

Village of Athens Board Meeting
December 14, 2022

Present: Mayor Serrago, Trustee Bradicich, Trustee Lasher, Trustee Scott and Trustee Lipsman by remote.

Meeting began at 6:30pm with the pledge to the flag.

Department Heads:

Water and Sewer-Joe Myers-Absent

DPW- Chris Sprague-Chris gave a detailed list of work the DPW has completed and are currently working on. He mentioned the price to mulch the brush pile was \$8500.00 and that to do the parking lines in the parking lot by the Community Center would be \$875.00. He said to do the catch basin by the Senior Center they would need to go onto the property owner's property next door. He did get a quote from Pipes Plus for \$1954.00 for culvert pipe needed.

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Bradicich, seconded by Trustee Scott, all were in favor to purchase the pipe form Pipes Plus for \$1954.00.

Mayor Serrago mentioned that the mold cannot be addressed in the gym until the leak is addressed.

Chris did say they had done some work on this. He also said that a complaint came in from Mr. Miller about the paving truck running over his sidewalk. He said he had a quote for \$365.00 to replace this.

Mayor Bradicich said the complaint is about Colorusso's truck

Mayor Serrago said to reach out to Colorusso and see if they will fix it if not she said the Village should.

Chris also said he would like to see the Village take on the lawn mowing this year. He said he would need 2 part timers for the summer and a few extra machines.

Mayor Serrago said that she did get this year's price for Flats Bros. And she found out the Village will need to go back out to bid on this. She

said let's see what the numbers are against the bids that come in this year.

Trustee Scott said to see what the numbers would be this year to start up and it should get cheaper.

Trustee Lipsman said that he thinks it is good the DPW is interested in this.

AVFD-Wayne Butterworth- He brought Joe Grecco in as a new member tonight and asked the board to approve.

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee, Scott, seconded by Trustee Lasher and all were in favor to allow Joe to join the Fire Department.

APD- Roger Masse- absent Trustee lasher gave the monthly report. She said they would like to renew their 3-year firewall contract at a price of \$1664.82.

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Bradicich, seconded by Trustee Lasher and all were in favor of purchasing the firewall protection.

Code Enforcement-Ed Tercasio and Jeff Ruso- absent

Trustee Lasher said that both officers have been in training. Trustee Lasher also said that they have been called to other municipalities and asked if an invoice should be sent to cover their pay when being called out to another municipality.

Mayor Serrago said that they should be invoicing that municipality. She also said that the Village is going to need to revisit the short term Rental Law.

CCA Program-Ed Carey from Good Energy Community Choice Aggregation spoke about going with another company in April. The cost would be 10.79 a kilowatt and is a good price right now.

Trustee Bradicich asked if residents would need to opt out again.

Trustee Lipsman said that we could collect a tax or a fee and round the figure to 10.8 or 10.9.

Mayor Serrago said we didn't do that the last time and should not do it this time.

Trustee Bradicich said maybe this should be looked into a little more.

Ed Carey is going to check in on this more and will know tomorrow morning.

Mayor Serrago said that collecting a tax will turn a lot of people off and it won't bring in a lot of money.

Resolutions:

1. Proposed Resolution Approving Minutes

BE IT RESOLVED, that Minutes from the Village Board Meetings held on September 14th and November 9th, 2022 be approved

Offered by: Trustee Lasher

Seconded by: Trustee Bradicich

Record of Vote: All were in favor

*with the change of 10.9cents per Kilo watt on the November 9th minutes.

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 (pending water and sewer)

Offered by: Trustee Scott

Seconded by: Trustee Bradicich

Record of Vote: All were in favor

Trustee Lipsman abstained from the vote

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Greene County Legislature. Re: Resolution No. 366-22 and Resolution No. 367-22 Senior Citizen Tax Exemption—

Mayor Serrago asked that this be put on the bulletin board.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Athens Cultural Center requests a letter of support for a grant application for NYS Council of the Arts Grant.

Mayor Serrago said that Carol will write this.

