

VILLAGE OF ATHENS BOARD MEETING MINUTES –August 12, 2020

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

Pledge to the Flag

DEPARTMENT HEADS:

1. Tal Rappleyea – Village Attorney

- Property located at 90 N. Franklin St. has been torn down.
- Bonding for the DPW garage is going forward.
- No communication received from the Town of Athens regarding conveyance of the Community Center building.
- Pursuing payment for delinquent town water users per Clerk-Treasurer.
- Intervenor funds have been established for the Flint Mine Solar project. Mayor noted that he was concerned with run off in relation to Sleepy Hollow- doing due diligence and ensuring that it will not have an effect on the village.

2. Anthony Proper – DPW Director

- Inquired as to whether the VB had decided to get rid of the old International dump truck yet? The village is not using it since getting the new truck and the village is continuing to pay to insure the vehicle. The Mayor thought it could be used as a backup.

Mr. Proper and Mr. Butterworth (DPW laborer who was in attendance) reiterated that the brakes are bad and the fuel tank is leaking. It is not safe to use without expensive repairs.

The Mayor stated to take it off the insurance and auction it off.

- Mr. Proper informed the VB of trees that need to be cut down for safety reasons.
- Riding Mower (Cadet) needs \$2650.00 worth of repairs (motor & deck). The mower is used at Hollister Lake. VB agreed to approve repairs given that replacing the mower would cost over \$10,000.00.
- VB agreed, upon the DPW Director's recommendation, to approve up to \$3,000, if necessary, of culvert pipe to be installed by F&G's on Route 385. A **MOTION** was made to approve the purchase of culvert pipe, if necessary, by Trustee Scott, second by Trustee Lasher, all in favor.
- The VB discussed the containment tank at the WWTP on Water Street. Several prices were reviewed. They were varied based on several features that differ. Moving the diesel tank up to the new dpw garage site was discussed as well. VB looks favorably on this idea and agreed to continue this discuss at the next department head meeting.

- Mr. Proper also discussed the fact that he would like to purchase two small 'flushing hydrants' to be placed between the long distance between the hydrant by the reservoir (Hollister Lake) and the town garage. The distance between these two hydrants and the fact that there are many valleys and dips between the two create a problem while flushing the hydrants. Placing flushing hydrants in between would make flushing more efficient. The cost would be \$4,000.00.

The Mayor asked Seth Mann his opinion on this.

Seth Mann reiterated and also noted that NorthDome would be willing to complete flushing hydrants in October at night between 8PM and 4AM. There would be less usage meaning less stirring up of the system. Free of charge.

The Mayor continued the discussion of flushing hydrants. Will resume conversation in 2 weeks.

- Mr. Proper would like to pave both Livingston Street and Chatham Street where the road was dug up due to infrastructure work. Village of Catskill has a 10' paver that they are willing to help us use to complete the project.
- Mr. Proper also talked about the Culvert pipe replacement project on Union St. They have already purchased the pipe. Not the big job – the job smaller in scope.

3. Wayne Butterworth– Fire Chief

- After discussion about radios a **MOTION** was made by Trustee Serrago, seconded by Trustee Lipsman, all in favor to purchase and install the radio in Anthony Delvecchio's vehicle at a cost of \$2327.00.
- After discussion regarding the need for an exhaust fan and the availability of a demo unit at a cost of \$3800.00, a **MOTION** was made by Trustee Serrago, seconded by Trustee Scott, all in favor to purchase the exhaust fan for a cost of \$3800.00.
- Discussed the tablets and how the APD may want to subscribe to the service as well.
- The Mayor needs to electronically sign the DCJS grant extension form.

4. Roger Masse – Chief of Police - no show- provided report.

5. Mike Ragaini – Code Enforcement Officer- no show – no report.

6. North Dome Operations- Seth Mann

- Provided a monthly operations report for the WWTP's and the WFP.
- Informed the VB that the generator at the WFP was serviced by the maintenance provider and they informed him that the generator's battery charger needs to be replaced at a cost of \$2228.00.

Discussion ensued regarding the nature of the charger and its purpose and breakdown of the cost which included various items.

When asked by a VB member what the significance of the part was Mr. Mann informed the VB that if the battery backup on the generator fails at a point when the generator is needed then the supply of water to the village will cease.

Discussion continued.

Trustee Lasher stated that the VB just approved a \$3800.00 fan for the AVFD, no offense to the AVFD, but the VB is debating the purchase of an integral part of the flow of the water supply to the village for a cost of \$2228.00.

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Serrago, seconded by Trustee Scott, all in favor, to approve the purchase of the battery charger for the generator at the WFP as recommended by NorthDome at a cost of \$2280.00.

- Hydrant flushing and purchase of hydrants was discussed again.

APPLICATIONS:

1. Facility Use Application: Riverfront Park. Applicant: Jennifer Seekamp (DBA FN Yoga). Re: Yoga classes. **MOTION** made by Trustee Lipsman, seconded by Trustee Lasher, all in favor to approve application for a fee of \$75.00 per week and NYFORWARD template in place. Profit making business- non resident.
2. Facility Use Application: Riverfront Park. Applicant: Cultural Center. Re: Art class extended. **MOTION** made by Trustee Serrago, seconded by Trustee Lipsman, all in favor to approve their request for extension of previously filed application.

RESOLUTIONS:

1. Proposed Resolution Approving Minutes

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

Offered by:

Seconded by:

Record of vote:

TABLED

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 #2033, vouchers numbered #9919885 through #9919917 in the amount of \$50,126.18.

