from Flats Brothers contacted her to see if it is alright if they go over the 15 cuts. She said that the grass has been growing and they are at the end of their agreed upon cuts. They were to mow until 09/30.

Mayor Bradicich said he would need to see the expenditure on mowing.

Trustee Serrago asked if he should mow Maple Lane again?

Mayor Bradicich said yes.

Trustee Serrago asked if Flats Bros could post pics on social media and Mayor Bradicich and Attorney Rappleyea said yes that could be done.

Trustee Serrago also said it is time for the newsletter again so email her with anything that may need to go in.

Trustee Lipsman asked that she email a reminder.

Trustee Lasher

Trustee Lasher said that Rob Butler had reached out to her over the Fire Department contract, but he hasn't gotten back to her.

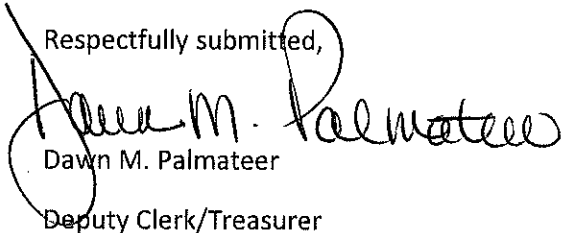
Trustee Lasher asked if Ed and Roger could get a key to the village clerk's office for paperwork

Mayor Bradicich said yes, but only those 2 no other officers. So 2 keys are to be made.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:47pm

Offered by Trustee Lasher, seconded by Trustee Serrago, all were in favor

Respectfully submitted,



Dawn M. Palmateer

Deputy Clerk/Treasurer