

## **VILLAGE OF ATHENS-MINUTES**

### **November 9, 2022**

#### *PLEDGE TO THE FLAG*

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

Village Attorney Tal Rappleyea was present.

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

VB meeting held at the Athens Fire House at 6:30PM.

#### **DEPARTMENT HEADS:**

1. Water & Sewer- Joe Meyers of Northdome attended the meeting and distributed WFP and WWTP monthly reports for the Village Board to review.
2. DPW- Supervisor Sprague informed the VB that the trees scheduled to be taken down have been taken down, the paving is underway, leaf pickup has begun and he is setting up an appointment with Flach to start hydrant work.
3. Athens Volunteer Fire Department- Chief Wayne Butterworth stated that he would like to purchase 4 mini thermal imaging cameras for a total cost of \$2,135.96.  
A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lipsman, seconded by Trustee Bradicich, all in favor approving requested purchase.
4. Athens Police Department – Chief Roger Masse – NO SHOW.
5. Code Enforcement – Sergeant Tercasio – NO SHOW.

#### **PUBLIC:**

1. *Jason Preisner of Lamont Engineering*, attended the meeting at the request of the VB to provide a presentation of the study he is completing for the Water Filtration System (WFS) and the Wastewater Treatment Plants (WWTP). This study will identify and prioritize the needs of both systems and costs related to each item. This document will then provide the village with a complete analysis of both systems that can be used as a tool to acquiring grant money and financing.

He also highlighted the major issue for the WFP and system as being the SCADA/control system that was upgraded/completed at the WFP in 2007. This control system has been a major ongoing problem for the village for years.

Estimated total cost to repair and or upgrade the Water system is 1.3 million dollars.

The village can apply to DWSRF and also WIIA which provides up to 60% of the cost of the project in grant monies.

The village's median income has become too high to be eligible for financial need, however the need for upgrade is high in the village so based upon that the probability is high that the village will receive funding.

If the village receives the WIIA grant then the annual increase per resident will be an estimated \$44.00 annually. If the village does not receive the grant the increase will double.

Mr. Preisner advised the village to apply for the whole amount and then remove some of the items on the list or complete them 'in house' if and when you receive the monies.

The Mayor stated that the grant opens in June.

As for the Sewer system, the WWTP on Water street is over capacity which has set off 'red flags' with NYSDEC for several years. As a result, the plant is already flagged for funding. Inflow to the system is a major issue.

Mr. Preisner also provided a map of the sewer lines as a result of smoke testing and televising sewer lines.

The Cost for replacement of all sewer lines will be 3-4 million dollars with all laterals

The Mayor asked if it were possible to do both projects concurrently?

Mr. Preisner stated 'yes'.

The Mayor asked what steps the VB needs to complete in order to move forward.

Mr. Preisner stated that if the village wants to go ahead with the application then the SEQR will need to be completed. The Village could declare itself lead agent this evening by RESOLUTION (refer to RESOLUTIONS).

The Village Board should meet and discuss item by item how much the village is capable and willing to do in-house in order to absorb some of the expense of these projects.

*7. Jill Williams, agent representing Marshall and Sterling the village's insurance agent, attended the VB meeting by invitation of Trustee Josh Lipsman to review a few items.*

The annual renewal of the village policy is due now and there is paperwork required from each department in order to keep things up to date.

She also mentioned that cyberattacks are becoming a major issue for municipalities and the insurance companies that insure them

The VB thanked her for the information and the Department heads will be providing the information requested of her.

## **RESOLUTIONS:**

### **1. Proposed Resolution Approving Minutes**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minutes from the Village Board meeting held on October 12<sup>th</sup> and October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022 be approved:

Offered by: Trustee Lipsman  
Seconded by: Trustee Lasher  
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:

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

3. Proposed Resolution declaring the Village of Athens as lead agent on the WSIP

BE IT RESOLVED that the Village Board approve naming the Athens Village Board as lead agent for the Water System Improvement Project SEQR process:

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

4. Proposed Resolution declaring the Village as lead agent for the Waste water system project

BE IT RESOLVED that the Village Board approve naming the Athens Village Board as lead agent for the Wastewater System Improvement Project SEQR process:

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

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Community building –flooring quotes

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lipsman, seconded by Trustee Bradicich, all in favor approving the proposal from KC Flooring for refinishing the Community Center downstairs hallways at a cost of \$10,191.00. The village had requested proposals from vendors and received three proposals for this project.

2. Greene Computer quote

The Mayor discussed the need for a meeting with Greene Computers to discuss IT issues with email addresses and so forth.

The Community Choice Aggregation program was discussed in that a **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lipsman, seconded by Trustee Bradicich, all in favor authorizing the Mayor to sign the agreement for purchasing electric at a rate of no more than \$.109/kwh starting April 2023.

Trustee Lipsman discussed the Tree City USA program with the VB. The village has been in the program going on 3 years and in order to maintain it's status the village will need to have some type of event. Due to this requirement, the 'Friends of Athens' will hold a tree pruning event run by an arborist and the event will be publicized as an event held during the Victorian Stroll.

**A MOTION** was made by Trustee Bradicich, seconded by Trustee Lipsman, all in favor, stating that the Village Board officially endorses the Friend of Athens tree pruning event at the Victorian Stroll and also pruning the trees in the village as an effort to beautify the village and clean up village trees.

Trustee Bradicich mention the policing committee – Chief Masse will do an outreach out again.

Trustee Scott again mentioned the poor condition of a property on Constantine Court. The lawn was mowed by the village's contractor recently and now you can clearly see the poor condition of the building. Code Enforcement should be alerted to condemn the building.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

8:50PM

**MOTION** made by Trustee Scott, seconded by Trustee Bradicich, all in favor