

# VILLAGE OF ATHENS BOARD MEETING

## MINUTES –January 27, 2021

*Pledge to the Flag.*

**PRESENT:** Mayor Stephan Bradicich, Trustee Gail Lasher, Trustee Robert Scott, Trustee Amy Serrago and Trustee Rickie Gabrielle.

Village Attorney Tal Rappleyea and Clerk-Treasurer Mary Jo Wynne were also present.

### **RESOLUTIONS:**

#### 1. Proposed Resolution Approving Minutes

BE IT RESOLVED, the Minutes from Village Board meeting held on January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021 be approved:

Offered by: Trustee Gabrielle

Seconded by: Trustee Lasher

Record of vote: All in favor

#### 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: Trustee Serrago

Seconded by: Trustee Scott

Record of vote: All in favor

#### 3. Proposed Resolution authorizing the Village Board to hold a Public Hearing on February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021 (Full RESOLUTION attached)

BE IT RESOLVED that, the Village Board authorizes holding a Public Hearing on February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 6:30PM to provide further information about the CDBG program and Grant Application they will be submitting in the amount of \$50,000.00 for the purpose of planning for infrastructure improvements:

Offered by: Trustee Lasher

Seconded by: Trustee Gabrielle

Record of vote: All in favor

#### 4. Proposed Resolution Approving the new Retention and Disposition Schedule for NY Local Government Records (LGS-1)

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Athens Village Board that Retention and Disposition Schedule for New York Local Government Records (LGS-1) issued pursuant to Article 57-A of the Arts and Cultural Affairs Law, and containing legal minimum retention periods for local government records, is hereby adopted for use by all officers in legally disposing of valueless records listed therein.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that in accordance with Article 57-A:

(a) only those records will be disposed of that are described in Retention and Disposition Schedule for New York Local Government Record (LGS-1), after they have met the minimum retention periods described therein;

(b) only those records will be disposed of that do not have sufficient administrative, fiscal, legal, or historical value to merit retention beyond established legal minimum periods.

Offered by: Trustee Serrago

Seconded by: Trustee Scott

Record of vote: All in favor

5. Proposed Resolution Approving the Implementation Committee Resolution (Attached)

A **RESOLUTION** to create an implementation committee for the updated Comprehensive Plan was brought up at the last VB meeting and based upon that discussion revisions were made and presented this evening.

Trustee Serrago summarized the revisions for everyone.

The Mayor asked if there were any questions or comments from the VB or anyone in attendance this evening:

The Mayor also informed everyone that the Town has not yet adopted the updated comprehensive Plan therefore the idea of creating a co-chair with a Town resident will not work at this point.

Trustee Scott asked if passing this Resolution would mean that the Village Board will be bound to the Comprehensive Plan?

Trustee Serrago stated that the Committee is advisory only. The Village Board has final say on anything the committee brings forth.

The Mayor reiterated that the committee would advise, help get the work done, keep the updated 'Comprehensive Plan' moving forward.

Resident Nancy Poylo inquired as to whether it will be the intention of the committee to only concentrate on those items that affect the Village since the Town has not yet adopted the update to the comprehensive Plan? Also, will the appointed members to this committee be a continuation of the steering committee?

Mayor replied 'yes' and 'not necessarily' respectively. He noted that he has worked with Trustee Serrago to complete a list of people they would like to pursue for appointment to this committee. Several, but not all, are from the steering committee.

Resident Josh Lipsman noted that he was the lead on the Steering Committee and thanked the Village Board for taking this step in creating this implementing committee so as not have this plan sit on a shelf. The committee will help, advise and assist the VB in opportunities to implement some of the plans on this updated document.

A **MOTION** was made by Mayor Bradicich to offer the **RESOLUTION** as put forth this evening:

Trustee Lasher votes aye  
Trustee Serrago votes aye  
Trustee Gabrielle votes no  
Trustee Scott votes no  
Mayor votes aye  
**RESOLUTION** passes

Trustee Scott stated that he does not feel that we need to attach this implementation committee to the Comprehensive Plan.

Trustee Lasher noted that the Comprehensive Plan completed in 2007 sat on a shelf for years and not a thing was done with it. This committee will at least try to use it.

Trustee Scott stated that he did vote to pass the Comprehensive Plan as it does provide the Village with opportunities to secure grant money. He also asked if all the VB members could see the list of committee members mentioned before for consideration of appointment to this committee.

The Mayor stated 'yes' and that if any of the other VB members have potential candidates for the committee please email them to him.

Trustee Gabrielle noted that he felt that we have enough committees.

Resident Nancy Poylo also asked, given that she was a member of the steering committee as well, will the public have input on this committee? The public was what provided the information for this update – it was their comments through the surveys that created this document- will they be given the opportunity to participate further?

Trustee Serrago spoke about forming the committee and whether it should be open more to the public or go with the names that they have compiled so far, along with other suggestions from VB members. The Village has a nice cross section of residents and would like to see that on the committee as well.

