

**Village of Athens Board Meeting
October 9, 2024**

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

Meeting began at 6:00pm with the pledge to the flag.

Department Heads:

Northdome-Joe Myers

Joe reported that everything was good, and the flows have been down. He said there is some work to be done at the water plant. He said there was one callout, but it was not catastrophic.

Trustee Dillberg asked if this is what caused the red water.

Joe said that if the tank goes below 5 feet, sediment sets in. He said it went down Schoharie Turnpike to Dogwood but skipped Salvino Drive. Joe said there were a few calls. He said next budget they need to budget for carbon filters. He said that he is going to speak with Westtek as they are experts because he doesn't want to inundate with chlorine.

Trustee Dillberg asked about the pressure.

Joe said that they do a backwash.

Mayro Serrago asked when they were changed last.

Joe said in 2017 or 2018, he said they are probably a little overdue, he said it is performance enhancing.

Joe said he had a new trainee named Jerry and he has passed everything. He also said that the guys have been out flushing and he said that Schoharie cleaned up nice.

Wayne said a flow test needs to be done for the library and the brewery. He said that Jason will email everyone.

Joe said that Dawn and Wayne have the LSLI inventory almost done.

Joe said that the reservoir is showing that there has not been rain. He said a voluntary conservation should probably be done.

Trustee Lipsman said he is in limbo with the State on the lake. He was told that the vegetation should be taken care of on one report. He said there was an effort made to get a permit for this. The Biologist did an assessment, and they didn't find any algae bloom or any other issue. DEC said since there are no invasive species it was ~~not~~ their problem anymore. He said they are now saying the reservoir is a wetland and there is a different set of rules and regulations. He said that DEC

dropped us but DOH had not abandoned us. He said she will continue to call DEC. Trustee Lipsman said that the reservoir has a lot of stuff growing in a life cycle and that it is getting to the end of its cycle. They recommend we look for an alternate water source.

Joe said Trustee Lipsman is dead on and he does not know what will happen this Spring especially when we are categorized as a wetland.

Joe said that the cold will kill off the vegetation. He said he recommends copper sulfate be applied as soon as the ice is gone, but we need someone with a license to do this.

Trustee Lipsman said he was told that harvesting would make the problem worse.

Joe said if we take things out the invasive species will take over.

DPW-Chirs Sprague(absent) Y/ayne Butterworth-

Wayne said that he was filling in for Chris this evening. He said next week they will be working on the water/sewer line at Brick Row. He said that Constantine Court was finished, and a new water service was put in for Mr. Black. He said that the hole in the road had been patched. He said that on Tuesday, they helped Catskill with a water issue. Wayne also said the DPW will be starting leaf pick up.

Trustee Lasher asked if there had been any progress at Playscapes?

Wayne said they needed to schedule it. He said that the water/sewer lines should be another week.

Mayor Serrago asked how Brick Row was.

Wayne said that they cleaned it up a bit and did a 2" curb and a stop valve.

Mayor Serrago asked if residents had been informed.

Wayne said on doors they received notification.

AVFD-Wayne Butterworth

Wayne said he is looking into a fob system for the firehouse. He said that for 5 doors it is usually \$7000.00, but he found one for \$4000.00. He said it is a discount for firehouses, and it goes to a cloud monthly. It would be \$125.00 a month for the storage.

Mayor Serrago said to get the board a hard copy. She said the way you explained it the other day it sounds good.

Wayne said members that aren't members anymore still have keys. He said the system works off the wi-fi. He said he also plans on rekeying the office and one of the closets may become another office.

Trustee Lipsman said someone asked him about the pros and cons of consolidating with West Athens, he asked if there would be any advantages.

Wayne said the Fire Department would become its own entity. He said it would not be a full consolidation either. He said it was talked about a long time ago. He said he could find information on it.

Mayor Serrago said if you had paperwork she would like to see it.

Wayne said that the Village owns the buildings and vehicles.

Trustee Lipsman said I just feel that if the Village can get out and turn over to responsible individuals. It may be a good thing for the Village

Mayor Serrago said if it is beneficial for the taxpayers we should look for the study.

