Village of Athens Board Meeting
December 10, 2025

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

Meeting began with the pledge at 6pm.

Public:

Rick Surrano: APAC and bathrooms in the park—no show

Department Heads:

1. Northdome-Joe Myers -Joe said that DOH came and did an inspection. He said they come about every 3 years. He said there are a few issues, and he would like Jason to come and look at these and do the response for DOH. He said the inspection was not terrible though. He said the water flows are looking good. Joe said that the flows at the sewer plant were down. He said he is still working on estimates for solids vs. liquids.
   Mayor Serrago asked the Village Attorney about a relevy fee on people's taxes when bills are not paid and she said the board would need to pass a local law to do so. The attorney said he does not see a problem with having a fee. Mayor Serrago said she will bring this up again in January or February.
2. DPW-Chris Sprague- Chris said the DPW is finishing up small tasks. He said no parking signs have been put up, he said the first storm went well. He said a few cars were towed. He said union negotiations have started for the DPW contract. He said the DPW also helped out with two projects at the Fire Department. Chris said that the aluminum fascia blew off the water plant and there are birds getting on, so they will get some flashing for that. He said some vehicle repairs have been done and that there was a water leak at a house by the bank. There was a discussion on no parking signs as more are needed.
   Mayor Serrago said after the first of the year the code for parking will be looked into again.
   Chief Butterworth asked to put some items up for auction.

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Dillberg, seconded by Trustee Phoenix to declare 3 generators and 2 portable pumps as surplus goods, all were in favor.

There was a discussion about outdoor dining at Night School as tables and chairs need to be brought in. Mayor Serrago said she will revisit this in the Spring.

Chris also brought up an issue with plowing the Municipal lot. There was a brief discussion. Chris also mentioned that there are beavers at the reservoir that need to be eradicated. He said that DOH gave a bad rating because the beavers are leaving stuff behind. He said he applied for a permit to humanely remove them.

3. AVFD-Wayne Butterwoth- Wayne asked if the emergency spending only had been lifted yet and he was told as of 1/1/2026 it would be.
   Trustee Lasher asked about grants. The clerk read off what was received in the village office from the Community Benefits Foundation. Wayne said the AVFD received enough for 5 more sets of gear and money for the pumpkin parade. He also said they received $5000.00 from NBC for pagers and flashlights. He said they are working on a 50/50 grant for portable radios.
   Mayor Serrago said the new lights on the building are much better.
   Wayne said they are looking at prices on a digital sign. He said they are reasonable but not cheap. He also mentioned a serious call they went to.

4. Police Department-Roger Masse (absent) William Mirando attended
   A MOTION was made by Trustee Lasher, seconded by Trustee Eastwick to reappoint William Mirando as a sergeant, all were in favor.
   Mirando read the November report. He said parking for the storm was a problem as people said they were not notified. He said that the SRO's put in 120 hours last month working with staff and students. He said the school applied for a COPS grant last year. He also said that the cadet program at the school has 12 students in it and they applied for a grant with CSX for protective equipment. He also mentioned that the adjuster was here today about the police truck.

5. Code Enforcement- Ed Tercasio (absent) William Mirando gave report. He said that there have been a lot of building permits and that Home Sweet Home seems to be on track now.
   Mayor Serrago mentioned that the PD should all have .gov addresses for their email
   Mirando also said that Ed suggests raising the short-term rental fees. He said Ed suggests Residents $350.00 and Non-Residents $550.00.
   A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Phoenix, seconded by Trustee Dillberg to raise the fee for short term rental fees to Residents $350.00 and Non-Residents $550.00, all were in favor.
   Mayor Serrago said after the first of the year the penalty for non-payment will be amended with a public hearing as the fees are due at the end of January.

APPLICATIONS:

1. Facility Use-Gym, Meeting Room, Second Street, Water to Warren Street and the Community Building for the Victorian Stroll submitted by the ACC
   A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Dillberg, seconded by Trustee Lasher to allow the use of the streets and Community Building for the Stroll, all were in favor.

RESOLUTIONS:

1. Proposed Resolution Approving the Village Board Minutes on November 12,2025
   Offered by: Trustee Dillberg
   Seconded by: Trustee Eastwick
   Record of Vore: all were in favor
2. Proposed Resolution Approving the Payment of Vouchers as Presented.
   Offered by: Trustee Lasher
   Seconded by: Trustee Phoenix
   Record of Vote: All were in favor
3. State of NY Authority Resolution
   Offered by: Trustee Dillberg
   Seconded by: Trustee Lasher
   Record of Vote: All were in favor

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Greene County Resolution #385-25 Authorizing Distribution of Mortgage Tax
2. Teamsters Contract Changes Letter-Trustee Dillberg, Mayor Serrago, and Chris Sprague met with the Union. They will meet again and then everything should be set.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Central Hudson EV Makes Ready Reporting-The Village did not meet the deadline
2. Aventine Properties-Assessment Reduction Refunds
3. Central Hudson Lighting Assessment- The assessment was discussed and right now is not a good time for this however the Mayor asked if when the time is right would the board be comfortable with her making the decision to go ahead and have Central Hudson do the upgrades a the Water Plant, Sewer Plant, and Community Center to change to LEDs.
   A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Dillberg, seconded by Trustee Lasher to allow the Mayor to make the decision for the buildings to change to LEDs as recommended by Central Hudson, all were in favor.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Water Meters/Software: Schmidts Wholesale- On hold for now

Mayor Serrago asked if new flags were ordered Chris said he is taking care of this. Mayor Serrago asked if there is a way to get people to shovel? Part time people, abandoned properties? Chris said that Code should be sending letters to these properties. Mayor Serrago also said that the software and meters will need to wait until we know what the water budget is.

Trustee Lasher- nothing for tonight

Trustee Dillberg- He said today leaving the bank he noticed the handrails by Trustee Lashers house . Chris said they were waiting for connectors.

Trustee Eastwick-nothing for tonight

Trustee Phoenix-nothing for tonight

Mayor Serrago said that the charger at the municipal lot was under warranty and would be fixed. She said the AMI was going to go forward and they would meet on the 17th and SEQR would be done. The Village would be lead agency. She also said that no resolution would need to be made to spend out of the building fund. She said she will need to get information together for the sewer rate study. She said she has a meeting with the police and Greene computer to consolidate services. She mentioned that the Town of Athens will give an extra $2000.00 for Summer Recreation this year and the Village is looking into some grants for the program. She said she is looking for an equitable lease agreement with the Town but is hoping the AMI is done by then.

A **MOTION** was made by Mayor Serrago, seconded by Trustee Dillberg to enter executive session at 7:30pm to discuss a personnel issue, all were in favor.

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Dillberg, seconded by Trustee Eastwick to come out of executive session at 8:14pm, all were in favor.

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lasher, seconded by Trustee Dillberg to adjourn this evening's meeting at 8:15pm, all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn M. Palmateer
Village Clerk