

Athens Village Board Meeting

August 10, 2022

Present: Mayor Serrago, Trustee Lasher, Trustee Lipsman, and Trustee Scott

Absent: Stephan Bradicich

Meeting began with the pledge at 6:31pm.

Public:

Andrea Smallwood and Todd Bernard were present to give an update on the Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee. They gave an update on the issues the committee has been working on and discussing. They spoke about a plan for the main street, working with the Village and Town governments, expanding municipal parking, Riverfront Park, barge removal and many other items that need addressing. They said a development committee would need to be formed. They said by laws would need to be set up.

Mayor Serrago asked if private fundraising could be done for some of the items discussed. She also said that maybe this could be brought up at the joint Village and Town Meeting that is scheduled.

DEPARTMENT HEADS:

1. Water & Sewer – Joe Myers- Northdome

Joe Myers said that there was an issue with the water this past week, but it looks like we are up and running. He said that feedback from residents is critical when issues like this arise. He said the pump tripped and on Saturday evening the problem started. He said it is critical to get there when the pump trips. He also stated the drought is bad this year.

Marya Warshaw resident said that we are in a drought and having issues with the water. She said we pay a lot of money for the water and now we are buying water and that gets expensive. We should expect clean water. She said this is an extreme ongoing problem.

Mayor Serrago said the boards' main focus is the water, sewer and the buildings. She said they have been her main concern since taking office. She said we need infrastructure money. She said the board is committed to this issue. She said she has spoke to Chuck Schumer on this issue. She also said she is proud of the work that has been done so far. She said this problem had emergency status and will take significant time to get the parts needed. She said that it will be paid for with the ARPA money. The part needed cost \$69,000.00 and the cleaning of it will be \$20,000.00.

Trustee Lipsman asked if preventative cleaning gets done on this.

Joe Myers said that the collection laterals come out and get washed down. He said that a second engineer came out to look at this problem and he had never seen a failure like this.

There was a discussion on PVC vs Steel. Joe said if steel was welded it is less likely to happen again. They did say it is the same thing that failed 5 years ago.

2. DPW – Anthony Proper

Anthony has 2 quotes to have the brush pile chipped. Van Etten is \$9,500.00 and the other company is \$11,000.00. He said that the Town pays half. He said that GroMax has been taking the chips and will come back and get the leaf pile as well. He said paving will be done in September early October. He said that the leak detection guy was here and found some leaks. He said he is waiting for the valves to come in and then he will fix the Second Street leak. He also said that the old water line in the woods was repaired today. He said there is a tree at 51 South Washington Street that is tagged and is dead. He said the County can take it down but they are busy up the mountain and in Coxsackie right now.

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lasher to hire Van Etten at the \$9500.00 price to chip the wood pile seconded by Trustee Scott, all were in favor.

3. Athens Volunteer Fire Department- Chief Wayne Butterworth

Wayne brought the new restricted member present that was approved at the last board meeting for everyone to meet. Mayor Serrago thanked the fire company for getting kids involved.

4. Athens Police Department – Chief Roger Masse(Absent)

Sgt. Tercasio said that July was an uneventful month. He also said the SRO email has been sent to the school and when it comes back he will have the Mayor sign. He said that they had 3 quotes to have the computers put into the cars. They came from Rivervalley, Niskayuna, and Toads. Rivervalley came in at \$1,415.255 per car with a \$100.00 surge protector for each car.

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lipsman, seconded by Trustee Lasher to have the computers installed by Rivervalley and all were in favor.

Sgt. Tercasio also said that the AED needs new pads and batteries.

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lipsman, seconded by Trustee Lasher to purchase the batteries for the AED, all were in favor.

5. Code Enforcement – Sgt. Tercasio

Sgt. Tercasio said there has not been much new just the normal activity. He said the only thing coming up is that Code Enforcement will need new books as they only have one set. He said a 3 year subscription could be bought as they need the new edition every year. He said the current subscription is up the end of October.

APPLICATIONS:

1. Restricted Active Member Application- Ethan Ravenscroft

This was approved at the last meeting.

2. Facility Use Application-Close Second Street between Franklin and Washington Streets. Applicant: Athens Cultural Center

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Scott, seconded by Trustee Lasher to allow the closing of the street, all were in favor.

3. Facility Use Application- Riverside Park. Applicant: Edward Swart (Car Club)

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lipsman, seconded by Trustee Lasher to allow the use of the park by the car club, all were in favor.

RESOLUTIONS:

1. Proposed Resolution Approving Minutes

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minutes from the Village Board meeting held on July 27th, 2022 be approved:

Offered by: Trustee Lipsman

Seconded by: Trustee Lasher

Record of vote: all were 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:

Offered by:

Seconded by:
Record of vote:

There were no vouchers to present at this meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. NYSOSC Justice Court Fund. Distribution Summary-May and June 2022
\$175.00 was received for the month of May and \$25.00 for the month of June.
2. Monaco, Cooper, Lamme & Carr, PLLC. Re: Notice of Petition and Petition – APO of Sleepy Hollow Lake, Inc. vs. Dawn DeRose, as Assessor of the Town of Athens, et al.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Resident called about Tree on 51 South Washington Street. The tree is dead and would like removed-Anthony has looked at it.
2. "Quit claim deed "North Church Street
A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lipsman, seconded by Trustee Lasher to execute the quit claim deed, all were in favor.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Applications for the Civilian Oversight in Policing Committee- there were 4 applications and 9 are needed. This will be looked at in executive session
2. Property Clean Up on Wayne Street-Flats Brothers has been taking care of this. We will have them keep an eye on this for another clean up and it was discussed to have them do the bushes at the park as they need some sprucing up.
3. Restore NY- The boards intent is to apply for this grant. They will need to apply tomorrow. Trustee Lipsman said that this would help restore the vacant building. The Village would need to put in 10 percent. Trustee Lipsman would like to have it named the Athens Riverene Living Museum and Education Center. He discussed all the organizations that may be interested in using the building

Trustee Scott- He discussed an issue at the dog park as the fence is damaged and he had the DPW fill some holes around it. He said that people are not being responsible. He said there is money in the Dog Park account so he will reach out to the fence people. He is thinking about putting on the internet that volunteers are needed for the dog park.

Trustee Lasher- did not have anything.

Trustee Lipsman- He asked about the hedge at Third Street and Washington as it has grown quite large. Mayor Serrago said she will check with Sgt. Tercasio on that. He also mentioned a parking issue near the bank.

Mayor Serrago- She said that there were no bids came in on the mini splits for the Village Office. She said that will need to be posted again. She also mentioned that she has no information on the Hazard Mitigation Plan. She said that Joe and Jason did do one in 2016 and she wondered if anything was accomplished. She also mentioned she would put a sign up out again for Yard Sale Day and that the newsletter will be out on September 2nd.

Clerk- She said that a woman came in and wanted to know if the Welcome to Athens signs could be painted as they are not looking good anymore.

Mayor Serrago said that Chris Pfister talked about them recently and that the Friends of Athens might have all the Village signs redone.

A **Motion** was made by Trustee Scott, seconded by Trustee Lipsman to enter executive session at 7:52pm, all were in favor.

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lipsman, seconded by Trustee Lasher to end the executive session at 8:24pm, all were in favor.

ADJOURNMENT:

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lipsman, seconded by Trustee Scott to end the regular meeting at 8:25pm, all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn M. Palmateer
Deputy Clerk