

VILLAGE OF ATHENS BOARD MEETING MINUTES – September 8, 2021

Pledge to the Flag.

PRESENT: Mayor Amy Serrago, Trustee Gail Lasher, Trustee Rickie Gabrielle, Trustee Nancy Poylo and Trustee Dr. Josh Lipsman

Clerk-Treasurer Mary Jo Wynne was present for the purpose of taking Minutes.

DEPARTMENT HEADS:

1. Northdome – Joe Myers

Reported on the Water Filtration Plant and the Wastewater Treatment Plants in the village.

2. DPW - Wayne Butterworth (DPW laborer) stood in for Mr. Proper (DPW Director)

Informed the VB that the week of the Street Festival (September 18th) the DPW will be working Friday and taking Monday off.

3. Fire Department – Chief Wayne Butterworth

Chief Butterworth and Peter Alberti, representing the Fire Truck Committee, presented information to the VB on the Fire truck that they would like the Village to purchase.

Mayor Serrago noted that she had met with the truck committee this past week regarding the new truck. The bond for the construction of the firehouse will be paid off in 2022 so instead of making a payment on the firehouse we will make a payment on the truck. It should not affect the budget.

The truck committee has already met with Don MacCormack of the Bank of Greene County and a representative of Garrison Fire to discuss purchase and finance of the truck.

Trustee Gabrielle asked how much this new fire truck will cost?

Mr. Alberti replied that they are trying not to exceed \$750,000.00. The price will be going up at the end of October so it is important to act now.

Trustee Gabrielle asked why there needs to be such a big tank on the truck?

Mr. Alberti replied that the village has an obligation to provide the town with protection and this truck is geared towards town protection.

Discussion ensued regarding the cost of the truck and the uncertainty of the future of the community center building and costs associated with that.

It was also mentioned that the process of purchasing and borrowing could lead to a referendum if petitioned by the public.

The Mayor mentioned that perhaps a public information meeting concerning the purchase of a new firetruck could be scheduled.

Trustee Lasher noted that she was on the Village Board the last time a new fire truck was purchased and financed by the Village. At that time the Village Board was told that that truck would fulfill the village's needs for a very long time and there would be no need to purchase a new truck for many, many years to come and also that they would not need to repair and maintain the older trucks as much which would cut down on costs.

Both Chief Butterworth and Mr. Alberti stated that that person is no longer in the fire department and that was not a true statement.

4. Code Enforcement – Jeff Ruso

Noted that Code Enforcement Officers Ruso and Tercasio met with the Mayor and CEO liaison regarding scheduling office hours and also discussed time sheets to better account for code hours and police hours. Office hours will be from 10:00AM to 2:00PM Monday, Wednesday and Fridays. Estimating that those hours should keep them in their budgeted amount.

The two officers have started Code Enforcement School at the College. They are looking for permission to purchase a set of text books for a cost of \$935.60.

A MOTION was made by Trustee Lipsman, seconded by Trustee Poylo, all in favor to approve the purchase of 1 set of textbooks for Code Enforcement for a cost of \$935.60.

5. Athens Police Dept. - Chief Roger Masse

Requested the VB appoint Brian Kozloski as a part-time police officer.

A MOTION was made by Trustee Lipsman, seconded by Trustee Lasher, all in favor, approving the appointment of Brian Kozloski to the position of pt time police officer for the Village of Athens.

PUBLIC:

1. Clayton Gamble – Nexamp Representative and Jill Henck- Capital District Regional Planning Commission

Both Mr. Gamble and Ms. Henck attended the meeting this evening to discuss the Community Solar Campaign that the village is interest in pursuing for their residents.

Residents must opt in to the program in order to save at least 10% on their energy bills.

The Mayor asked how the outreach will work? If we opt in will Nexamp have an actual phone number in which residents can ask direct questions to Nexamp?

Nexamp does all of the outreach.

VB inquired as to what action needs to be taken now in order to be entered into the program?

Trustee Lipsman stated that it requires a scoping document which has already been completed.

A **RESOLUTION** was made by Trustee Lipsman, seconded by Trustee Lasher, all in favor, to partner with NEXAMP in a Community Solar Campaign as part of the NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities Program:

Trustee Poylo votes aye

Trustee Gabrielle votes no

Mayor Serrago votes aye

RESOLUTION passes.

APPLICATIONS:

1. Facility use Application- Athens Community Center gym. Applicant: Elizabeth Bruning. A

MOTION was made by Trustee Poylo, seconded by Trustee Lasher, all in favor, to approve application as submitted pending the applicant signing a 'hold harmless' agreement.

2. Facility use Application – Athens Riverfront Park. Applicant: Car club. A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Gabrielle, seconded by Trustee Poylo, all in favor approving the application as submitted.

RESOLUTIONS:

1. Proposed Resolution Approving Minutes

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minutes from Village Board meeting held on August 25th, 2021 be approved:

TABLED

Offered by:

Seconded by:

Record of vote:

2. Proposed Resolution Approving Payment of Vouchers as Presented

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

GENERAL FUND – Abstract #2070, vouchers numbered #9921020 through #9921043 in the amount of \$20,919.86

WATER FUND – Abstract #10509, vouchers numbered #9921044 through #9921050 in the amount of \$30,688.60

SEWER FUND – Abstract #10493, vouchers numbered #9921051 and voucher number #9921052 in the amount of \$528.62:

Offered by: Trustee Gabrielle

Seconded by: Trustee Lasher

Record of vote: All in favor

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Marya Warshaw. Re: Meetings

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Open Meetings Law discussion

Discussion ensued regarding whether to return to Zoom meetings given the Governor's new directives.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Community building
2. DPW garage construction

BAN Renewal is coming up and the village cost for entire building project are being reviewed.

BAN amount was 950,000.00 while the original Resolution allows the village to borrow up to \$1,075,000.

ADJOURNMENT:

A MOTION was made by Trustee Gabrielle, seconded by Trustee Poylo, all in favor, to adjourn meeting at 8:35PM