Wayne said that the Pumpkin Parade is this Saturday. It has changed to the middle of the month, no parade, but a trunk or treat.

Police Department-Sgt. Russo(absent)

Code Enforcement – Ed Tercasio/Jeff Ruso(absent)-

Mayor Serrago said she was sent a spreadsheet for pro housing communities. She said it does not look like it is all the data. She said she hasn't heard much. She said she cannot discuss in open session.

APPLICATIONS:

1. Residential Water/Sewer Application. Applicant: Ray E. and Lori A. Williams
Brick Row Alley 122.0-2-34. A **MOTION** was made By Trustee Lipsman, seconded by Trustee Dillberg and all were in favor to let the Williams' hook up to the water/sewer in Brick Row pending the cost to be determined.
2. Facility Use Application. Riverfront Park. Pride Flags. Applicant: Mary Warshaw
A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lipsman, seconded by Trustee Phoenix to allow the Pride Flags in the park, all were in favor.
3. Residential Water/ Sewer Application. Applicant: Federated Church of Athens 18 North Franklin Street—This will be tabled until the ere is a clearer scope of the work to be done. A discussion took place on how this might be done by the board and the Village Attorney.

4. Facility Use Application Paddock Club. Flags. A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Dillberg, seconded by Trustee Lipsman to allow the flags from 5/17/2025-7/6/2025, all were in favor.

RESOLUTIONS:

1. Proposed Resolution Approving Minutes from Village Board Meeting held on September 25th
Offered by:
Seconded By:
Record of Vote:
These were not present at the meeting.
2. Proposed Resolution Approving Payment of Vouchers as Presented on Abstracts
Offered by:
Seconded By:
Record of Vote:
These were not present at the meeting

CORRESPONDENCE: NONE

OLD BUSINESS:

1. NY FORWARD update- Mayor Serrago said that the proposal was moving along. She said there are interesting things that people are coming up with. She said that letters of support are needed. She said there is information on the Village website.
2. Victorian Stroll- Mayor Serrago said a request came in from Carol Pfister about using the gym. Mayor Serrago said she is not sure the timeline for the work to start looking at Nov-Dec. She said the stage may be available. Mayor Serrago said she will have to let her know. Mayor Serrago asked the DPW if they would work with the town on the tree in the park and Wayne said yes.

Carol was present and she asked the mayor to kick off the Victorian Stroll in front of the Cultural Center. She said if she couldn't Trustee Lasher could. Carol said she has costumes available. Carol also said they would like a Historic Ice Boat to be displayed in the park for Victorian Christmas.

Trustee Dillberg said he was worried about vandals.

Carol said that Jonathan Palmer is speaking to the Yacht Club about this and will make sure they have an insurance certificate. She also said she would like to rent a tent for the park.

Everyone was fine with the tent.

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. Discuss proposed Iroquois Pipeline
Trustee Lipsman explained that Iroquois Pipeline wants to expand. It was discussed that this pipeline has no benefit for us here. There were potential problems discussed. Signing a resolution urging the Governor to deny the Iroquois Pipeline expansion was passed by

the Board. A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lipsman, seconded by Trustee Lasher all board members were in favor.

The clerk was asked to email a copy of the resolution to everyone listed.

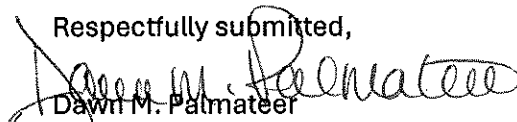
Trustee Lipsman- Trustee Lipsman is getting bid specs for the tree grant, he is nominating Bob Braine for the CAC as they are 3 members down. A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lipsman, seconded by Trustee Phoenix, all were in favor.

Trustee Dillberg- he spoke about possibly getting locks for hydrants.
Mayor Serrago said to get pricing.

The clerk brought up someone to the mayor that is interested in renting space at the building. She will email the information to the mayor.

A **MOTION** to adjourn was made by Trustee Lipsman, seconded by Trustee Phoenix, all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,


Dawn M. Palmateer
Deputy Clerk