

Village Board Meeting

August 25, 2021

Present: Mayor Serrago, Trustee Lasher, Trustee Gabrielle, Trustee Poylo, and Trustee Lipsman

Meeting began at 6:30pm with the pledge to the flag

PUBLIC:

Tom Riescher- Tom said he came tonight to see what was going on with Murphy Drive. He said there have been less trucks but he is concerned about winter coming and snowplowing.

Mayor Serrago said that the village has been maintaining Murphy Drive for over 10 years. She said they have had a problem tracking down the attorneys. She said that it was Mr. Speenburghs intention to turn the cul de sac over to the village. She said it can be claimed "highway by use". She also said that the trucks are not there when the code/police departments go to check on things.

Attorney Rappleyea said he will check with Dave Buchakians attorney on this.

Mayor Serrago said she is moving forward with the cul de sac and our attorney will chat with Dave's. A letter will be sent and the Village will pave right away. She said they will be getting a "no outlet sign" to put on Murphy Drive.

Historic Brick Row- Leslie Braine explained that Historic Brick Row is a not- for- profit and that a majority of the members live on Brick Row. She read their mission statement to the Board. She said this started years ago when Andrea Smallwood was mayor. It was started to get our street looking more pleasing. In 2019 she said they had all their paperwork together. She named the members that were present at tonight's meeting.

The group went over a list of items they would like to see done on Brick Row and mentioned some things the contractor has decided not to do across the street from Brick Row. They also spoke of drainage issues and issues with water. They would also like the village to monitor the water/sewer.

Mayor Serrago said that in 2013 a study was done because Sleepy Hollow Lake wanted to hook into the village system.

Bob Braine said that they have utilized parking across the street and there is no certified copy stating this property belongs to the person developing the property. He said that this person also claims that the Hagar's Harbor sign is on his property. He has "no trespass signs" up with no survey to prove that we were on his property. He also mentioned that Riverkeeper sent out a report on fecal coliform counts and we have to do better. He said that Sleepy Hollow is expanding their sewer plant and that Brick Row is a unique spot in the village.

Mayor Serrago said that development may be going south. She said the village attorney has heard nothing and the paperwork cannot be executed for the escrow account for the village to do the study. She heard the developer is looking for a buyer. She said that the permit process cannot move forward as there is nothing to permit now. She believes he will not be doing anything and wants to sell.

Tina Chaden- Tina asked if the 2013 study was sufficient and said that a study needs to be done on the water/sewer.

Mayor Serrago said she will look it over and have others look it over as well.

Attorney Rappleyea said that the Planning Board will research all of these matters if an application came before the board. He said their issues would be addressed.

Leslie asked about the village code on the streets and asked if Brick Row would fall under this.

Attorney Rappleyea said that there is an engineering highway handbook to handle highways and parking. It is called an AASHTO manual.

Tina Chaden asked if the village was interested in modernizing the street in Brick Row.

Bob Braine added that they would need another 30ft to make the street better.

Attorney Rappleyea said that there would need to be a title search and survey done. He said it would cost about 6-7,000.00 dollars to do.

Trustee Lispman said that these concerns are of a multi government level. It would cost money to bring it up to heritage and would never be in the village budget, but other levels of government have money for historic areas. I am sure the Mayor would reach out.

Mayor Serrago said that she has a meeting with Hinchey's office scheduled to try and get the village extra footage.

Trustee Lipsman told Historic Brick Row that they made a compelling case to attract State and Federal funding.

Legal Cannabis Discussion- Mayor Serrago said that there is money to be made in taxes from the sale of cannabis. She said we need to decide if we want to opt out, both, or do sales and bars. She said that she would like Trustee Nancy Poylo to chair the newly formed group.

Trustee Poylo said as of now there are no guidelines from the State.

Bob Brunner asked if anyone knew what other neighborhoods are doing.

Trustee Lipsman suggested that maybe a business owner be on the committee.

Trustee Poylo said that she has reached out but no one was interested.

Susan Grille had a question on the zoning of the General Store in case they wanted to have a bar inside.

Mayor Serrago said that the state level will determine and we would have written input and public hearings.

A **MOTION** was made to appoint the Cannabis Committee as follows: Nancy Poylo-Chair, Amy Serrago, Maggie Moree, Sam Sebren, Yves Goldberg, Caitlyn VanValkenburgh, and Mary Jo Wynne. Offered by Trustee Gabrielle, seconded by Trustee Lasher, all were in favor.

APPLICATIONS:

1. Facility use Application- Village Streets. Applicant: Athens Cultural Center
A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lasher, seconded by Trustee Poylo to allow the Cultural Center to use the street on 9/5/2021, all were in favor.

2. Facility use Application – Rainey Field. Applicant: Co-ed Softball League
A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lasher, seconded by Trustee Gabrielle to allow co-ed softball at Rainey Field, all were in favor.

