

Athens Village Board Meeting
October 11, 2023

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

The meeting began with the pledge to the flag.

Department Heads:

Northdome-Joe Myers

Joe Myers said that the work at the plant was starting to pay off. He said that the Sewage plant was running good, compliances have been met. He said that today there was a problem with brown water. He said flushing the hydrants again will help rid the system. He recommends another hydrant flush at the end of the month.

Jason from Lamont said that the cleaning of the tanks went well. He said there was sediment and some small cracks in the Village tank. He said that adding a mixer to the tank would help to move stuff around the tank.

Joe Myers said that he would investigate this.

Trustee Lipsman said there were about 20 recommendations made in the report that were submitted.

Jason said that making some changes to this system may not be too expensive, he said that the smaller tank will not need it. He said the inside of the tank should be coated and sealed. He said once they start the water plant project, they may be able to roll it all together. He said the concrete tank will last. He said to do a little work on it every year. He said that pressure washing should be added to the budget. He also said that the DPW may be able to make a mesh screen.

Joe Myers said that he can set up a tracker sheet, he said as things are accomplished a monthly report can be done. He said the tanks should be cleaned every 5-7 years. He said they are clean right now and can concentrate on the Village and not the tanks on Schoharie Turnpike. He said the valve was opened today at a building in the Village and a lot of water came up quick and acted as a break, so it turned into a brown water event.

Jason said that testing is more extensive now and the PH is higher. Corrosive water went into the system , so pipes still have it. The only way to get rid of it is by flushing, open pipes that are small and not open wide. Then things can be drug through the lines to clean them and the velocity will go up so it scours the pipe.

Mayor Serrago asked how do we determine when and where to start?

Joe said flushing the end of October is going to help.

Mayor Serrago asked if some should be done as they are problematic even though it is expensive.

Wayne Butterworth showed a picture of the pipes.

Joe said that any street in the Village is a problem.

Jason said that every community has this, and Joe also said he has seen this in other communities.

Joe said again to flush at the end of October and then again in the Spring.

Mayor Serrago said that any pipe work to be done the Village will be looking for funding.

Jason asked how operable the hydrants in the Village were.

Wayne said that the hydrants are 80 percent operable. He said there may be 10-14 older style ones.

Jason said that older hydrants will not get the velocity up. He said it sounds like the Village has good hydrants.

Josh said there are a total of 60-80 hydrants in total.

Mayor Serrago said to keep in mind that the hydrant pipes may need scraping.

Jason said to do flushing first and then revisit.

Mayor Serrago said that she received the MOU from Laurel Wolfe for the Sleepy Hollow Emergency. She said that she will send it over to SHL with Jason's comments and send over to the SHL.

Joe and Wayne both asked about a 2-way meter. Sleepy Hollow Lake could supply water, but not the volume needed. The Village could supply them with water, but we would need ebbs and flows going.

Mayor Serrago said we would need to set a price per gallon as the one we have is from the 70's. She also said that she will add suggestions. She also asked about Reservoir Maintenance.

Trustee Lipsman said there are 2 grant opportunities for funding. He said that someone will assist with them when the time comes. He said it would pay for vegetation removal.

Jason said he will call DEC and look into these.

Mayor Serrago said that they will need to look into options for the vegetation removal. Buy or borrow. She said that Wayne feels Saugerties is a good option to use their equipment.

Joe said to have Jason get in contact with DEC and to do the harvesting in the Spring.

Jason mentioned the Decarbonization grant as there were many applicants. He thought Solar Panels for the DPW building would be a good thing. He said that the State would pay through NYSEERDA to do a check on this building. He said there needs to be an energy model done. He also said that the HVAC at the water and sewer plants could be more habitable as they do not have great energy efficiency. This would be just in their workspaces.

DPW-Chris Sprague was absent—Wayne Butterworth

Wayne said that the storm drain project on Union Street had the pipe in on the south side and they would be doing the culvert pipe on the north side of Constantine Court. He said that Michael Borfitz, the new hire, was working out well. He said the DPW informed a resident on Church Street about some vegetation that needed to be cut. He then spoke about the parking regulation the DPW would like enforced for the winter.

Mayor Serrago said she will set a public hearing on this for October 25th about alternate parking for the Winter.

Mayor Serrago was told by Chris that a campground on Schoharie Turnpike would like to connect into the Village water system and they were told to come to a board meeting.

Wayne said that Chris would like the Village to pay for his C and D water license.

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lasher to pay \$900.00 for Chris' water license. Seconded by Trustee Lipsman, and all were in favor.

Fire Department- Wayne Butterworth

Wayne said that the furnace issue continues. He also said that it appears the chimney may be blocked, so I called Allphase to come and inspect on the 17th or 18th. He said that Apollo Heating said they needed to change out the burner tubes as they were ruined in the process. He said the fire department was going to apply to the Community Grant Foundation for new hydrants that would be easier to hook up to. He said they are applying for 5 sets of turnout gear as well.

Code Enforcement- Ed Tercasio

Ed said that Jeff Ruso attended a training. He came back and said that a lot had changed, but it was too much to get anything out of. Ed asked if a letter should be sent out to Home Sweet Home now and if it should be sent out certified to both addresses. He said that multiple violations were sent out the beginning of September for short term rentals. He said packets were sent out identifying them as such. He said that Dawn got a lot of them back. He said that Sleepy Hollow residents don't understand that they are in the Village as well as Sleepy Hollow and must register.

Trustee Lipsman said maybe it should go into the Sleepy Hollow Newsletter and said that he could help with this.

Ed said maybe it could go on their website. Ed said that he and Jeff were figuring out how to proceed with the people that have not registered.

Village Attorney Rappleyea said that they should do a Criminal Summons and serve them personally.

Ed also discussed with the Board the parking regulations that the Board would like to have the Public Hearing on.

Police Department-Ed Tercasio

Ed said that he spoke with a person from Pro Vision and was very knowledgeable. He said the woman he spoke with said she could get them body cameras for \$55.00 a month and that price includes the storage and a warranty. He said that every 2 and a half years the Village would need to update the contract with a new one. He said that the cost of the mounts for the cameras would be \$100.00 for all three then it would go to \$165.00 a month after that. He said it is a liability for them not to have body cameras. The price he is getting on his own and not using the Sheriff's department is better.

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lipsman to purchase the body cameras and enter into a contract of \$5220.00 a year, seconded by Trustee Lasher, all were in favor.

RESOLUTIONS:

There were no resolutions for this evening.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Request to place pet cremation advertising at the Dog Park
The board said not at this time.
2. County Ambulance Service memo

OTHER BUSINESS:

Trustee Lipsman spoke about Community Solar. He said the Village could get points and the clock resets 6/2023. Trustee Lipsman will invite the Solar person to the next meeting.

Mayor Serrago said she would like some ideas from the Board for the Community Grants that are available. Board members and the Clerk gave her a few ideas.

Trustee Phoenix—didn't have anything for this meeting.

Trustee Lipsman spoke about the Greenway Grant. He said the Scenic Hudson would match the \$5000.00 with Greenway. He said Greenway does not want to do the administration end of the grant and the Village would need to do. This is due by 11/3/2023.

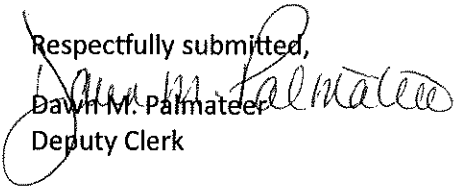
Trustee Scott- didn't have anything for this meeting.

Trustee Lasher- didn't have anything for this meeting.

Mayor Serrago- had nothing else.

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lasher to end the meeting at 8:35pm, seconded by Trustee Scott, all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,


Dawn M. Palmateer
Deputy Clerk