

VILLAGE OF ATHENS BOARD MEETING

December 09, 2020

Meeting began at 6:30pm

Present: Mayor Bradicich, Trustee Gail Lasher, Trustee Robert Scott, Trustee Amy Serrago, and Trustee Rickie Gabrielle

ZOOM Meeting—the meeting was conducted via online teleconferencing as per emergency changes to Open Meeting Laws in response to COVID-19/Executive Order 2020.1 by the State of New York

Department Heads:

Tal Rappleyea- Village Attorney

Mr. Rappleyea stated that later in the meeting there will be offers for the sale of the DPW building. He also stated he had done some research to help people living down by Peckham because of loading and unloading of barges late at night. He also said that there has not been a lot of progress with the Town on the conveyance of the Community Center Building.

Mayor Bradicich asked if there was any way to influence the 2am time of the barges.

Mr. Rappleyea said he was going to see if historically the times have always been done and looking into what could be done about this.

Trustee Gabrielle said that Peckham has always done this.

Mayor Bradicich said that he had information on utilities and the lease sent from MJ. He said that he would put a letter together and have Tal look at it. He said we need to get numbers for Rob like the utilities and the cleaning costs and get them to him by the New Year. He said that the Town has not voted yet.

Mr Rappleyea said that the Town attorney was told to stop working on the deed.

Mayor Bradicich said that Robs intent was to still move forward with the building, but what's being said and done are 2 different things.

Anthony Proper—DPW

Anthony said that the DPW had been picking up leaves and are now done. He said there was a water main broke on Church Street and there possibly is one by Main Street and 385. He said that he will be checking on that tomorrow. He said there may also be a service leak at Vernon Street and Market Street.

Mayor Bradicich asked if there were any complaints when flushing the tank and it went dry.

Anthony said only one house that day because the pressure was too low to push the water up. He said he told them to cancel the flushing until Spring since the phone lines were down and there was no one at the plant to watch the water levels.

Anthony said they are packing up the old building and the scrap they will take for money and would like to purchase new tables and chairs.

Mayor Bradicich said that sounds reasonable and to get the scrap money and then go ahead.

Trustee Scott said that Ford cannot commit to a date for the new truck. However, Romeo Ford has one with a V plow, but that will add to the price. He said he wasn't receptive at first, but right now we are down a plow truck and I think we should purchase it and have it in a couple of days. The price is \$53,300.50 for the truck at Romeo and I do agree with Anthony about getting a V plow.

Mayor Bradicich said that is a \$9,000.00 difference.

Trustee Scott said it is a stainless steel plow. The plow is the \$9,000.00 difference. They won't remove anything that is installed, so they won't remove the plow. We can sell our truck to make up the \$9,000.00 difference and not do it on Auctions International.

Anthony said we would need to transfer \$60,000.00 to do this.

Trustee Scott said we could try another dealer, but we may not find what we are looking for.

Mayor Bradicich asked if there was any more discussion on this.

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Scott, seconded by Trustee Serrago to authorize the transfer of money from the Union Street paving to the truck budget for \$53,300.50

Trustee Scott will call in the morning and let them know the Village will take the truck.

Wayne Butterworth-Fire Department

Wayne apologized for not having the report. He said there were 102 calls, Rescue 25 is ready.. He said Pizza Nights have been cancelled because of COVID and all meetings and drills until January. We ordered the gear and it will be delivered in April.

Mayor Bradicich asked if there have been any meetings held and Wayne said none, so Mayor Bradicich said we will reevaluate in January after another surge from Christmas.

Police Department- Roger Masse was not present

Trustee Lasher gave a report and stated that they Police Department is on budget for this year. She said she didn't see the money for the safety officer and will check with Ed to see if the bill was sent. The bill would be for Sept, Oct, and Nov. She said the department had 18 calls and the only issue was that they still have nowhere to question juveniles. She also said that the department asks that all residents report issues as they may be part of a bigger issue. She also said the drug investigation on Ebs Lane was closed by arrest.

Code Enforcement- Sgt Tercasio and Officer Ruso were not present.

Mayor Bradicich said that code enforcement was taking a 3 phase approach. One phase is learning and getting caught up. Second Phase is Planning and the Third phase is active code enforcement where they are looking for violations.

Trustee Serrago asked if the issue on the short term rental owners not filling out the registration form was passed on to code enforcement?

Trustee Gabrielle asked about permits and CO searches as he stated several residents have approached him about not getting theirs.

Mayor Bradicich said they have been burning through them from the original list.

Trustee Gabrielle said that a few have no Co searches to move into their home.

Mayor Bradicich said for Trustee Gabrielle to get specific information and he will check

Seth Mann- North Dome Operations

Seth said there hasn't been anything out of the ordinary. There were 3 callouts as there was no power. We checked to make sure everything was working properly. He discussed the sewer and how the rain affected the flows. He commented on the Brick Row flow system and that the system was overloaded from all the rain we received on the 30th.

Mayor Bradicich said that the Village Office is closing and going back to COVID Response. The office would be open by appointment and people could use the mailbox out in front of the building. This will be until January 15th when we will reevaluate at the next board meeting.

PUBLIC

Ellen Roth from the public is here tonight to speak about a welcoming committee she would like to see here in Athens. She said where she grew up there was a welcome wagon that welcomed new people to the neighborhood. She said she was not aware of anything like this here. She and her husband are on the Steering Committee and it fits in with Diversity and Inclusion. She said that people that are new to the area do not know what is here sometimes. Such as where to get your car repaired or where to get a haircut. She thought a newsletter for new residents with businesses listed would be good. Maybe a gift or some sort of freebie from a local business. She thought maybe businesses would like to have a happy hour eventually for people to meet each other. Another idea would be a booklet that would have everything Athens in it. Ms. Roth said that she is willing to spearhead this idea.