Resident Lipsman gave his input regarding what characteristics he would like to see in the committee members in order to make this an effective, productive group.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

1. Office of the State Comptroller- Justice Court Fund. Re: Village's Share of funds collected by the Town of Athens court for the month of November and December 2020.
2. NYSDOT. Re: Quarterly SFY 2020-2021 CHIPS, PAVE NY and EWR statement.
3. The Hartford Life & Accident Insurance Company. Re: Policy change effective January 1, 2021. Increase in employee deduction and changes to benefits.
4. NYS Board on Electric Generation Siting and the Environment. Re: Case 17-F-0619. Application of Hecate Energy Greene 1 LLC, Hecate Energy Green 2 LLC and Hecate Energy Green County 3LLC for a certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Discussion of Resolution for Implementation Commission – Comprehensive Plan (RESOLUTION #5)
2. Lawn Mowing Contract
3. Budget preparation – February- letters being sent to department heads
4. Park rules and cleanliness

Trustee Serrago re-visited the idea of providing animal waste bag receptacles and bags at the Riverfront Park. She provided all VB members with further documentation on pricing and product.

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Gabrielle, seconded by Trustee Scott, all in favor to purchase 2 animal waste receptacle stations and waste bags for the Athens Riverfront Park at a cost not to exceed \$300.00.

The Lawn mowing bid for the upcoming growing season was discussed by the VB. Setting the contract up as an annual contract with an auto renewal option. A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lasher, seconded by Trustee Scott, all in favor to advertise the lawn mowing bid for contract this season with mowing beginning April 12 and ending approximately September with verbal ok to mow after Sept. 1, 2021.

Trustee Scott updated the Village Board on construction of the new DPW garage. It should be done early next month.

Auctions International – only thing left for bidders to pick up is the portable radios.

Trustee Scott informed the VB that the DPW Supervisor would like the VB to consider the possibility of hiring a leak detection service as there is an increase in water production at the WFP and increase in flow at the WWTP which means there are undetected leaks throughout the Village thereby also creating I&I. Water production is usually down this time of year. Three prices were received by the DPW for reputable companies to come and assess. Lowest price is 995.00 per day, middle of the road price is 1500.00 per day and the most expensive is 1650.00 per day. It will take up to 2 days to go through the entire village.

Resident Joshua Lipsman noted that there is grant money available for I&I equipment. He had forwarded the information and encourages the VB to consider this.

Trustee Gabrielle inquired as to how long that would take to apply and then receive the money as the work needs to be done soon.

Trustee Serrago asked if there were money in the budget to get it done now.

Trustee Gabrielle stated that there is \$23,000.00 in the fire hydrant appropriation and that work will not be done this year so the DPW would like to use \$5,000.00 of that money for the leak detection.

Trustee Scott noted that he is not opposed to going out for grant money but there is no guarantee that we will receive the grant money. In the mean-time there are leaks.

Trustee Serrago noted that the AVFD did not receive grant money this year that they had anticipated receiving.

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Serrago, seconded by Trustee Scott, all in favor authorizing an expenditure of no more than \$5,000.00 to hire a leak detecting company and audit the entire village water system.

Trustee Gabrielle informed the VB that he has spoken with Joe Myers and Seth Mann of Northdome regarding the situation discussed at the last VB meeting concerning the unreliable and faulty alarm system due to the aging land phone lines. Again, cost to get rid of land lines and install the cellular system is \$3,000.00 and a cost of \$300.00 for the annual subscription. Cell service will be \$50.00 per month.

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Gabrielle, seconded by Trustee Serrago, all in favor, approving authorization to rid the Water Filtration Plant of the land lines for phone service used as the alarm system and go forward with the cellular project for an initial cost of \$3,000.00 with the cost being taken from the repairs and maintenance appropriation in the Water budget.

Trustee Lasher informed the VB that the APD radar which has been out of commission should be back in action this week.

The Mayor noted that they used the new equipment for 1 month and then it has been under repair for 3 months with no loaner.

Trustee Lasher noted that the President of the cultural center asked that there be a few revisions to the current lease. The Attorney will review.

Trustee Lasher also informed the VB that she will be meeting with Josh Lipsman this week regarding installation of the electronic charging station. Noted that consumer use will provide revenue to the village.

Trustee Serrago informed the VB that the Athens Community Garden Committee is looking for space in the village to begin planning for the garden. A few possible sites have been discussed. If anyone knows of village property or private property that someone may want to donate space please inform the committee.

Attorney Rappleyea discussed the status of the sale of the old DPW garage. Title report has been ordered. Possibly closing at the end of February.

The Mayor discussed the fact that there was an impromptu vaccination clinic held at the Rivertown Seniors Center (run by the County) this past week. He urged everyone to get registered so that if the opportunity arises again and there are leftover vaccines they will reach out to those that are registered.

Discussed status of building at 133 N. Washington Street.

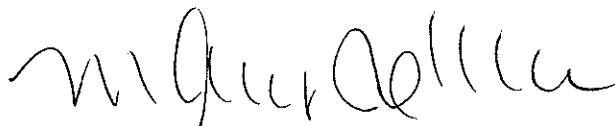
The Mayor informed the VB that the Friends of Athens will be funding the Village Historian to modernize the walking tour of Athens as a phone app.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Fire Protection Contract
2. Lease with the Town

**ADJOURNMENT:**

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Gabrielle, seconded by Trustee Serrago, all in favor to adjourn tonight's meeting at 7:55PM.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Gabrielle', is written at the bottom of the page.