

Village of Athens Board meeting- March 25, 2026

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

Absent: Trustee Phoenix

The Meeting began at 6pm

Public Hearing:

Water Re-Levy Law Amendment: Chapter 229-6

Mayor Serrago said that this would be to add a relevely fee to the tax bill when people do not pay their water/sewer bills.

The floor was opened for comments:

Rob Brunner asked how many homeowners would be targeted for this.

Mayor Serrago said that the late fees have increased due to the recommendations from the rate study for the water rates, she said hopefully this will discourage people.

Representative from the Daily Mail asked where he could find the rates study and was told online.

Mayor Serrago said that the late fees have increased and this is just for the relevely. The cost **would be** \$120.00 or 20%, whichever is greater.

The public hearing closed at 6:05pm

Attorney Rappleyea said a SEQR for the relevely would need to be done. He read the SEQR aloud and the board answered no to all the questions.

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Dillberg, seconded by Trustee Lasher to accept the negative declaration, all were in favor.

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lasher, seconded by Trustee Dillberg to pass the relevely fee to be added to the tax bills for those that do not pay their water/sewer bills, all were in favor.

RESOLUTIONS:

1. Proposed Resolution Approving the Village Board Minutes of March 11, 2026.
Offered By: Trustee Dillberg
Seconded By: Trustee Eastwick
Record of Vote: all were in favor
2. Proposed Resolution Approving the Payment of Vouchers as Presented.
Offered By: Trustee Dillberg

Seconded By: Trustee Lasher
Record of Vote: All were in favor

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. DOT Culvert Repair Letter
2. Arbor Day Foundation Tree City USA Recognition Letter

NEW BUSINESS:

1. UHY Advisors' Engagement Letter-
Mayor Serrago spoke about the work that has been done already by the bookkeeper. She said it is not cheap. She would be part-time at a cost of \$20,000.00 for the year. She said she will do spreadsheets to keep on track and help with the AFR's
Mayor Serrago asked the Village attorney if this had to go to bid.
Attorney Rappleyea said it is recommended but not required. He did say an audit should be done every 3 years.

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Dillberg, seconded by Trustee Lasher to hire the bookkeeper from UHY, all were in favor.

2. Get the Lead Out Initiative- Chris Sprague, DPW Supervisor, told the board about the initiative. He had a meeting and found out this is no cost to the Village and is funded by the EPA.
3. Opening of the Lawn Care bids-
One bid came in from Flats Bros. Their cost is \$31080.00. Mayor Serrago said they went up a little. She asked the board for any comments or concerns. There were none.
A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lasher, seconded by Trustee Dillberg to accept the bid from Flats Bros., all were in favor.

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. Public Hearing for Tentative Budget-April 8th will be the hearing on the Tentative Budget.
2. Organizational Meeting- The Organizational Meeting will be on April 8th.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Venue Fees- Mayor Serrago said she would like to charge fees for use of the gym especially in the winter.
Trustee Dillberg mentioned the heat used and the fact the floors are new.

DPW Supervisor Sprague asked about the Ferry electric, he wanted to know if the contract was set in stone.

Mayor Serrago said that it was a 2-year contract with them and it will be renegotiated with a new rate schedule.

Mayor Serrago mentioned that she met with the reps from the Teamsters Union. She said everything was pretty much agreed on. She said there will be new rates of pay for June. Call out time will be 3 hours instead of 2 and there will be 50cents less probationary pay. She said they are doing away with rates for CDL, etc. There will also be changes to longevity. She said wording has been added for prevailing wage and whichever is higher.

Trustee Eastwick had nothing else for tonight.

Trustee Dillberg mentioned a residence on Union Street is having problems with drainage. The resident gets about 2" of water in his basement as it goes down his driveway.

DPW Supervisor Sprague said that the State is responsible for a certain portion of the intersection. He said he will get Catskill to come up with their camera.

Trustee Lasher had nothing else for tonight.

Attorney Rappleyea had nothing else for tonight.

The Village Clerk brought up that the Short-Term rental rates needed to be changed on the website and about a new form all departments will need to fill out when ordering through Amazon.

Mayor Serrago brought up the webinars that are available through OSC for the Office and Department Heads. She also spoke about Jason and the Congressional grant funding. She let the board know that the EFC is slated to close on July 1st. She said Jason is also working on getting reimbursement for the 2nd filter failure. Reimbursement for that would be \$100,000.00. She said that her and Tal did an emergency declaration. She said Becky from RCAP will have the sewer study done by early April and will come and speak with us about that.

The mayor will not be here on April 22nd, so the April meeting will be changed to April 29th.

Trustee Dillberg asked if some of the board meetings could be done by phone as he will be working in Utica for the summer.

Mayor Serrago will check the law as it may have to be a video call.
Mayor Serrago said that the elevator project is moving forward.

Merril Roth(resident) asked if the charging station rates had changed.
Mayor Serrago said they had.

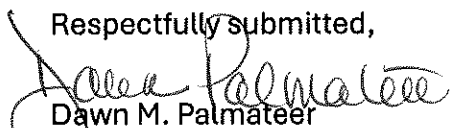
Mayor Serrago also brought up that 385 will be paved April to October.

DPW Supervisor Sprague said that Callahan received the bid and they will be making sidewalks ADA complaint and there will be new street signs.

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Dawn M. Palmateer
Village Clerk