

VILLAGE OF ATHENS BOARD MEETING MINUTES- September 23, 2020

Pledge to the Flag.

PRESENT: Mayor Stephan Bradicich, Trustee Gail Lasher, Trustee Robert Scott and Trustee Dr. Joshua Lipsman.
Village Attorney Tal Rappleyea was also present.

ABSENT: Trustee Amy Serrago

Tonight's meeting is being held at the Athens Firehouse.

PUBLIC:

1. John Pulice and Brian Mahoney. Re: Burning
Mr. Pulice stated that Mr. Mahoney was not present so he has decided not to speak this evening. He will re-schedule.
2. Bob Wyant. Re: Fire pit
Mr. Wyant declined speaking this evening as well.
3. Doug Earle. Re: Burning
Mr. Earle prepared a written statement regarding the rights of the citizens of Athens in regard to burning in small pits in their yards. He has heard from several people that the VB is considering banning any type of fire in the village. He and several neighbors have small fire pits for recreational purposes and a few of them have been verbally harassed about it by a couple of neighbors.
Those that harass also call the police department and report burning when burning in this capacity is totally legal in the village as per code.
The police department then comes to their house to investigate which is a waste of resources.
4. Wayne Butterworth. Re: Fire Dept.
The Fire Chief informed the VB that an incident occurred with the 1982 Rescue truck whereas the steering mechanism would not function properly while attending a call.

They are asking the VB for permission to purchase a new truck for \$50,000.00. The Chief noted that they have monies in their reserve account to cover it and will also use the proceeds from the sale of the 1982 rescue truck to offset the cost. The Department is also looking to sell other items at the firehouse that are not being used anymore.

The Mayor inquired about the truck committee and whether they have an idea of what truck will be out of commission next. The plan for useful life on trucks should be referred to in these instances.

Trustee Lipsman noted that it is very dangerous to have a vehicle that does not steer. The VB may be forced to bring the reserve account down to zero and then raise taxes next budget time.

Trustee Lipsman asked about a warranty on the truck and also inquired as to whether they have looked into a leasing program in order to keep equipment up to date and expense down.

The Mayor reiterated that he would like to see a plan in place for the purchase of vehicles.

A RESOLUTION was made by Trustee Scott, seconded by Trustee Lipsman, all in favor authorizing the expenditure of \$50,000.00 from the Fire Equipment Fund to purchase an emergency vehicle for the Athens Fire Department.

The Clerk asked the Attorney if the Resolution was subject to permissive referendum. The Attorney said that it was not required.

APPLICATION:

1. Water/sewer connection application. Applicant: Joseph Puorro – 10 Brick Row Extension. A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lasher, seconded by Trustee Scott, all in favor approving the application as submitted.

RESOLUTIONS:

2) Proposed Resolution Approving Minutes

BE IT RESOLVED, the Minutes from Village Board meeting held on September 9th, 2020 be approved:

Offered by: Trustee Lasher

Seconded by: Trustee Scott

Record of vote: All in favor

3) Proposed Resolution Approving Payment of Vouchers as Presented on Abstracts

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board approves payment of the following vouchers as presented:

GENERAL – Abstract #2038, vouchers numbered #9920037 through #9920065 in the amount of \$104,874.83.

WATER FUND – Abstract #10484, vouchers numbered #9920072 through #9920076 in the amount of \$2146.24.

SEWER FUND – Abstract #10470, vouchers numbered #9920066 through #9920071 in the amount of \$4469.29.

Offered by: Trustee Lasher

Seconded by: Trustee Lipsman

Record of vote: All in favor

4) Proposed Resolution Approving Payment Applications for DPW Garage

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board approve payment applications submitted by Lamont Engineering for the contractors constructing the DPW garage:

Offered by: Trustee Scott

Seconded by: Trustee Lasher

Record of vote: All in favor

5) Proposed Resolution Approving Easement to Central Hudson

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board grant an easement to Central Hudson

Offered by: Trustee Lasher

Seconded by: Trustee Scott

Record of vote: All in favor

6) Proposed Resolution Appointing a Member to the Conservation Advisory Council

Whereas Trustee Lipsman will not be a Village Board member after the month of September and will be able to serve as a member and chairperson of the Conservation Advisory Council,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board Appoint Dr. Josh Lipsman as Chairperson and member of the Conservation Advisory Council for a 2-year term.