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Bradicich, seconded by Trustee Lasher to allow the Mayor to sign or write a letter of support from the Board and the Mayor for the grant, all were in favor.

Carol Pfister thanked the DPW for the work they did for the Victorian Stroll and has asked for the DPW's help with taking a look at a chimney at the Cultural Center.

Nancy Poylo said that Jason Preisner from Lamont Engineer said that the chimney should not come down as it is a structural issue.

OLD BUSINESS

Tree Law-

Mayor Serrago said that she appreciates all the work involved in this Law, but said she does not know why we are doing this. She said she would like to hear other thoughts on this and that a public hearing would be the first step in passing this law and we are not there yet. She also said the Board needs to discuss section 1.1

Trustee Lipsman explained that the law will not have a big impact. He said it will make an environmental impact. He said there is damage in this world and it is more a concern of enforceability, but something is always enforceable.

Merrill Roth (remote committee member of the CAC) said this proposed law is similar to many communities around the state.

Trustee Lipsman said that this is similar to the STR (short term rental) imposing more control for the community. We don't want to put the board in a position to make a decision. We just want it to go to a public hearing.

Trustee Scott said we do not want to meddle in other people's property and it is not a problem now, he said he likes the tree law that is in effect now.

Trustee Lasher asked who will enforce this? the board or code? She asked do we want to put any more on the code?

Trustee Scott said he appreciates the work that went into this.

Mayor Serrago said there is no harm in putting this out for a Public Hearing

Trustee Lipsman said he is available on January 25th for this to go to a public hearing.

Mayor Serrago said when this is posted we will let people know that this is a draft of the law.

Tal Rappelyea –Village Attorney said this law should be renumbered before the public hearing.

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lipsman, seconded by Trustee Bradicich, and all were in favor to have a Public Hearing on January 25, 2023 for the proposed tree law from the CAC.

Nancy Poylo resident asked why the CAC meetings are not published in the Daily Mail

Mayor Serrago said they need to be.

Trustee Scott had nothing to discuss tonight

Trustee Lasher asked about the facility use form for the Democratic committee to use the meeting room for their Caucus on January 30, 2023.

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Scott, seconded by Trustee Bradicich, all were in favor to allow the Democrats to use the meeting room on the 30th of January

Offered by Trustee Scott

Seconded by Trustee Bradicich

All were in favor

Trustee Bradicich had nothing to discuss tonight

The Deputy Village Clerk said that the heat splits were put in this week.

Mayor Serrago said it will be \$900.00 for the electrician to do the job and she can just hire them, it did not need board approval.

Trustee Lipsman- Spoke about the Arbor Day demonstration that was given on Dec. 12th. He also said he needs the proclamation that was signed in April by the Mayor given to him by Friday for a grant he is working on making the village eligible for \$20,000.00.

Mayor Serrago asked Chris about a letter to DOT for a no parking sign on 385 to corner. She also said she hired a new police officer. She said she appointed him in an executive session.

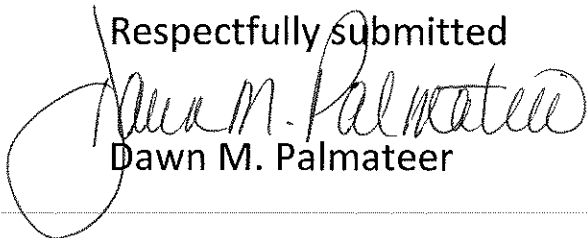
A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lasher, seconded by Trustee Scott, all were in favor to hire William Mirando to the position of police officer for the Village of Athens Police Department.

Mayor Serrago also said she received a rental offer from the Town of Athens and said she accepted it, but have not heard back from them. She said she received a quote on computer and email upgrades but will put this off until January and wait until the budget comes out.

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Scott, seconded by Trustee Bradicich, all were in favor to adjourn tonight's meeting

The meeting ended at 8:15pm

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dawn M. Palmateer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "D".

Dawn M. Palmateer