

**Athens Village Board Meeting  
July 10, 2024**

**Present:** Mayor Serrago, Trustee Lasher, Trustee Lipsman, Trustee Dillberg

**Absent:** Trustee Phoenix

**Department Heads:**

**North Dome- Joe Myers**

Joe said they have had a decent month at the sewer plant and that flows are down. He said that the clarifier needs repairs and the DPW is helping with that. He said they did 230,000 gallons at the water plant. He said they are flushing as there are complaints of water tasting bad, odor and discoloration. He said they are trying to be aggressive. He said Schoharie Turnpike to Dogwood has been crystal clear. He said the musty odor has dissipated in one area. Joe said now that the second filter has been added things should calm down.

Mayor Serrago asked about harvesting.

Joe said they still do not have a permit and if they get it now the water levels will be too low. He said maybe in the Fall. He said there are still drought conditions. He showed the board a diagram that showed the reservoir is down about 6 to 8 inches. He said that once the water levels are up machines could go through. He explained about algae blooms that explode in the sun and make the water smell and taste bad. Joe said that when water chemistry gets off the brown water migrates because of higher usages. He said Chris Hendricks will call as he lives near the reservoir and let him know there is an issue. Joe said that Dawn has been giving me the complaints and will start taking numbers of those that call in.

Mayor Serrago said she encouraged people to let us know, she said she could put messaging out that says to include a phone number.

Joe said there is a pattern. He said three flushing's used to be done, so after this it will need to be done two more times and this will need to be done next year before June.

Mayor Serrago said that the Village has been running on half a filter for the past year. She said once Joe gets flushing dates, she will make everyone aware on the website and Dawn will do a reverse 911.

Joe then spoke about the rebuild that needs to be done of the backwash pump. He said that he will need a crane to take it out.

Mayor Serrago asked if this was included in the money the State was giving.

Joe said he does not think so. He said Chris and Wayne were there to see how it could be taken out.

Trustee Dillberg said he would like to go and see it. He said he would like to see if there is a way to possibly change it to make it easier when it does need a repair. He also said the problem that occurred could be from the filter blowing out.

Trustee Lipsman asked why we don't have a backup filter, since this one took so long to come in.

Mayor Serrago said she will see if Jason could come to the next meeting.

Trustee Lipsman asked if underdrains were priced.

Chris said they priced at \$19,000.00

Mayor Serrago said the ARPA money was a good thing that came out of COVID.

Trustee Lipsman said at his next CAC meeting the Drinking Water Source Protection will be present and Chris and Joe should make the meeting.

The harvester was discussed again, and Mayor Serrago asked that Chris and Joe go look at it.

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

Chirs said that the milling and paving has been completed except for some curbing at Brick Row. He said they spent Monday and Tuesday up there. He said the storm drains will be next on Constantine Court. He said there is a water leak on Leeds Athens Road, and they have been helping flush the hydrants. Chris said that people are now complaining about 385. He said he reached out to DOT and they said there was a problem with ADA compliance. Hinchey's office had told us that when they spoke with DOT that 385 was in their schedule for 2025.

Mayor Serrago said the Village will have to check on the timing of that as the sewer project as she was made aware of this finding in March. She said that the projects must be submitted at a certain time. She said she will reach out to Molinaro and Hinchey.

Chirs said maybe the State has some money.

Mayor Serrago said the funding is not enough money.

Trustee Dillberg said that the retaining walls will be a problem.

#### **AVFD-Wayne Butterworth**

He said he handed in an application for membership late, it is for David Delacruz.

He transferred to our company.

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lipsman and seconded by Trustee Lasher to accept the application for Dave Delacruz to join the Athens Volunteer Fire Department. All were in favor.

Trustee Lasher asked how many active members were in the department and the average age.

Wayne said 15- 18 active members and the age is 20-25 years old.

There was discussion as to why there aren't many members anymore and it was said that housing is too expensive here anymore and the people moving in aren't interested in being a volunteer.

The Chiefs car policy was discussed, and a few changes were made as far as wording.

Mayor Serrago said she will clean up the policy and then have Wayne sign it.

**Code Enforcement-Ed Tercasio/ Jeff Ruso will arrive at 7:15**

Trustee Lasher said that Code has been dealing with a person who drove down Second Street with a stone crusher. Trustee Lasher said that Jeff called the owner and any damages the owner will be responsible for. She said they are following through on short term rentals. She said they are working on things that we cannot talk about in public.

