

**VILLAGE OF ATHENS BOARD MEETING
MINUTES – August 24, 2022**

Pledge to the Flag.

PRESENT: Mayor Amy Serrago, Trustee Gail Lasher, Trustee Josh Lipsman, Trustee Rob Scott
ABSENT: Trustee Stephan Bradicich

Village Attorney Tal Rappleyea was also present.

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

PUBLIC:

1. Chris Pfister, resident of the village, attended the meeting to follow-up on several items previously discussed:

- The entrances to the village on State Route 385 are visually poor. The North entrance has a trailer that has been deteriorating for quite some time- probably a code issue. He also mentioned that it would be nice to have some type of master plan for some trees or vegetation in this area.

The growth at the south entrance towards the river is overgrown and limits the visibility of the river. The village has cleared it in the past, but it might be time to reach out to the property owner adjacent to that land and ask if they would trim it as they had done several years ago.

- The signs at both entrances to the village are also in poor shape, as are several in the village. He will contact the vendor that originally made the signs and inquire about having them replaced.
- He questioned the area at the front of the firehouse where the shrubs were torn out. He asked Fire Chief Butterworth when that would be completed. He understands that it is due to extending the parking there so as long as a plan is in place it's fine.
- The trees that were planted 3 years ago by the Friends of Athens need to be pruned. They are 'street trees' and if they aren't tended to in a responsible manner they will become problems.

Trustee Lipsman mentioned that the 'Friends of Athens' have contributed to a tree management study which will provide an updated inventory and management guide to trees throughout the village. This will allow them to keep an eye on the condition of trees and maintain them regularly.

Mr. Pfister reiterated that the trees need to be pruned soon because they are street trees and need care, otherwise they will become problems. FOA talked about having them pruned two years ago and a study does not need to be complete to actually see what needs to be done and do it.

The village has to take some involvement as well. Perhaps the FOA can pay to hire someone to prune them?

The Mayor mentioned that perhaps there should be a contract between FOA and the village to prune trees

Discussion ensued regarding who should trim/prune them and who should pay and how etc.

It was mentioned that the FOA should discuss it at a meeting. Also noted that the meetings are unreliable in that they get rescheduled or don't happen at all.

- The kayak launch on Fourth Street is in need of some attention. Parts of the boardwalk are rotted and the fence in the back is falling apart.

Mr. Pfister thanked the village DPW for cleaning up the ferry slip. It looks very nice.

APPLICATIONS:

1. Facility Use Application- Rainey Field. Applicant: Co-Ed Softball League
A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Scott, seconded by Trustee Lasher, all in favor approving application pending that they contribute to the cost of the port-o-lets.
2. Facility Use Application- Community Center gym. Applicant: Greene County Outlaws
A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lasher, seconded by Trustee Lipsman, all in favor approving the application as submitted.
3. Facility Use Application – Riverfront Park. Applicant: Marya Warshaw
A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lipsman, seconded by Trustee Scott, all in favor, approving application as submitted.

RESOLUTIONS:

1. Proposed Resolution Approving Minutes
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minutes from the joint Village and Town Board meeting held on August 17th, 2022 and Village Board meeting held on July 10th, 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 #2105, vouchers numbered #9921848 through #9921894 in the amount of \$111,386.74
WATER FUND – Abstract #10531, vouchers numbered #9921907 through #9921915 in the amount of \$28,812.19
SEWER FUND – Abstract #10516, vouchers numbered #9921895 through #9921906 in the amount of \$35981.80
Offered by: Trustee Scott
Seconded by: Trustee Lasher
Record of vote: All in favor
3. Proposed Resolution authorizing work to be completed at the WFP
WHEREAS the Village's Water Filtration Plant experienced an underdrain failure and the treatment unit is out of service, creating an emergency water situation for Athens water users, in order to rectify the situation cost estimates were provided by Lamont Engineering with Koester Associates to complete the projected work, and

WHEREAS the cost to replace the underdrain in the failed filter unit is \$69,098.00 including replacement media for the filter and the underdrain installed labor, and

WHEREAS the equipment and labor to remove and replace the filter media with a vac truck will be an estimated \$20,000.00, and

WHEREAS another \$28,800.00 is recommended to be spent to replace the pneumatic process valves on both filter units to prevent failure to the remaining filter unit bring the total estimated cost of all repairs at the WFP to be \$117,898.00, and

WHEREAS the Village of Athens has asked the County of Greene for a share of their ARPA monies to finance this repair at the Water Filtration Plant.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the County of Greene has approved to reimburse the village for costs related to the emergency repair of the underdrain filter at the Water Filtration Plant estimated to be \$117,898.00 with ARPA monies the County has received;

Offered by: Trustee Lasher
Seconded by: Trustee Scott
Record of vote: Trustee Lipsman votes nay
Mayor Serrago votes aye
Absent: Trustee Bradicich

RESOLUTION PASSES

Trustee Lipsman wanted to state for the record that he is against voting in favor of this Resolution due to the fact that the proposal approves the use of stainless steel as opposed to PVC in the underdrain which is more expensive.

Discussion ensued regarding the choice between replacing the faulty underdrain with stainless steel or PVC plastic.

The Mayor stated that after discussion with the engineer and given the fact that this device was made of PVC and failed she felt that the extra approximately \$13000.00 for the stainless steel was the better choice.

4. Proposed Resolution accepting Resignation

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village is in receipt of the resignation and retirement of DPW Supervisor Anthony Proper effective August 31st, 2022:

Offered by: Trustee Scott
Seconded by: Trustee Lasher
Record of vote: All in favor

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Greene County Department of Human Services. Re: Memorandum of Understanding
2. Sleepy Hollow Lake- Janet Kaplan President, Board of Directors. Re: Copy of letter sent to Greene County IDA – Flint Mine/Water Supply concerns
3. Home Sweet Home of Athens. Re: Carnival Block Party
4. Cossackie-Athens Central School District. Re: Agreement – “Building Use During Times of Crisis”

NEW BUSINESS:

Trustee Lipsman informed the VB that tree #383 has been evaluated by the arborist and as a result he has recommended that the village take the tree down. A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lipsman, seconded by Trustee Lasher, all in favor to remove tree #383 at the recommendation of the arborist.

Trustee Lipsman discussed the RESTORE NY grant application as it pertains to the proposed Athens Riverine Living Museum and Education Center. The village is eligible for up to \$727,000.00. He is in the process of getting cost ranges for electric, plumbing etc.

Trustee Lipsman inquired as to whether code enforcement has an update regarding the hedges at the corner of Third and Washington Streets yet?

Trustee Lasher was approached by the Cultural Center regarding an inquiry made by the Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee to move the Athens Museum to the second story of the Cultural Center. A representative of the Cultural Center noted that that was not possible as they are planning more classes to be conducted on the second floor.

Trustee Scott gave the VB a final update on the Recreation Program. He also informed the VB that the unmowed property on Wayne Street was mowed by Flats Brothers.

Clerk-Treasurer inquired as to whether a determination for water/sewer billing purposes had been made yet on the 'tiny house' on N. Vernon Street.

Clerk-Treasurer also noted that a resident living at 8 N. Warren Street called regarding the house next to him (10 N. Warren Street) not being mowed or taken care of all summer.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. RFP for installation of a heat pump mini-split system for the Village office

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lasher, seconded by Trustee Scott to enter into Executive Session at 7:35PM to discuss personnel issues.

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Scott, seconded by Trustee Lipsman to exit Executive Session and resume the regular work meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: