

ATHENS VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
MINUTES – APRIL 24, 2024- 6:00PM

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

PRESENT: Mayor Amy Serrago, Trustee Gail Lasher, Trustee Josh Lipsman, Trustee Alison Phoenix and Trustee Joey Dillbert

Village Attorney Tal Rappleyea was also present.

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

1. Tentative Budget

The Mayor opened the Public Hearing to the public.

Resident Michael Black asked what the total amount of the budget was?

The Mayor gave the total appropriation figures for the General Fund, Water Fund and Sewer Fund.

The Mayor also noted the proposed tax rate is 4.85 per thousand. Last year's tax rate per thousand was 7.35. However, due to the new revaluation completed by the Assessor's office lowering the tax rate does not mean that your individual tax will decrease. It may or may decrease based upon your new assessment.

The VB was also able to keep under the tax cap this year meaning our tax levy did not go over what we are allowed by the state without holding a public hearing to override the tax cap.

Public Hearing closes at 6:10PM.

2. Short-term rental amendments

The Mayor opened the Public Hearing to the public.

Diane Michener, resident of the village, asked about the 'fire inspection' portion. She is in favor of the inspection but what does that entail?

Village Attorney Rappleyea and Fire Chief Butterworth stated basic things like alarms, clear exit ways etc.

Trustee Lipsman asked if the fire inspection would be a separate fee or if it would be included in the application?

Mayor Serrago stated that the fire inspection fee is currently included in the application fee but that will probably change when the rate structure changes.

Public Hearing closes at 6:20PM

3. Proposal to enact a LL enabling the village to override the tax levy limit established in General Municipal Law §3-c

The mayor stated that this Public hearing is no longer necessary as we will be staying under the tax levy allowed without an override.

PUBLIC HEARINGS CLOSE

REGULAR VB MEETING OPENS

APPLICATIONS:

1. Permit to Peddle Application- Riverfront Park. Applicant: Iron Horse Cigar Depot.

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lasher, seconded by Trustee Dillberg, all in favor, approving application as submitted

2. Facility Use Application- Riverfront Park. Applicant: Paddock Club.

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lipsman, seconded by Trustee Dillberg, all in favor, approving application as submitted

3. Facility Use Application- streets. Applicant: YMCA

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lipsman, seconded by Trustee Phoenix, all in favor, approving application as submitted

4. Commercial Water/sewer Connection Application. Applicant: PF Holdings, LLC.

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lasher, seconded by Trustee Dillberg, all in favor, approving application as submitted

5. Residential Water/sewer Connection Application. Applicant: Tricia Small

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lipsman, seconded by Trustee Dillberg, all in favor, approving application as submitted

6. Facility use Application-Riverfront Park. Applicant: HALPS

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lipsman, seconded by Trustee Lasher, all in favor, approving application as submitted

RESOLUTIONS:

1. Proposed Resolution Approving Minutes from Village Board Meeting held on April 10th, 2024

TABLED

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 Phoenix

Seconded by: Trustee Lasher

Record of vote:

All in favor

3. Proposed Resolution approving amendments to Local Law #3 of 2020 Regulating Short Term Rentals

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board approve the amendments (attached) to Local Law #3 of 2020 Regulating Short Term Rentals as per attached:

Offered by: Trustee Lasher

Seconded by: Trustee Phoenix

Record of vote: All in favor

4. Proposed Resolution Approving the Adoption of the Village of Athens Tentative Budget

BE IT RESOLVED that the Village Board approve the Tentative Budget for fiscal year 6/1/24 through 5/31/25, as revised after the Public Hearing with a tax levy of \$1,261,493.00 and a tax rate of 4.85 per thousand:

Offered by: Trustee Lasher

Seconded by: Trustee Phoenix

Record of vote: All in favor

5. Proposed Resolution Approving the VB as administrators of the RLF

BE IT RESOLVED that the Village Board approve the Village Board as administrators of the Revolving Loan Fund:

Offered by: Trustee Dillberg

Seconded by: Trustee Lasher

Record of vote: All in favor

6. Proposed Resolution Approving SRO in EJ Arther Elementary School (full resolution attached)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Village Board approve supporting the continued presence of SRO from the Village Police Department at our School's EJ Arthur Elementary School:

Offered by: Trustee Lasher

Seconded by: Trustee Phoenix

Record of vote: All in favor

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Greene County Superintendent of Highways. Re: Speed limit reduction County Route 57.
2. Greene County Veterans Service Agency. Re: Annual Greene County Honor A Veteran Memorial Ceremony.
3. Greene County Treasurer Tax Department. Re: Greene County Tax Foreclosure.
4. Michele Johnson – Wellness Director YMCA. Re: Annual Greene 'Y Tri' in Sleepy Hollow Lake (as per Application #3 above)

OTHER BUSINESS:

Trustee Lasher noted that she and Trustee Phoenix met to review the RLF. It looks good now and just needs to appoint an administrator of the program (RESOLUTION above).

Trustee Lasher also mentioned the fact that the C-A School has an item in their present budget which would change the SRO officer from Athens PD to the Sheriffs Department. All of the School's resource officers will be from the Sheriffs Department.

(RESOLUTION above regarding this situation)

Trustee Lipsman discussed the new State Law regarding AED's in parks with more than 5 teams playing. VB discussed the issue and the Mayor asked Trustee Lipsman (liaison to parks) and the Attorney to find out more information.

Trustee Phoenix informed the VB that she has been approached by representatives of the DR Evarts Library and the Cultural Center regarding the Summer Rec. program.

The Village Attorney received an extension from the state for the 'notice' of 6 weeks. DOH Rec programs vs. summer camp. The Village Attorney, The Mayor and Trustee Phoenix will meet to decide on a plan of action so that we may have some type of program this Summer.

ADJOURNMENT:

7:00 PM

MOTION made by Trustee Dillberg, seconded by Trustee Phoenix, all in favor

ATTACHMENT

Complete **RESOLUTION #6**

A **MOTION** was made to approve the following resolution:

Residents of the Village of Athens have contacted the Village Board of Trustees concerning the proposed Cossackie-Athens Central School District 2024-25 budget. Particularly, the “plant security” section in which the district proposes to replace local Athens Police Department officers with officers from the Greene County Sheriff’s department to serve as School Resource Officers.

It is the opinion of the Village of Athens Board of Trustees, with input from our taxpayers, that this change would result in a negative experience for the students at Edward J. Arthur Elementary School, as the APD officers serving as School Resource Officers are an integral part of not only the EJA community, but the greater village community as a whole.

In addition to having forged relationships with the students and faculty at EJA, our officers provide this service at a lower cost than the proposed cost in the CACSD 2024-25 budget for the Greene County Sheriff’s department to provide the service.

THEREFORE, MAY IT BE RESOLVED that the Village of Athens Board of Trustees supports the continued presence of officers from the Athens Police Department in service as Security Resource Officers at our local E.J. Arthur Elementary School

Motion made by Trustee Gail Lasher.

Seconded by Trustee Josh Lipsman.

Trustee Alison Phoenix approves.

Trustee Joey Dillberg approves.

Mayor Amy Serrago approves.

RESOLUTION passes unanimously.