Offered by: Trustee Lasher

Seconded by: Trustee Scott

Record of vote: All in favor

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. NYS Office of the State Comptroller. Re: Justice Court Fund.
2. Commander George Greiner, American Legion TGM Post 187.
3. NYS Board on Electric Generation Siting and the Environment. CASE 17-F-0619 Hecate Energy Greene 1 LLC, 2 LLC, 3 LLC. Re: Notice of Virtual Procedural conference.
4. NYS Board on Electric Generation Siting and the Environment. CASE 17-F-0619 Hecate Energy Greene 1 LLC, 2 LLC, 3 LLC. Re: Notice of Virtual Public Statement Hearings.
5. NYS Board on Electric Generation Siting and the Environment. CASE 17-F-0619. Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and public need.
6. NYS Board on Electric Generation Siting and the Environment. CASE 17-F-0619 Hecate Energy Greene 1 LLC, 2 LLC, 3 LLC. Re: Notice of Information Forums.
7. Lighthouse Church. Re: 7th Annual Harvest Festival. Hay ride. Mayor asked that they provide COVID-19 safety template with application.
8. Greene County Economic Development and Planning. Re: Ellen Rettus Planning Achievement Awards.
9. Greene County Economic Development, Tourism and Planning. Re: Notice of a 30-day period for public request for inclusion in agricultural district No. 124.
10. Greene County Department of Human Services. Re: Continuity of operations plan-follow-up.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Groneman tree.
Trustee Scott discussed the issue with the VB. He is not convinced that the tree is a village tree. It's about 1' out of the right of way but the tree is dead and needs to come down. Village Attorney stated that if it is a user road it would be 25 foot from the center

of the road. The Mayor asked the Village Attorney if he could investigate it further. Maple Lane is the street in question.

2. Moratorium on building in Mixed Use/Waterfront zone.

The Mayor noted that the LL for a moratorium on building in the MU/Waterfront zone was due to expire in November. The VB would like to extend it. The Village Attorney informed the VB that a Local Law would need to be enacted again. Public Hearing for Local Law will be scheduled for second meeting in October.

3. Comprehensive Plan Update

Trustee Lipsman gave an overview of the survey results produced by Nan Stolzenburg. The next step is to come up with strategies and actions based upon the results, public hearings by Village and Town and then adopt the update hopefully by December 9th. The goal for completion is January 8, 2021. It can then be used as points towards becoming a Climate Smart Community.

A resident attending the meeting voiced concern regarding the timetable in that it seems a bit rushed. Given the time of year and less meetings being held. What happens if they can't meet all of the deadlines.

Mr. Lipsman stated that it would just set it back 3 months. Would not be able to reapply as a Climate Smart Community for 3 months.

4. Fire District Contract.

The Village Board again discussed the possibility of making N. Franklin to Market Street one way parking.

The discussion centered on where the one way parking should begin? DPW Director Anthony Proper discussed it with the VB as did Fire Chief Wayne Butterworth.

Public Hearing for public comment will take place at the second meeting of October.

Trustee Lipsman discussed the Conservation Advisory Council's role in regard to the former tree committee's role of tree removal. The Council was provided a list of trees deemed dangerous by the DPW Director. After review the committee agreed to remove 5 of those listed. The others will need to be looked at again.

Discussion regarding whether 2 trees on South Franklin should be taken down ensued. Director of DPW Proper stated that the arborist told them that they are diseased and in bad shape. If they are not cut down then the disease will spread to other trees on the street.

The Mayor was hesitant as the one still looks fairly healthy.

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lasher, seconded by Trustee Scott, all in favor, upon the recommendation of Conservation Advisory Council and the DPW to remove 5 trees from the list provided by DPW.

Trustee Lipsman informed the VB on EV charging station. Perhaps the Village can submit a ACBF grant application for the installation.

Trustee Scott working on Auctions International to put vehicles up for bid. Time consuming as he has to provide pictures. Unable to locate one of the titles as well.

Trustee Lasher met with resident Keith Rodan regarding recent correspondence to the village regarding Crossroads Brewery exhaust fan noise.

The Clerk asked if there were any information regarding the renewal of the PILOT program for Athens Generator. The 10 year agreement is up this year and the village, if proactive, should stand to receive some of the remortgage tax. Greene County IDA should be contacted.

The Clerk asked that the Attorney summarize the proper way to sell the old DPW garage. The Village Attorney stated that the VB should declare the garage surplus equipment by Resolution. Fair Market value must be obtained by bid or Resolution to seek bids from Realtors interested in selling the property.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Organizational meeting – October 5, 2020 at 6:30PM
2. Athens Community Foundation- request for grant applications.
3. Central Hudson Easement request

ADJOURNMENT: MOTION made by Trustee Lasher, Seconded by Trustee Scott, all in favor to adjourn meeting at 8:11PM.

Respectfully submitted by,

Mary Jo Wynne