WATER FUND – Abstract #10480, vouchers numbered #9919918 through #9919926 in the amount of \$14,237.85.

SEWER FUND- Abstract #10466, vouchers numbered #9919927 through #9919936 in the amount of \$30,562.43.

Offered by: Trustee Serrago

Seconded by: Trustee Scott

Record of vote: All in favor

3. Proposed Resolution Declaring the 2006 Ford F350 Pickup Truck Surplus Equipment

WHEREAS, the Village Department of Public Works has a 2006 Ford F350 pickup truck that is in need of serious and costly repairs and also due to the fact that they have decided to order a new pickup truck to replace it,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the VB approve declaring the DPW pickup truck surplus equipment and therefore advertise in Auctions International or advertise in the official newspaper for bid and accept fair market value for said pickup truck:

Offered by: Trustee Scott

Seconded by: Trustee Lasher

Record of vote: All in favor

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. NYS Board on Electric Generation Siting and the Environment. Re: Case 18-F-0087 Flint Mine Solar, LLC for a certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need.

2. NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. Re: Congratulations on adopting the Climate Smart Communities Pledge.

The Mayor thanked Trustee Lipsman for his work on completing this project.

3. Michele Tarsa. Re: HALPS Sign.

VB would like more information on what the sign looks like and where exactly they would like to place it before giving approval. Clerk-Treasurer will email Ms. Tarsa.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Comprehensive Plan Update.

Trustee Lipsman informed the VB that the surveys are coming in. There has been a good response.

2. Airbnb registration forms.

Trustee Serrago informed the VB that the registration forms have been completed and now she is working on the pamphlets that will be used in conjunction and also kept at the properties.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Applications for payment on the DPW garage project received. Approved along with invoices/vouchers.

2. Slip-lining bid results.

Trustee Lipsman discussed the results of the Slip-lining bids. The lowest bid was \$42,000.00 and the grant amount is \$30,000.00. The VB will need to make a decision as to whether they would like to go forward with this project as it will cost another \$12,000.00 from the budget to complete. Will there be enough benefit from the project to justify the cost? Trustee Lipsman asked DPW Director Anthony Proper his opinion.

DPW Director Anthony Proper stated that it won't correct the whole problem but he does feel that every little bit helps and that area is one of the biggest areas of I&I.

Trustee Lipsman asked if it were worth asking the Engineer to come to a VB meeting to have his input?

In the mean-time the VB discussed provisionally approving lowest bid for slip-lining but they need to find where the extra money is coming from?

Trustee Lasher discussed the storing of recreational vehicles on municipal Property, that being parking lots. It is becoming an issue. People are parking trailers, campers, dumpster in municipal parking lots for extended periods of time.

The VB agreed that the Village Attorney or the Athens Police Department should address this situation by posting a letter on the vehicle noting that it has come to their attention that the vehicle is being stored in this lot and that it is unacceptable.

Trustee Lasher also noted a couple of Code Enforcement issues – Garage on North Washington Street has too many vehicles again and the Ciampa property on North Washington St. is a nuisance again.

Trustee Lipsman also expressed concern about Code Enforcement, specifically the complaint just received by the VB from a resident complaining about garbage cans. The resident has tried to get answers from the Code Enforcement Officer to no avail. Are there monthly reports- is he around?

Trustee Lipsman introduced Rene' Meryman who is in attendance this evening to speak on her own behalf regarding the complaint she submitted.

The neighbors leave their garbage cans out in the front right next to her property every day. The Village's code states that the garbage cans need to be removed in a timely manner. She has received no update and no satisfaction from the Code Enforcement Officer. This has resulted in her and her husband being harassed by her neighbors. For 2 months she has asked that this village code be upheld.

The Mayor stated that he will look into it and get back to her.

Trustee Lipsman inquired about the letters to the Tree committee members.

The Mayor discussed the fact that he has discussed water rate rescheduling with Delaware Engineering. They quoted a price of \$30,000.00 to perform an analysis of pricing. He told them that that was too much money and asked them what they could provide for approximately \$6,000.00.

The Clerk-Treasurer noted that as discussed previously all of the data is in this office and all that rate structuring requires is the time to analyze the expenses and revenues and forecast long term debts. Basically that is what the NYSOSC will help municipalities with is a guideline or tool to

adjust and reevaluate rates. Why not pursue that first by forming a small committee to work on this together this fall? Rates have always been established in-house by utilizing the data available. Basically that is what the engineers will do.

Trustee Serrago noted that this had been discussed previously and she would be willing to work on that committee with the Clerk-Treasurer.

Trustee Lipsman noted that he had emailed all VB members information on 'Certified Community Designation'. Is there an interest in pursuing this designation? There would have to be a committee formed with the right members.

The Mayor noted that at the next VB meeting he would like to discuss parking on N. Franklin Street from the old Morton Firehouse to Market Street and also two- way traffic from Second Street to Water Street east of State Route 385.

A MOTION was made by Trustee Lipsman, seconded by Trustee Serrago, all in favor, to enter Executive Session at 8:38 to discuss Personnel issues.

A MOTION was made by Trustee Scott, seconded by Trustee Lasher, all in favor, to exit Executive Session at 8:48 PM and resume regular VB meeting.

ADJOURN: MOTION made by Trustee Serrago, seconded by Trustee Lasher, all in favor to Adjourn tonight's meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jo Wynne