Mayor Bradicich, Trustee Serrago and Trustee Scott said this sounded like a good idea.

Ms. Roth said if anyone else is interested in this they could contact her.

Trustee Serrago said she could be the liaison for this committee.

Mayor Bradicich also said that Merrill was interested in being on the Waterfront Committee for future reference

RESOLUTIONS:

1. Proposed Resolution Approving Minutes

BE IT RESOLVED, the Minutes from Village Board meeting held on November 18th, 2020 be approved:

Offered by: Trustee Lasher

Seconded by: Trustee Serrago

Record of vote: aif

2. Proposed Resolution Approving Payment of Vouchers as Presented

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

Offered by:

Seconded by:

Record of vote:

Tabled until next meeting.

3. Proposed Resolution Re-appointing Registrar and Deputy Registrar

WHEREAS the two- year appointment for Registrar and Deputy Registrar are due to expire on December 20, 2020 and the Village Board is the authority for appointment,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board Re-appoint Clerk-Treasurer Mary Jo Wynne as Registrar and Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Dawn Palmateer as Deputy Registrar for the Bureau of Vital Records for the New York State Department of Health:

Offered by: Trustee Gabrielle

Seconded by: Trustee Serrago

Record of vote: aif

4. Proposed Resolution Adopting the Village of Athens Climate Resilience Vision

WHEREAS the Village of Athens believes that climate hazards pose a real and increasing threat to local environments and strives for climate resilience; and

WHEREAS Cornell Cooperative Extension of Columbia and Greene Counties, with approval from the Village Board, has prepared a Climate Resilience Vision including gathering community input on what a community that is resilient to climate hazards would look like in the future; and

WHEREAS the Resilience Vision includes guiding principles to ensure that climate resilience progress is consistent with the community's desired outcomes; and

WHEREAS the Village Board believes that the adoption of the Village of Athens Climate Resilience Vision will further the goals of climate resiliency;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Village of Athens adopts the 'Village of Athens Climate Resilience Vision':

Offered by: Trustee Lasher

Seconded by: Trustee Scott

Record of vote: Vote passed 4-1

Trustee Gabrielle opposed and felt this was not a good idea and would hurt the village in the long run. He said they are trying to fix something that isn't broken.

On the next resolution Trustee Gabrielle said he would like to speak with Tal Rappleyea, attorney for the village, but he was not on ZOOM at this time. Trustee Gabrielle then said he just wanted to know if this was adopted would we have to follow the plans put forth.

Joshua Lipsman explained to Trustee Gabrielle that it is a vision, a blueprint, not a law. It can change with other boards; the benefit is for elected officials to go after funding because they have a plan in place.

Mayor Bradicich added that he just received a grant application because of this plan being in place.

5. Proposed Resolution for the Adoption of the 2020 Town and Village of Athens Comprehensive Plan

Prior to adoption of RESOLUTION - SEQR - The Village Board reviews the **full** completed Environmental Assessment Form.

A **MOTION** was made by the Village Board determining that there are no significant adverse impacts to the environment in association to the adoption of this plan. Village Board signature on Part III serves as the NEGATIVE DECLARATION. Therefore, the NEGATIVE DECLARATION passes.

Offered by: Trustee Scott
Seconded by: Trustee Lasher
Record of Vote: aif

A **RESOLUTION** for the Adoption of the 2020 Town and Village of Athens Comprehensive Plan (ATTACHED)

Offered by: Trustee Scott
Seconded by: Trustee Lasher
Record of vote: aif

CORRESPONDENCE

Waste Management is changing their hours due to COVID, Trustee Serrago said this information is in the newsletter.

Marshall and Sterling- Mayor Bradicich said the insurance went up about \$2,000.00.

Trustee Gabrielle said it went up about 1.3 percent and that the insurance just needed to be signed.

Mayor Bradicich said that the Slip Line Project was completed

Trustee Scott said the DPW building electric is on and the overhead doors will be installed tomorrow. Possibly end of the month move in. Moving in was delayed because of COVID and because some building materials were delivered damaged. The HVAC group went on quarantine for 2 weeks. The salt shed is also up and the asphalt has been sprayed by Peckham.

Mayor Bradicich said he would like to meet with Jason and Rob to go over the lighting and landscaping.

Mayor Bradicich also updated the board on the Brick Row acreage that is being developed. He also told the board about the property by Rainey Field that was looked into for Glamping. He said they would need a special use permit to do this. He also told the board about a meeting he had with the C and D Attorney and President of the company. He told them that we have a comprehensive plan and it is very clear we are not going to allow this kind of activity on the waterfront. He said the meeting came to an abrupt end.

Mayor Bradicich explained to everyone present at the Board Meeting on ZOOM that they would now be turned off of the meeting so the board could go into Executive session.

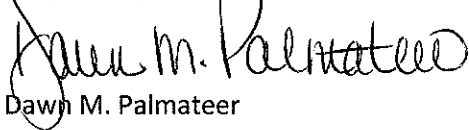
A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Gabrielle, seconded by Trustee Serrago to enter into Executive session to discuss the bids for the DPW building. All were in favor

The board entered executive session at 7:43 pm

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Scott, seconded by trustee Gabrielle to exit executive session at 7:56pm all were in favor.

The Board exited Executive session at 7:56 pm at which time the board Meeting was adjourned for the evening

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dawn M. Palmateer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dawn" being the most prominent.

Dawn M. Palmateer

Deputy Village Clerk/Treasurer