Jeff did arrive, but Trustee Lasher had already mentioned what he would have spoken about.

**Police Department- Roger absent**

Trustee Lasher said she has not heard from Chief Masse. However, she said that the school resource officers will need to do SRO training. She said the Super does not need to go as he is not in law enforcement. She said the school board decided to keep our guys for the next school year.

**APPLICATIONS:**

1. Facility Use Application- Riverfront Park. Applicant: St. Patrick's Church.

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lasher, seconded by Trustee Dillberg to allow the Church to use the park on the dates provided on the application. All were in favor.

2. Outdoor Entertainment Permit for Commercial Establishments and Events Held on Village Property. Applicant: Athens Cultural Center.

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lipsman, seconded by Trustee Lasher to allow the Cultural Center to hold their event in the street. All were in favor.

3. Facility Use Application – Riverfront Park. Applicant: Outdoor Methodist Church Service.

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Dillberg, seconded by Trustee Lasher to allow the church use of the park on the dates provided on the application. All were in favor.

**RESOLUTIONS:**

1. Proposed Resolution Approving Minutes from Village Board Meeting

BE it Resolved, that the Village Board approve the Minutes from the Village Board meetings held on June 26<sup>th</sup> and June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024:

Changes to be made- Puorro to Poylo and add the executive session times of entered 8:10pm, exited 8:24pm and adj. 8:25pm. Then accept with changes.

Offered by: Trustee Dillberg

Seconded by: Trustee Lasher

Record of vote: aif

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: aif

## **CORRESPONDENCE:**

1. Jody Pindt. Re: Greene County Animal Alliance (GCAA)

This would be for the concert on August 16<sup>th</sup>.

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lasher, seconded by Trustee Dillberg that as long as they speak with APAC and they are good with the Alliance being in attendance the board will approve. All were in favor.

Mayor Serrago asked the board what they would like to do with the County money. She said the Town would like to do a joint upgrade.

Choice #1 is for an upgrade to the playground and the basketball courts.

Choice #2 is for walking paths by the Dog Park /nature Park

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Dillberg, seconded by Trustee Lipsman to update the playground. All were in favor.

Mayor Serrago said she meant to add Kathy from the library tonight as she needs space for interlibrary loans and for patrons to return books while the library has construction going on. They also need to put a POD in our parking lot.

Kathy also asked that the alley be used for the construction workers to work from. However, the blue house uses their driveway for parking and the alley may be an issue with propane deliveries and snow removal.

A **MOTION** was made Trustee Lipsman, seconded by Trustee Lasher to park a pod in the corner of the parking lot and to use a portion of the alley for construction as long as it does not cause an inconvenience for residents. All were in favor.

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lipsman, seconded by Trustee Lasher to allow the Library use of the Village building Lobby. All were in favor.

## **OTHER BUSINESS:**

### **Trustee Lipsman-**

He said that a DEC consultant will be at the CAC meeting on Thursday with a final report for the Athens Riverene Concept.

He asked about the fence code.

Mayor Serrago said there will be a public hearing set for the next meeting. She said the Planning Board should overhaul the fence code, since they deal with a lot of the fence issues.

### **Trustee Dillberg**

He said he was wondering about cameras at the water plant as we don't know if something is going on at night.

Mayor Serrago said we could get some pricing for some.

He said there was a complaint about the docks. He feels the docks are free dock space for the river taxi and the village puts them in for free for them. He said people are being kicked off the docks by the ferry.

**Trustee Lasher**

Trustee Lasher said she is working on the Street Festival. She also said they are putting the lines down in preparation.

**Dawn (Deputy Clerk)**

Discussed a mental health emergency that happened here at the building and would like to see a Building Safety Plan in place as 911 told her to follow ours and we do not have one.

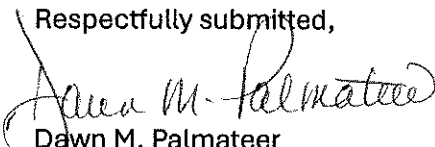
Mayor Serrago also said that the electrical boxes in the park are secure. She also said she had an update on the LWRP as they have contacted Riverstreet as a consultant.

Trustee Lasher said the owner of the camper in the parking lot would be contacted.

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lasher, seconded by Trustee Lipsman to adjourn the meeting tonight. All were in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Dawn M. Palmateer  
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer