

## Village of Athens Board Meeting September 13, 2023

Present: Mayor Serrago, Trustee Phoenix, Trustee Lasher, Trustee Lipsman

Absent: Trustee Scott

### **Department Heads:**

#### **Water/Sewer- Joe Myers**

Joe said that an assessment had been done of the Legion Hall. He said that Chris contacted Rural Water. There were no leaks. He believes this is a storm water issue as there is a storm drain along the side of the building.

Chris said that maybe they could jet out the storm drain for them, but that was about all that could be done.

Joe said that the flows were down. He said this is due to improvements to the system and the rain that we had. He said that the tanks were cleaned. He said that water samples are clear. Joe showed an example of a water main and explained why there is still some brown water. He said it is a form of iron and sediment. He also said that it is because of the cast iron pipes that are unlined. He said now that we will be on a flushing schedule it will help inhibit the growth. Joe said that the sewer looks good.

Trustee Lipsman said there is a grant opportunity available until November for energy efficiency.

Joe said that he would look at it.

Mayor Serrago asked that dredging be done in the Spring. She would like the numbers for that. Either bring in a contractor or look into getting equipment.

Trustee Phoenix said that renting may be less expensive.

#### **DPW-Chris Sprague**

Chris said that there were 2 water main breaks that were not major. He said the department assisted Cocksackie with a water main break they had. He said they started the storm drain project, but it took a little longer because of 5 gas lines they had to contend with. Last week's storm left some damage. He said that they had trimmed the alleys up. He said there were some violations that Code Enforcement is taking care of. Chris said he would like to look into a mower as the one they had blew up. He said he would like to get 2 so he could get some part timers in here to work on mowing.

Mayor Serrago said that could be discussed at the next meeting.

Chris said there is a Campground on Schoharie Turnpike that is adding more sites and they would like to get water from the Village.

Joe Myers said he would have to contact the Health Department as he estimates 120,000 gallons a day.

Chris asked if we were charging Cocksackie for the help they gave, and the board decided it would be shared services. Chris said he interviewed a candidate for the position that is open on the DPW, he said

the candidate is stable and was at his last job for 4 years. He said that he and Trustee Scott will interview him again.

Trustee Lipsman asked when fall cleanup day would be.

Chris asked if he could get a quote for the cleanup of the brush pile. He also said there has been after-hours activity there. He said a brush company has been dumping.

There was a discussion about the brush pile and hours it should be open to cut down on this activity.

Chief Butterworth said that people using the brush pile are not moving for fire personnel when they are responding to emergencies.

Mayor Serrago said to order the security cameras for the DPW. She also said to close the gate on the road between the senior citizens building.

It was decided that the brush pile would be open Monday -Saturday 7am-3:30pm and Chris will open and close the gate.

#### **Fire Department-Wayne Butterworth**

Wayne said that Pizza will start the last week in September. He said that the Fire Prevention is in a few weeks and the department will be doing the Pumpkin Parade. He said there is a situation with the Rescue Truck. It needs repairs and will cost \$135.00 an hour and needs at least 40hrs of repairs.

Trustee Serrago said any legitimate bill we will figure out how to pay.

#### **Police Department-Ed Tercasio**

Trustee Lasher said that vouchers need Roger's signature and Code has some too.

Trustee Lasher asked if the Opera House store had been checked for anything. Tercasio said that he would do a commercial fire inspection.

#### **Police Department-Ed Tercasio**

Ed spoke about a grant they have received for a vehicle. The village attorney told them how to go about the bid process. Ed said they received an email about an extension of money for vests. He said the village would need to put the money out first and then they would be reimbursed. He said they have until Oct 20<sup>th</sup> to order. He said they may be about \$1100.00 each so they may need to eat \$400.00 of this. He said that car 305 went to Hendricks and it will need a new transmission and axle. The cost was \$5000.00. He said they aren't going to fix it they are going to take it to the DPW and take everything out of it and put it up for auction as is. Ed said that there are body cameras available through the Sheriff Department at \$495.00 apiece. He said the department wants 4 cameras and server would be \$2000.00 to \$2500.00. He said any FOIL requests would go through the Sheriff Department and they would store everything. He said they would also need to pay for a dedicated line from Athens to the Sheriff Department which would cost about \$150.00 a month.

Mayor Serrago asked if this could wait until the next budget.

Trustee Lipsman asked if this was a requirement.

A **MOTION** was made to allow the Police Department to order vests at a cost of \$1100.00 each.

Offered by: Trustee Lasher

Seconded by: Trustee Phoenix

Record of Vote: all were in favor.

A **MOTION** was made to declare the Police Vehicle #305 surplus.

Offered by: Trustee Lipsman

Seconded by: Trustee Lasher

Record of Vote: All were in favor.

A **MOTION** was made for the Police Department to send Police Vehicle #305 to auction as is

Offered by: Trustee Phoenix

Seconded by: Trustee Lipsman

Record of Vote: all were in favor.

A **MOTION** was made for the Police Department to order body cameras from the Sheriff's Department

Offered by: Trustee Lasher

Seconded by: Trustee Lipsman

Record of Vote: all were in favor.

#### **APPLICATIONS:**

1. Water and Sewer tap application. Applicant: Kenneth Fuller & Nanette Litven – 29 Constantine Court.

A **MOTION** was made to accept the application.

Offered by: Trustee Lipsman

Seconded by: Trustee Lasher

Record of Vote: all were in favor

#### **RESOLUTIONS:**

1. Proposed Resolution Approving Minutes

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that Minutes from the Village Board meeting held on August 23, 2023 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: Trustee Lipsman

Seconded by: Trustee Lasher

Record of vote: all were in favor.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

1. Athens Cultural Center. Re: Victorian Stroll  
There was a discussion about the Stroll and the DPW was asked to help with the ice rink.
2. Hanna Munson. Re: Trees- 51 South Washington  
Trustee Lipsman spoke with Ms. Munson and let her know that the Village does not buy, deliver, or install the trees. She was given the go ahead by the board to replant trees.
3. Greene County Legislature- Resolution No. 233-23
4. Greene County Legislature- Resolution No. 260-23

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

**Trustee Phoenix-** She asked exactly what the Village was looking to do with the front door. She said that Anthony's email made sense. She said that Mary Jo said to write up an ad.

Mayor Serrago said this probably won't be done until spring.

**Trustee Lipsman-** He spoke about a grant opportunity for carbonization. He said this was a no match grant. He said he sent information to the Cultural Center and the Library.

Mayor Serrago said we should decide what we would want to use it for and possibly roll some of the building into it.

Trustee Lipsman also brought up the interoperability of water with Sleepy Hollow.

**Trustee Lasher-** She said that John Pulice came to her about a car towed on Franklin Street.

John Pulice was in attendance and spoke about the towing of a car when the streets were being paved. He said the machines had broken down and there was parking allowed. The Father of the Catholic church's sister-in-law was towed.

Mayor Serrago asked if he was looking for reimbursement for the towing.

John said he filled out a complaint form and brought it back but never heard anything back.

Chris said he tried to notify people.

**Mayor Serrago-** She told the clerk that the County is requesting how the ARPA money was used.

She said she is working on a grant and there will be a public meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup>, She said it will be a ZOOM meeting.

She also said if anyone has any ideas for Randy Squire, Superintendent of Schools on where kids could be placed in an emergency to let her know.

A few ideas were mentioned.

Carol Pfister also mentioned that applications are due for the Community Foundations Grants by October 31<sup>st</sup>.

Trustee Lipsman said he will not be here at the next meeting.

A **MOTION** was made to adjourn the meeting.

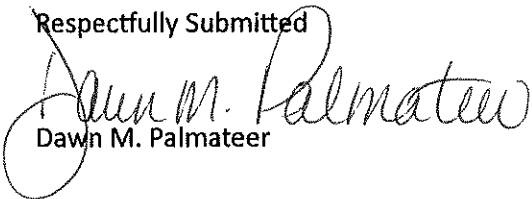
Offered by: Trustee Lipsman

Seconded by: Trustee Lasher

Record of Vote; All were in favor.

The meeting ended at 8:15pm

Respectfully Submitted

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dawn M. Palmateer". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Dawn M. Palmateer