

Village of Athens Board Meeting
June 22, 2022

Present: Mayor Serrago, Trustee Lipsman, Trustee Scott, Trustee Lasher, Attorney Rappelyea
Absent: Trustee Bradicich

Pledge to the flag

Meeting began at 6:30pm with the public hearing. The purpose of the public hearing was to hear public comment on the proposed adoption of local law #5 repealing local law #1 of 2022 to override the tax levy limit established in General Municipal Law 3-c.

The meeting opened for public comment. Mayor Serrago asked 3 times for comments and there were none.

At 6:40pm a **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lasher, seconded by Trustee Lipsman to close the public hearing, all were in favor.

APPLICATIONS:

1. Facility use application: Riverside Park. Applicant: Paddock Club

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lasher, seconded by Trustee Scott to allow the Paddock Club to sell food the night of APAC. All were in favor

2. Facility use application: Riverside Park. Applicant: D.R. Evarts Library

A **MOTION** was made to by Trustee Lipsman, seconded by Trustee Lasher to allow the library to have yoga in the park. All were in favor.

3. Permit to Peddle. Applicant: Samuel's Educational Resources

After a discussion, a **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lasher, seconded by Trustee Scott to deny the door to door sales. Trustee Lipsman abstained from the vote.

RESOLUTIONS:

1. Proposed Resolution Approving Minutes

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board approve Minutes from Meeting held on June 8, 2022:

Offered by: Trustee Scott

Seconded by: Mayor Serrago

Record of Vote: all were in favor

There was a question about the vests in the minutes that Trustee Lasher asked. The question was about the vest bill received by the police department. Mayor Serrago cleared this up as she had spoken with Sgt. Tercasio.

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 Abstract #2100, vouchers # 9921727-9921748 Amt. \$14,064.59

Sewer Abstract #10513, vouchers #9921725-9921726 Amt. \$80.71

Youth Abstract #106, vouchers #9921749-9927151, Amt. \$280.00

Offered by: Trustee Lipsman

Seconded by: Trustee Lasher

Record of Vote: all were in favor

3. Proposed Resolution Supporting HALPS request for support (Resolution attached)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board supports the restoration of the Hudson-Athens Lighthouse and funding under the NYS Environmental Protection Fund:

Offered by: Trustee Lipsman

Seconded by: Trustee Lasher

Record of Vote: all were in favor

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Karen Schrader – GCVFA Treasurer. Re: Meetings and Insurance certificate
2. Christian Pfister. Re: Copy of letter sent to the Athens Town Board

Mayor Serrago said that she and Trustee Lasher attended the Town Board Meeting and that the Village and Town will meet jointly on July 20th. She said a lot of it will be in executive session. She said we will come up with an agenda with items to discuss. Trustee Lipsman said maybe we could discuss ways the Village and Town could work together. Mayor Serrago said she will meet with the Town Supervisor about things like grants and committees.

Rob Brunner asked why meet in executive session?

Attorney Rappelyea said any time the lease of real property is discussed meetings are in executive session as it could affect the public.

Mayor Serrago said she will report as much as I am able to report and explain before we go into executive session.

BUSINESS:

1. Sale of DPW garage – Resolution to move those funds to the Municipal Building Reserve Fund

A **MOTION** was made to move \$174,149.52 to the Municipal Building Reserve Fund by Trustee Lasher, seconded by Trustee Scott, all were in favor.

2. Ambient Environmental, Inc. – results of air quality study

Mayor Serrago stated there were some issues. There were issues in the gym and the hallway to the gym. She said there were recommendations for cleaning and remediation that would be about \$10,000 to \$15,000 to do. She recommended some things we can do ourselves, such as

dehumidifiers. She said the meeting room was the worst. She read where else they had tested and said work would be done by remediation.

Trustee Lipsman asked about the plans after this is taken care of as we were planning some renovations. He said anything our guys can do have them do it.

Mayor Serrago said we will start with recommendations and see where we end up. If the DPW cannot do it we can contract out.

Mayor Serrago said that on Monday Senator Schumer visited to talk about Athens. She said that they talked about the building and the lighthouse. They are looking into Federal funding. Jason Preisner also attended.

Sgt. Ruso spoke about FirstNet. He spoke about hotspots and the cost, plus the cost of the phone. He said that Sgt. Cole had been working with AT&T and he said they will get it in the next few weeks. He said it would be a \$100.00 increase out of their budget. He also spoke about the cost of computer mounts for the cars. He said they were \$3450.95. He spoke about state contracting and that this was the only mount available.

Mayor Serrago said this is something they need, so maybe do a little more digging around. She also asked the Village Attorney if these are the only ones around how would the money be moved and he said a budget amendment would need to be done.

Rob Brunner asked if they had checked into cars that have been taken out of service.

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lipsman, seconded by Trustee Lasher and all were in favor to allow the Police Department to get the FirstNet program.

The police department was asked to keep looking around for the mounts as there is no money in the budget. Mayor Serrago said due diligence on the mounts.

Sgt. Ruso also mentioned that the County was advertising the police exam. He asked the Mayor to put it on Facebook.

Trustee Scott- Gave an update on summer recreation and said that the Wayne Street property has been mowed and cleaned up. It will cost \$95.00 every 2 weeks.

Trustee Lasher- is filling out the firework display application for the Street Festival and asked if it could be approved.

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Scott, seconded by Trustee Lipsman and all were in favor to approve the firework application.

Trustee Lipsman- mentioned the matching Greenway grant. He said the arborist will start with a tree management plan. He said that the municipal solar contract had been signed. He said that the

Community Choice Aggregation program recommends we hold off as Central Hudson is low right now. He said they cannot keep that price for long. He said the Community Choice prices will be better. He then said he was looking into heating and cooling alternatives for the Community Center building. He has been looking into non greenhouse gas alternatives. He spoke about geothermal as a source. He also mentioned when the Lighthouse tours would begin.

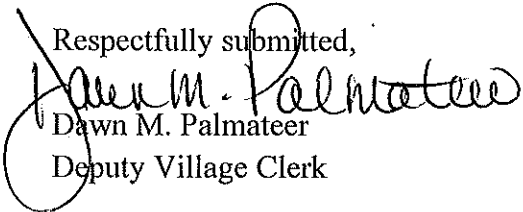
Mayor Serrago brought up that a new restaurant is coming into town would like to have sidewalk dining. She asked the Village attorney what would need to be done.

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lipsman, seconded by Trustee Lasher, all were in favor to close the regular meeting at 7:43pm and then enter executive session to discuss litigation.

The board came out of executive session at 8:29.

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lasher, seconded by Trustee Scott to close the meeting. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,



Dawn M. Palmateer

Deputy Village Clerk