

ATHENS VILLAGE BOARD MEETING MINUTES- September 25, 2024

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

Meeting held at 6:00PM in the Clerk's office at the Athens Village Community Center.

PRESENT: Deputy Mayor 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.

ABSENT: Mayor Amy Serrago

PUBLIC HEARING

The Purpose of tonight's Public Hearing is to hear public comment on the village's proposed local law #4 entitled 'Alarm Systems'.

Deputy Mayor Lasher opened the Meeting to Public Comment.

Michael Black, resident of the village, expressed concern with the proposed law because it appears to mandate installation of these boxes, at a cost of \$400- \$600 dollars a piece on all multiunit and commercial buildings. Who is going to pay for this? Was there any public outreach for this proposal? It seems to have moved awful fast.

He stated that the law is over regulating, aggressive and shows another ill- advised direction in which this village is going.

Trustee Lipsman noted that the building only needs a 'knox box' if the building/business already has an alarm system.

Village Attorney Tal Rappleyea read the part of the law which defines which buildings will be required to install the boxes. It states those buildings that already have an alarm system or sprinkler system will be required to have these 'knox boxes'.

Resident and leader of the DR Evarts Library Kathy Jackson asked about historical buildings. After the renovation being completed at the library it will be unclear where the front door is.

Fire Chief Wayne Butterworth discussed this with Ms. Jackson.

Trustee Phoenix stated that this is why the VB has these Public Hearings. To allow people to have their say on these issues. She thanked everyone for coming this evening.

Discussion ensued regarding which department should be responsible for implementing and enforcing this law.

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSES at 6:11 PM.

REGULAR VILLAGE BOARD MEETING OPENS

PUBLIC:

1. *George Greiner, town resident*, attended the meeting this evening to inform the VB that he has concerns with the security at the Water Filtration Plant (WFP).

His daughter is the first one to receive water on the municipal water line leaving Hollister Lake and the gates are never locked. He walks his dogs up there and the locks do not work. In windy weather the doors to the building are 'flapping in the breeze'.

Deputy Mayor Gail Lasher stated that she will bring this issue up with the Plant Operators.

2. *Sandra Strauss*. Re: Fluoride. Present but did not speak

APPLICATIONS:

1. AVFD membership application. Applicant: Ryan Findore

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

2. Facility use application- Riverfront Park. Applicant: Hudson Athens Lighthouse Preservation Society

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

3. Facility use application- Riverfront Park. Applicant: Mary Maddox Askin

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

RESOLUTIONS:

1. Proposed Resolution Approving Minutes from the Athens Village Board Meeting held on September 11th, 2024:

The Deputy Mayor noted that the mayor wanted a change made to the section in the Minutes regarding the DPW and Permissive Referendum.

The Clerk noted that she was not at that meeting and did not take the minutes. Consult with the

Deputy Clerk regarding revisions in her minutes.

Offered by: Trustee Dillberg
Seconded by: Trustee Phoenix
Record of vote: All in favor

2. Proposed Resolution Approving the Payment of Vouchers as Presented

Be it resolved that the Village Board approve the payment of vouchers as presented.

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

3. Proposed Resolution Approving Local Law #4

Be it resolved that the Village Board approve Local Law #4 Alarm Systems as attached.

Offered by: Trustee Phoenix
Seconded by: Trustee Lipsman
Record of vote:
Trustee Dillberg votes aye
Deputy Mayor Lasher votes aye
ABSENT: Mayor Serrago

RESOLUTION passes

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Pesetsky & Bookman, PC. Re: Plane Image Hudson River Gardens LLC. Renotification of intent to apply to the State Liquor Authority for an on-premises liquor license.
2. NYCOM. Re: Advocacy update
3. NYSDOH. Re: LSLI – October 16, 2024 deadline.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Trustee Lipsman informed the VB that a CAC member has not been in attendance at meetings and has not responded to emails inquiring as to whether she is interested in continuing to participate in committee business. Due to this, he would like the VB to consider removing this member from the committee.

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lipsman, seconded by Trustee Phoenix, all in favor removing Molly Little from the CAC.

Trustee Lipsman also informed the VB that the NYSDEC tree grant amount has increased to \$577,000.00 meaning the full grant amount was awarded to the Village with no match required.

Discussion ensued regarding what this grant will entail, including removal of up to 100 trees, planting of up to 200 trees, tree maintenance and education. Also, a street inventory of trees

will be the end result.

Be on the look out for a prerequisite for the DEC tree grant and we will go from there.

DPW Super Sprague asked numerous questions about details. Trustee Lipsman stated that we will have to wait and see as we have not received anything yet. Let's wait until we get more information.

Trustee Dillberg stated that the brown water between the WFP and the holding tank could be caused by the opening of a hydrant without permission. Perhaps the VB should investigate putting locks on all hydrants.

Costs regarding this potential plan will be investigated.

Deputy Mayor Lasher noted that Athens Town cleanup day will be held on October 26th.

ADJOURNMENT

7:15PM MOTION made by Trustee Lipsman, All in favor