Mayor Serrago also said that a past application for the cigar guy could be amended letting him back into the park,

RESOLUTIONS:

1. Proposed Resolution Approving Minutes
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minutes from Village Board meetings held on July 28th and August 11th, 2021 be approved:

Offered by: Trustee Poylo
Seconded by: Trustee Lasher
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:

General Fund #2068, Vouchers 9920964-9920996 in the amount of \$24,441.38
Youth Fund #105, Vouchers 9920994-9920993 in the amount of \$517.00
Sewer Fund #9921010-9921011 in the amount of \$24,854.33
Water Fund #9921013-9921003 in the amount of \$3581.66

Offered by: Trustee Lipsman
Seconded by: Trustee Lasher
Record of vote: AIF

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Don, Gay and Dino Zegel. Re: Bunker Hill dog park
2. NYS Office of the State Comptroller – Justice Court Fund. Re: Distribution Statement.
3. NYS Homes and Community Renewal. Re: CDBG application.
4. Michael Pirrone. Re: Letter of Appreciation.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Received grant money from Hudson River Valley Greenway for update to Comprehensive Plan- \$9900.00.
2. Proposal received from Greene Computers for update to computer system in Village office- Clerk-Treasurer's computer upgrades \$600.00. Managed Network for both computers \$1091.20. Does not include monitors as of yet.

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Gabrielle, seconded by Trustee Lasher to accept the proposal made by Greene Computers for the purpose of updating the computer system in the Village Office, all were in favor.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Divider for new police car

Mayor Serrago said that we had decided to wait on this when the car was purchased because of the price of the car.

Sgt. Tercasio was present and said that 2 dividers were needed. One for behind the driver and one for the way back of the SUV. He did say they were looking at a few other options. Mayor Serrago said to get some quotes and bring back to the next meeting for approval.

Anthony Proper from the DPW said there is a root problem at 8 South Washington Street. The problem will continue unless the tree is cut down. There is a problem at the main as well. He would need to take the tree and stump. He said it will be a nightmare with the State if we need to dig and do a new sewer line.

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Gabrielle, seconded by Trustee Poylo to take down the tree due to sewer issues. Trustee Lipsman abstained.

Wayne Butterworth –Chief- asked that the fire company be allowed to sell hamburgers and hot dogs during APAC for one more week in the park.

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Gabrielle, seconded by Trustee Poylo allowing the extra date to sell hamburgers and hot dogs in the park, all were in favor.

Anthony Proper-DPW also said they were done with the fuel tank at the sewer plant. He said it could be disposed of.

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Poylo, seconded by Trustee Gabrielle to make the old fuel barrel surplus and authorize disposal of it, all were in favor.

Trustee Lasher- stated that the school contract needed to be signed even though it was not correct. She said it could be amended later. She also said that the new time sheets needed to be discussed before they start using.

Trustee Gabrielle- He said he had a note about Sandra Strauss wanting to talk about Fluoride in the water. He said it should be left the way it is.

Mayor Serrago said she will speak with her about this.

Trustee Poylo-she had nothing to be discussed

Trustee Lipsman- he spoke about the electric vehicle charging permit and the USA tree signs. He would like them to be put North and South of the village maybe by the Welcome to Athens signs.

Mayor Serrago said she will look at the signs and maybe they would be better by the Crossroads sign south of the village.

Trustee Lipsman was wondering if the village could do an announcement for tree trimming like what is done for flushing hydrants.

Anthony Proper said that he is not going to advertise "everything I do every day".

Trustee Lipsman said "you are sounding angry".

Anthony Proper said I am. I don't need to be cutting trees 10-14 feet tall and have people videotaping us.

Trustee Lipsman said that MJ will be signing the STRETCH CODE and sending it in. He said he would like a copy when it is stamped for NYSERDA. He then asked Sgt. Tercasio when code enforcement would be doing the training for Energy Code.

Sgt. Tercasio said he is not sure as code starts school in September and they cannot miss any school.

Trustee Lipsman spoke about the Community Solar campaign. He said we would partner with Community Solar Farms. We would get points for cash and people could save 10% on their energy bills. He said that people would have a choice.

Mayor Serrago said the board is not prepared to vote on this tonight as we still have questions. She said to have the people come to the next meeting.

Tal Rappleyea- he said that he has been working on Murphy Drive and Brick Row. He had nothing on the US Gen timeline. He said once the STRETCH is signed and stamped it would be filed.

Mayor Serrago said that the money for the Comprehensive plan came in. The CDBG did not go through as the notice was not published in time.

Anthony Proper asked if the money could be used out to the lake?

Mayor Serrago said that she knows water/sewer infrastructure can, but she will need to look into it. She said it cannot be used for equipment.

Anthony Proper said he found a harvester for \$69,000.00. He said that one contractor showed up to look at the job at the lake. He never gave a quote. When we tried calling him, he never answered.

Mayor Serrago said she will be meeting with Joe out to the lake. She then asked Trustee Lipsman if he had reached out to Flannery at Peckham...why did you? She said, "he contacted me."

Trustee Lipsman said” I do a lot of things and I don’t tell you”.

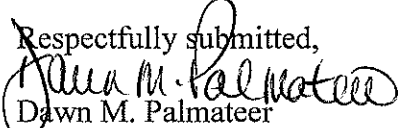
Mayor Serrago said “it’s not the first time”.

A **MOTION** was made by trustee Lasher to go into executive session to discuss a personnel issue. It was seconded by Trustee Gabrielle; all were in favor.

Executive session in time: 8:35pm

Executive session out time: 9:01pm

The regular meeting ended at 8:31pm

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn M. Palmateer