

**VILLAGE OF ATHENS BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 12, 2025**

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

The meeting began at 6pm with the pledge.

PUBLIC HEARING-There was a public hearing for the purpose of hearing public comment on the Proposed Local Law#1 which would establish a new schedule of Real Property Tax Exemptions for persons 65 years of age and over and persons with disabilities and limited incomes.

The public hearing opened at 6pm and was closed at 6:05pm as there were no comments.

A **MOTION** was made to adopt Local Law #1 which would establish a new schedule of Real Property Tax Exemptions for people 65 years and older and persons with disabilities and limited incomes.

Offered by: Trustee Dillberg

Seconded by: Trustee Phoenix

Record of Vote: all were in favor

DEPARTMENT HEADS:

Water and Sewer-Joe Myers- Joe asked permission to authorize Serena (a worker of his) to be able to fill out DOH paperwork. Joe also said that Leak Detection was done this week, and the report will be out soon. He said there was a problem with a backwash pump and the DPW will help get it out. He said it will need a crane and will need to be evaluated. Joe said he is looking to get a compressor as one is down. He said it's been a pretty smooth month.

DPW- Chris Sprague- Chris said that things are slow right now. He went over a list of items the DPW has worked on. He said the leak detection was done too and there are 2 good leaks and 2 small leaks. He said 4 hydrants have an issue and he will be making sure they are shut tomorrow. He said he spoke with Hinchey over 385.

There was a brief discussion over the paving of 385 and when this project was supposed to be done. The parking law was brought up, it was mentioned there are 3 different signs out there for parking. It was mentioned that it needs to be uniform with alternate parking in effect for a time to be determined.

The mayor said there was a public hearing on this. No one wanted to park on one side of the street and Brick Row cannot do even and odd.

AVFD-Wayne Butterworth- Wayne said the dive team is on board to dive at the lake. He said they will need to purchase a new orange ball for this. He said the small auxiliary boat would need to go in too, he will get with Joe and Chris over doing this. He said he is getting prices on gear racks.

Wayne presented an application to move Caitlyn Lydon from social member to active member.

A **MOTION** was made to make Caitlyn an active member,

Offered by: Trustee Dillberg

Seconded by: Trustee Phoenix
Record of Vote: all were in favor

APD-Jeff Ruso-Sgt. Ruso said that they would like to give a commendation to Sgt. William Mirando of the Athens PD and Sgt Ryan Schrader of the Greene County Sheriff's Office for using life saving measures until EMS could get to a medical call on January 22, 2025.

Mayor Serrago also commended the officers for their life saving measures.
(See commendation attached)

Sgt. Ruso asked if the board received the report that was sent. He said the radios were arriving soon and Sgt. Tercasio has been working on cameras for the park. He said these will be covered by the grant. He said there would be training at Columbia Greene at the end of March, and they have started working on the budget. He also said they are looking to hire Kiersten Benson as a non-competitive officer.

He said she is currently a dispatcher and in the Army reserves.
A **MOTION** was made to hire Kiersten Benson as a non-competitive officer to the APD.
Offered by: Trustee phoenix
Seconded By: Trustee Dillberg
Record of vote: all were in favor.

Code Enforcement- Jeff Ruso- Jeff said this has been a quiet month. He said they have been working on short-term rentals, and they are extending payments until May 31st, as they are changing the calendar year.

Attorney Rappleyea said that he has sent letters to Home Sweet Home and Snake Pit. He also said he is working on the Order on Consent for the Church Street property.

Jeff said that going back to APD business the cameras were quoted at \$9985.00 and would be covered under the grant. He said the village would pay and be reimbursed. They would have access for viewing by computer.

A **MOTION** was made to go ahead and order the cameras at a cost of \$9985.00.
Offered by: Trustee Lipsman
Seconded by: Trustee Dillberg
Record of Vote: all were in favor.

APPLICATIONS: NONE

RESOLUTIONS:

1. Proposed Resolution Approving Minutes
BE IT RESOLVED that the Minutes from the Village Board Meeting held on January 22, 2025 be approved:
Offered by: Trustee Phoenix
Seconded by: Trustee Lipsman
Record of vote: all were in favor

2. Proposed Resolution Approving Payment of Vouchers as Presented on Abstracts
BE IT RESOLVED that the Village Board approve payment of vouchers as presented:
Offered by: Trustee Lipsman
Seconded by: Trustee Dillberg
Record of vote: All were in favor

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Central Hudson-UDIG
2. Department of Health- Monitoring requirements
3. Notice of Court Order-New York vs. Trump
A brief discussion about how funding will affect the village

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Lawn mowing RFP- The clerk was told to get this ready and put it in the paper.
2. April Meeting Schedule- The Mayor would like to possibly change a meeting as she would like the budget done by the 20th of April.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Gym Application- Trustee Phoenix brought some updated information on rules for the gym. There was a brief discussion on the rules as well as accountability.

Trustee Dillberg- nothing for this evening

Trustee Lipsman said we are a Tree City for another year. He also said he received an email from Community Choice Aggregation.

Trustee Phoenix- She said that she and Joey had been working on recreation. There was a brief discussion on the program to be presented this year.

Mayor Serrago said that the LWRP was moving along. She said there will be community input within the next month.

The meeting went into Executive Session at 7:35 to discuss a legal matter.

A **MOTION** was made to exit the monthly meeting and go into executive session.

Offered by: Trustee Phoenix

Seconded by: Trustee Lipsman

Record of vote: all were in favor.

A **MOTION** was made to end executive session at 7:53

Offered by: Trustee Lipsman

Seconded by: Trustee Dillberg

Record of vote: all were in favor

A **MOTION** was made at 7:54 to adjourn this evening's meeting.

Offered by: Trustee Lipsman

Seconded by: Trustee Dillberg

Record of vote: all were in favor

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dawn M. Palmateer". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Dawn M. Palmateer

Dawn M. Palmateer

Village of Athens
Police Department
2 First Street
Athens, New York 12015

COMMENDATION

On January 22, 2025 at approximately 6:46 PM, a 911 call was received for medical assistance for a 47-year-old male having a seizure at 27 Union Street in the Village of Athens.

Athens Police Department Sgt William Mirando and Sgt Ryan Schrader of the Greene County Sheriff's Office responded to the call

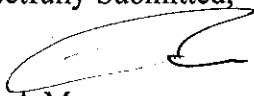
Upon arrival by these Officers, it was discovered that the victim had gone into cardiac arrest.

The officers deployed an Athens PD AED on the victim and were successful in maintaining life savings measures until Emergency Medical Services arrived on the scene.

Both Sgt Mirando and Sgt Schrader are to be commended for their actions to help save a life. The cooperation and teamwork they exemplified in this life-threatening situation is a credit to the Village of Athens and the Law Enforcement community.

On behalf of the Village of Athens Police Department, I thank them both for their unwavering commitment to our community. We wish them continued success in their future.

Respectfully Submitted,



Roger A Masse
Chief of Police