

MINUTES – ATHENS VILLAGE BOARD MEETING JUNE 26, 2024

VILLAGE CLERK'S OFFICE -6:00 PM

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

Village Attorney Tal Rappleyea was also present.

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

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

PUBLIC HEARING:

The Mayor opened the Public Hearing by stating that tonight's public hearing is being held for the purpose of hearing public comment on proposed local law #4 of 2024 - **Dining on Village Shared Streets**.

- *Patrick Gillespie, resident of Second Street* asked if there are any laws against having dogs sitting outside with you while you are eating dinner? He stated that the Brewery on Second Street allows dogs to sit outside and eat with their owners and stay for long periods of time which causes dogs that live in apartments in the general vicinity to bark continually.

The Mayor stated that there are 'no laws against having dogs sit with their owners while dining outdoors in NYS'.

The Village attorney agreed.

Mr. Gillespie asked for the VB to explore this law further before passing it to see if there could be some kind of control for this type of thing. This may be the time to address this problem while they are reviewing this law.

The Mayor stated that she does not know how to legislate barking dogs. This particular law does not address this issue. If there are dogs barking continually then the police should be notified.

Discussion ensued with other members of the public providing input.

The Village Attorney informed Mr. Gillespie that the Dept. of Health sets the policies, and they approve allowing dogs to be with their owners while dining outdoors.

Someone asked why the proposed law allows generators on the street.

Mayor Serrago noted that she questioned this item as well and may want to revise that section of the proposed law.

- *Nancy Poylo, resident of Montgomery Street*, asked why the proposed law uses the term parking spaces throughout the document as opposed to sidewalks throughout the law. Doesn't seem applicable to the village of Athens.

Mayor Serrago will edit these occurrences and reference sidewalks instead of parking spaces.

- Merrill Roth, resident, asked if there will be a timetable on these permits? Perhaps add an expiration date for the permit.

Discussion ensued regarding whether to make the permits renewable annually and if there should be a fee for the permit.

Further review will take place by the VB.

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSES at 6:25 PM.

OPEN REGULAR MEETING at 6:25PM

APPLICATIONS:

1. APPLICATION: Permit to peddle. APPLICANT: Athens Volunteer Fire Department
A MOTION was made by Trustee Phoenix, seconded by Trustee Lipsman, that contingent upon APAC approval of the application, that the VB approve the application as submitted.

RESOLUTIONS:

1. Proposed Resolution Approving Minutes from Village Board Meeting

BE it Resolved that the Village Board approve the Minutes from the Village Board meeting held on June 12th, 2024:

TABLED

Offered by:

Seconded by:

Record of vote:

2. Proposed Resolution Approving Payment of Vouchers as Presented

BE it Resolved that the Village Board approve the payment of vouchers as presented on the vouchers:

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

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. Chief vehicle policy- VB discussed the proposed policy at length with Chief Butterworth. The policy will be discussed further after it goes back to the Athens Fire Company for their input.

2. Water/sewer rates – The Clerk-Treasurer reviewed the analysis that had been completed several months prior. A notice will be published to hold a public hearing the second meeting of July to increase water and sewer rates.

3. Anthony Proper also attended the meeting to give a status report on the Lead Service Line Inventory project.

PUBLIC:

1. Ralph Vandresco – follow-up to his last appearance at a VB meeting regarding unkempt properties.

Mr. Vandresco noted that there is no need in this village for a Fire chief vehicle after listening to the discussion regarding a policy for it.

Mr. Vandresco stated that he has not seen anything done yet since his last time coming to the Village Board meeting regarding the properties talked about. Nothing. He provided pictures for the VB to look at.

Mayor Serrago informed him that it has only been 4 weeks, and nothing can be done in that amount of time. She also noted that Code Enforcement has talked to the private owners.

Mayor Serrago made it clear that property owners have rights too and this situation is very frustrating to her as well.

Mr. Vandresco asked if Code Enforcement actually does ride around this village?

Trustee Lipsman offered that 'if there are no violations on these properties then there may be nothing that they can do'.

Trustee Dillberg also noted that there have been instances where a house is falling apart, and the Planning Board does not allow the owner to tear it down and the owner can't afford to fix it up.

Mayor Serrago reiterated that the village needs to follow the law and sometimes that takes time.

Mr. Vendresco stated that it's been years, and he will attend another meeting.

MORE BUSINESS:

Trustee Lasher noted that the railing around the bandstand at Riverfront Park is in bad shape and needs attention.

Trustee Lipsman and Trustee Phoenix have been looking at the fence law and have agreed on a revision that would need to be passed.

Trustee Phoenix received a price on yard sale signs.

The ARPA funding offered by the County for youth capital projects was discussed by the VB and the public. The Village and the Town are planning to combine their funding opportunity. Several ideas were voiced.

Trustee Lipsman discussed the Hudsonia Habitat mapping program with the VB. A consultant will be meeting with the CAC to discuss a grant they would like to apply for.

The grant is for \$21,400 through the DEC but the village must match \$3200.00. In kind services can be used to offset the cost to the village.

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lasher, seconded by Trustee Phoenix, all in favor approving Village funds to be used, a maximum of \$1600.00 to be taken from the line item (A1420.1 Attorney) to be used for the match portion of the DEC Hudsonia Habitat mapping grant (in kind services).

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lasher, seconded by Trustee Dillberg, all in favor, to enter into Executive Session at 8:10 PM.

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lasher, seconded by Trustee Dillberg, all in favor, to exit Executive Session and resume work meeting at 8:24PM

ADJOURNMENT: 8:25PM