

VILLAGE OF ATHENS MEETING MINUTES-JANUARY 14, 2026

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

Present: Mayor Amy Serrago; Trustee Gail Lasher; Trustee Alison Phoenix; Trustee Joey Dillberg; Trustee Diane Eastwick.

DEPARTMENT HEADS:

1. Northdome-Joe Myers (not present). Board reviewed the report submitted. Reservoir maintenance was successful. All agree to move ahead with Pond and Lake without using the algaecide.
2. DPW-Chris Sprague. Water breaks have been taken care of. Snow Emergency signs are near completion. Storage shed for AVFD is completed. 89 tons of salt has been delivered. First round of surplus at the auction is closed. Chris would like the Board to accept the \$25 bid for the lightbar; Board agrees. All the surplus that did not sell at the last auction is included this time and that one will close on Friday, January 16th. Tree cuttings should be done now. Services are out for bid at the County level. Mayor Serrago will check with Administrator to see if the DPW could get reimbursed for the work from the grant. The pipe on the furnace at the municipal building needs to be replaced. Bottini has quoted \$550 to fix. Trustee Dillberg made a motion to accept quote seconded by Trustee Lasher. Record of Vote: All in Favor. Chris would like to order hydrants; funds will have to be checked. Richardd Greene's sidewalk/curb will be dealt with. To do properly, trees would have to be removed, a trench dug out and then topsoil and blacktop. Mayor Serrago would like the Trustees to at some time before the February department heads meeting to walk down and look at the issue.
3. Fire Department-Wayne Butterworth. Wayne would like to purchase a \$900 storage box for the truck. States he hasn't received his equipment fund line item totals. Five sets of gear has been ordered. Waiting for grant from National Bank of Coxsackie. Nancy Poylo will put in the newsletter what Wayne has submitted. The lights at the firehouse still need to be adjusted.
4. Police Department-Roger Masse. Report attached. Mayor Serrago would like the report to have more of a narrative. Parking tickets need to be updated. CE Tercasio will get back to the Board with a suggested cost for parking tickets. A resolution may be needed to change the tickets. The green bus parked down by the bank is not doing anything illegal. The Village may need to put a policy in effect for these issues, parking in one spot for long lengths of time, in the parking code. Civil Service for Code Enforcement has been straightened out. The department is looking to hire Taylor Johnson as a new police officer as Officer Butler has resigned his position. The position is non-competitive and training will be completed in April. Trustee Lashe made a motion to hire Taylor Johnson seconded by Trustee Dillberg. All were in favor.
The police truck has been stripped of all the equipment. The insurance will cover another vehicle if it is the same. Trustee Lasher made a motion to resolve seconded by Trustee Dillberg to go out to bid once Officer Tercasio gets back to the Board with all the Information. All were in favor.

5.Code Enforcement-Ed Tercasio. The Village has several short-term rentals; only three have been paid to date. Officer Tercasio has contacted a service that has identified at least 160 STR's. The service has quoted \$3000 to provide a list of all STR's in the Village; \$3000 to provide applicant with application to fill out and pay fee on webpage; \$6000 would identify rentals, collect payment, and send to the Village; \$924 would cover sending out violation notices. Officer Tercasio will email a formal proposal to the Board. The STR law would need to be amended to reflect the following: all STR's have until January 31st to renew, \$100 to be applied for every month unpaid; application fee would be based on the average of \$300 per night rental rate which would be \$600 per year. Officer Tercasio will get that together for the Board.

RESOLUTIONS:

1.Proposed Resolution Approving the Village Board Minutes of December 10, 2025

Offered By: Trustee Lasher

Seconded By: Trustee Phoenix

Record of Vote: All in Favor

2.Proposed Resolution Approving the Payment of Vouchers as Presented.

Offered By: Trustee Dillberg

Seconded By: Trustee Lasher

Record of Vote: All in Favor

3.Proposed Resolution 2026-01 Raising Late Fees to 20% For Water/Sewer Bills.

Offered By: Trustee Dillberg

Seconded By: Trustee Eastwick

Record Of Vote: All in Favor

4.Proposed Resolution 2026-2 from NYS DOT. (copy attached)

Offered By: Trustee Dillberg

Seconded By: Trustee Eastwick

Record of Vote: All in Favor

CORRESPONDENCE:

1.Greene County Resolution No.61-10 Authorizing County to Assist Towns and Villages Located in Greene County to Minimize Costs Incurred Under Local Unsafe Building Laws Authorizing Demolition.

2.Greene County Resolution No.369-25 Changing , Altering or Revising Tentative Budget Following Public Hearing- Emergency Medical Services.

3.Greene County Resolution No.421-25 Authorizing the Relevy of Unpaid Taxes for the Year 2025.

4.Greene County Resolution No.422-25 Authorizing the Implementation and Funding of a State "Marchiselli" Program-Aid Eligible Transportation Federal-Aid Project, to Fully Fund the Local Share of Federal and State Aid Eligible and Ineligible Project Costs and Establish Capital Project 173.

5.Natasha Law, Village of Catskill Letter

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Review of Financial Reports- no reports available; tabled.
- 2.Summer Recreation Grant Applications. Stewarts, Speenburgh, and Peckham. The Town of Athens has increased their budget contribution by \$2000.
3. Re-Levy Law Discussion. Tabled. Looking in to seeing if the Village can pass a law adding fees to taxes for re-levies.
- 4.Short-Term Rental Law Amendment. Discussed.
- 5.Snow Parking Law Amendment (Second St.). Will also include Rt 385, Montgomery St., anywhere there should be one-sided parking during snow emergencies. A public hearing will be set for February 11, 2026.

OLD BUSINESS:

- 1.Facility Use Application: Updating Application. Board will review.
- 2.Fees for Weddings. Venue fees will be looked into. May be based on a sliding scale.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- 1.Gail Stacey, Deputy Clerk. Who should be the contact person for museum questions? Bob Brunner. There is no longer a dog control officer for Athens. The water restriction has been lifted. Removal of the Van Loon House from mowing contract. Amy will reach out to Tim Albright.
- 2.Trustee Phoenix. There is some chatter around the Village on the NY Forward Grant. It will be finalized in March or April.
- 3.Trustee Dillberg. Water meters. They are on hold; maybe until next budget.
- 4.Supervisor Sprague. Waiting for letter from Attorney Tal Rappleyae on the meter issue.
- 5.Mayor Serrago. Emergency Preparedness seminar on January 27 at 7:00 pm. Sewer rate study info still needed. Lift project: fuel tank still needs to be removed. Project will move quickly once down payment is made and paperwork signed. Four to Five weeks to complete project. The company doing the lift would like the Village and Town to sign. Mayor Serrago will reach out about union contract. Are the charging stations making money? Will have to look at the bills to determine.
- 6.Nancy Poylo. Will be on the Department of Aging Board.

EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR PERSONNEL ISSUE: 8:15 pm

OFFERED BY: Trustee Lasher

SECONDED BY: Trustee Dillberg

RECORD OF VOTE: All in Favor

CLOSE EXECUTIVE SESSION: 8:55 pm

OFFERED BY: Trustee Lasher

SECONDED BY: Trustee Dillberg

RECORD OF VOTE: All in Favor

ADJOURNMENT: 8:56 pm
OFFERED BY: Trustee Lasher
SECONDED BY: Trustee Phoenix
RECORD OF VOTE: All in Favor

Respectfully Submitted,

Gail Stacey
Deputy Clerk, Village of Athens