

**VILLAGE OF ATHENS BOARD MEETING**  
**MINUTES – April 13, 2022**

*Pledge to the Flag*

Meeting held at the Athens Firehouse -39 Third Street at 6:30PM

PRESENT: Mayor Amy Serrago, Trustee Gail Lasher, Trustee Nancy Poylo, Trustee Joshua Lipsman and Trustee Robert Scott  
Clerk-Treasurer Mary Jo Wynne was present for the purpose of taking minutes

*PUBLIC HEARING- TENTATIVE BUDGET*

Mayor opened the Public Hearing for comments from the public.

Village resident Robert Brunner commented on the Increase for Mayor and increase in tax rate.

Mayor stated that the line item for Mayor and Trustees has not increased in over 25 years and the amount of work and time involved over the past several years has increased substantially. In order to make these elected positions more desirable for people to run for this office the salaries should be increased.

Clerk-Treasurer noted that the tentative budget shows a 14.5% increase in tax rate but that is just a starting point for work to be done and there will be cuts to appropriations in the coming weeks.

Resident Marya Warshaw commented remotely that it is clear that there have been no raises in years for the Mayor position and that the raises are warranted based upon the needs of the job. The increase in salary is also good because it will make people more apt to run for office.

Residents Ellen and Merrill Roth remotely agreed with Marya Warshaw.

No other public comment.

*CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING at 6:45PM*

*Regular work meeting begins*

**DEPARTMENT HEADS:**

1. Water & Sewer – Joe Myers- Northdome

Discussed:

- TTHM violation and notices to water users
- Flushing water lines
- Assisting the DPW with water breaks
- Working to complete NYSERDA grant project at the WWTP

2. DPW – Anthony Proper

Informed the VB about a tree complaint at 32 N. Franklin Street. The resident states that the sidewalk is lifting due to the roots and there are several limbs lying on the roof. The homeowner would like it removed. The homeowner would like to replace the roof but not with the limbs the way that they are.

The VB discussed whether to remove the tree or not.

Trustee Lasher and Trustee Scott noted that they felt the Village was put on notice for this problem and should act.

Mayor Serrago asked if perhaps a tree could be planted there to replace it.

Trustee Lipsman recommended the issue be discussed by the CAC committee.

Mayor asked if a determination could be made quickly?

Trustee Lipsman replied 'yes' and also that it does not appear to be an emergency.

DPW Director Anthony Proper also noted that he will be making a new water line where the water leak that was mentioned at the previous meeting is. Looking for approval as it only affects one house.

VB agreed that would be fine.

VB agreed to pave all of Union Street at a cost of \$93,000.00 (CHIPS money).

Mr. Proper discussed a recent complaint made by the Stewart House in regard to low lying areas around their building creating a water situation in the street and also the uneven sidewalks are a problem.

Discussion will be tabled until all VB members have a chance to look at the area in question.

### 3. Athens Volunteer Fire Department- Chief Wayne Butterworth

Chief Butterworth discussed the extra expense for the Airpaks needed for the new firetruck. The cost for the added expense is \$60,427.74. Chief Butterworth would like to use the money that was raised for the sale of the 2 vehicles from the fire Department (\$20,000) and \$10,000.0 from equipment and then finance the rest of the cost (\$30,427.74) through MES. Each year the payment will be taken from the Fire Dept. equipment line item (A3410.2).

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lipsman, seconded by Trustee Poylo, all in favor, approving purchase of airpaks for the new fire truck based upon the Fire chief's proposal as submitted.

Trustee lasher asked why this was not included in the bid price.

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Poylo, seconded by Trustee Scott, all in favor approving removal of junipers from the Firehouse grounds (those directly across from the main entrance to the Firehouse) as discussed by VB and Fire Chief.

### 4. Athens Police Department – Chief Roger Masse

Discussed the vandalism at Riverfront Park and possible restitution.

Would like to discuss a personnel issue with the VB

Mayor stated that they would wait until the end of the meeting and go into executive session

### 5. Code Enforcement – Officer Ruso and Officer Tercasio

Informed the VB that they have been busy doing fire inspections and violations.

## **APPLICATIONS:**

1. Facility use application. Riverfront Park. Applicant: Athens Cultural Center. A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lasher, seconded by Trustee Poylo, all in favor approving application as submitted.
2. Facility use application. Streets. Applicant: American Legion Post TGM187. A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lasher, seconded by Trustee Lipsman, all in favor approving application as submitted
3. Facility use application. Riverfront Park. Applicant: Lighthouse Church. A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Poylo, seconded by Trustee Scott, all in favor approving application as submitted.
4. Facility use application. Riverfront Park and part of Water Street. Applicant: Lighthouse Church. A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lasher, seconded by Trustee Scott, all in favor approving application as submitted.
5. Outdoor entertainment permit. Athens Community Day. Applicant: Lighthouse Church. A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Poylo, seconded by Trustee Lasher, all in favor approving application as submitted
6. Outdoor entertainment permit. Sunday afternoons and June 11 as per application. Applicant: Stewart House. A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lasher, seconded by Trustee Lipsman, all in favor approving application as submitted.
7. Facility use application. Riverfront Park. Applicant: Anthony Proper. A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Poylo, seconded by Trustee Scott, all in favor approving application as submitted,

## **RESOLUTIONS:**

### 1. Proposed Resolution Approving Minutes

BE IT RESOLVED, that Minutes from Village Board meetings held on March 23rd, March 9th and April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022 be approved:

Offered by: Trustee Lasher

Seconded by: Trustee Lipsman

Record of vote: All in favor

### 2. Proposed Resolution Approving Payment of Vouchers as Presented on Abstracts

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

GENERAL FUND – Abstract #2091, vouchers numbered #9921542 through #9921574 in the amount of \$46449.35

WATER FUND – Abstract #10523, voucher numbered #9921583 through #9921587 in the amount of \$2532.61

SEWER FUND – Abstract #10507, vouchers numbered #9921577 through #9921579 in the amount of \$4108.45

Offered by: Trustee Poylo

Seconded by: Trustee Scott

Record of vote: All in favor

### 3. Proposed Resolution Approving Local Law #1 of 2022

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board approve enacting Local Law #1 of the Village of Athens overriding the tax levy limit established in General Municipal Law §3-C:

Offered by: Trustee Lipsman

Seconded by: Trustee Poylo

Record of vote: All in favor

### 4. Proposed Resolution Approving Local Law #2 of 2022

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board approve enacting Local Law #2 of the Village of Athens enacting the Civilian Oversight in Policing Draft Law created in accordance with the New York State Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative, Governor's Executive Order 203 of 2020:

Offered by: Trustee Lasher

Seconded by: Trustee Poylo

Record of vote: All in favor

5. Proposed Resolution Approving the following Appropriation Transfers:

**WATER FUND**

**\$1675.00** transfer from appropriation F8340.4T (hydrant replacement) to the following appropriations:

F8340.4E (internet) \$275.00

F8340.4G (heat) \$700.00

F8340.4H (alarm) \$700.00

**SEWER FUND**

**\$2350.00** transfer from appropriation G8130.4T (repairs/maintenance) to

G8130.4L (sewer maintenance) - \$950.0

G8130.4E (sewer plant chemicals) – 1400.00

**GENERAL FUND**

**\$700.00** transfer from Appropriation A7110.1 (parks mowing) to A8160.4B V/T cleanup

**\$225.00** transfer from Appropriation A3410.4C (fire blds/grounds) to A3410.4D (fire phones)

**\$1000.00** transfer from Appropriation A5132.4B (garage heat) to A5132.4C (garage phones)

**\$9245.63** transfer from Appropriation A5110.4D (road materials) to A5142.1 (snow labor) 7103.63 and A5142.4 (snow misc.) 2142.00

**\$923.00** transfer from Appropriation A9015.8 (police retirement) to A9010.9 (ERS retirement)

**\$5036.74** transfer from Appropriation A9060.8 (hospitalization) to A9040.8 (Workman's comp)

**\$8100.00** transfer from Appropriation A3120.42 (police training) to A3120.2 (police equipment) 100.00,

A3120.4COMPU (police computer maintenance) 1000.00, A3120.42 (police misc. exp) 5900.00, A3120.42D (vehicle fuel) 1100.00

Offered by: Trustee Lipsman

Seconded by: Trustee Lasher

Record of vote: All in favor

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

1. Greene County Legislature. Re: Greene County Multijurisdictional Hazard Mitigation and Resiliency Plan.

2. Rick Rabideau, PH.D. Re: Taxation/Sleepy Hollow Lake.

3. Athens Waterfront Committee. Re: Hudson Eagles Restoration Project.

No discrepancies with LWRP. Mayor asked that if the Trustees have remarks/comments regarding the WAC findings to forward to her. She will be composing a letter.

Dredging was discussed as it is highly recommended but that that will probably need to be something the VB will need to pursue separately by reaching out to our representatives

4. Athens Fire Department. Re: Hall rental and use application.

5. Greene County Office of the Administrator. Re: Resolution No. 61-10. Demolition costs.

6. Greene County Office of the Administrator. Re: Greene County ARPA funds.

Proposal for sliplining entire village was discussed and will be forwarded to the county in hopes of being funded.

7. Iroquois Report. Re: Spring Safety issue.

**BUSINESS:**

1. Fire Truck debt schedule

Fire Truck Debt Schedule was discussed by the Village Board.

A **RESOLUTION** was made by Trustee Lipsman, seconded by Trustee Scott, all in favor, that a longer term, lower payment per year Debt Schedule for payments on the fire truck is preferable when we finalize the LTD.

2. Town of Athens punch list

3. Air Quality Study

Village Board discussed at length the proposal for the Air quality Study given to them by the Town of Athens for the Community Center.

A **MOTION** was made to approve going forth with the Air quality study as presented by the Town of Athens at a cost of \$1800.00:

Trustee Scott makes the **MOTION**

Trustee Poylo Seconds

Trustee Lasher votes aye

Mayor Serrago votes aye

Trustee Lipsman votes no

**APPROVED**

4. Community Project Funding Application potential

Jason Preisner, Lamont Engineering suggests putting in a grant for an engineering study of the Community Center building.

5. Appropriation transfers (Resolution above)

5. Budget discussion

A Budget workshop is scheduled for April 20, 2022 at 7:00PM. Clerk instructed to publish in the Catskill Daily Mail 'calendar of events' section.

Trustee Poylo discussed security cameras at Riverfront Park with the VB. The first step will be to have WiFi installed at Riverfront Park.

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lipsman, seconded by Trustee Lasher, all in favor, to approve exploring the possibility of having Wifi installed at the Riverfront Park.

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lasher, seconded by Trustee Scott, all in favor to enter into **EXECUTIVE SESSION** at 9:15 PM to discuss personnel matters with Chief Roger Masse and Sargent Tercasio

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lasher, seconded by Trustee Scott, all in favor to exit **EXECUTIVE SESSION** and resume the regular work meeting at ???

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Time?