

## VILLAGE OF ATHENS AGENDA-JUNE 24, 2026

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

### *PLEDGE TO THE FLAG*

#### PUBLIC:

1. Edith Margarito: 23-25 N Warren St.: Re-Levies on Tax Bill. No show.
2. Cossackie-Athens Central School District Interim Superintendent Dr. Patrick Sweeney.  
Dr. Sweeney came before the Board to explain the re-alignment of EJ Arthur Elementary and Cossackie Elementary. Kindergarten through third and special needs will be at EJA. Fourth grade will move to Cossackie. The school district is on the list of needs improvement due to student scores being low. The public has fought against the restructuring but the school district, with a majority vote, passed the change. Paperwork has been filed with NYSED with the financials. The school district is in a deficit. Mayor Serrago asked why there is a deficit? The answer seemed a bit vague. She also wanted to know why some parents and the community as a whole was not notified of the change and if there was any plan to generate revenue? No plan was given and the public was notified. Mayor Serrago feels that there was no respect given to the residents of Athens. Trustee Lasher feels that it is not right that younger and older children will intermingle as Bussing and time schedules will change. Dr. Sweeney stated that children of all ages have been together on the busses without a problem. Trustee Phoenix asked what the class sizes would be with fewer teachers? Upwards of 25 students per class. Seven teaching positions were cut prior to restricting vote without any savings to the school district. What is the long term plan? There is a 3-5 year plan in the works. Brittany Palmateer stated that NYSED procedures were not followed for transparency. What was the walkthrough in the Municipal Building? To show architecture. Was there a discussion on the Town offices going to EJA? No. Could land that the school district owns be sold to bring in revenue, i.e.: affordable housing? School Board Member Bart Wallace stated that the land on Adams Rd. is slated for solar but is on a waiting list. Could take between 2-3 years. That would bring some money into the district. The school district owns approximately 179.46 acres of land. Dr. Sweeney also stated that the correctional facility does not contribute any money to the district. He will inform the new Superintendent of the suggestions made.

#### APPLICATIONS:

1. Facility Use: Second St, Leeds Athens Rd/Schoharie Tpke- Banners: Town of Athens. Banners will need to be centered. Trustee Lasher made a motion to approve the application seconded by Trustee Dillberg. Record of Vote: All in Favor.

2. Facility Use: Streets, Parking Areas for Golf Carts and Food Truck: Town of Athens: Celebration.

Trustee Dillberg made a motion to approve the application seconded by Trustee Phoenix.

Record of Vote: All in Favor.

3. Facility Use: Riverside Park- High Hill Methodist Church Service.

Trustee Dillberg made a motion to approve the application seconded by Trustee

Lasher. Record of Vote: All in Favor.

#### RESOLUTIONS:

1. Proposed Resolution Approving the Village Board Minutes of June 10, 2026 with Correction.

Offered By: Trustee Dillberg

Seconded By: Trustee Phoenix

Record of Vote: All in Favor

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

Offered By: Trustee Lasher

Seconded By: Trustee Dillberg

Record of Vote: All in Favor

#### CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Chargepoint Monthly Report-May

2. Community Rally-Save Columbia Memorial Hospital-July 14<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-7:30 pm

3. GLO Initiative Handouts-July 17-18<sup>th</sup>

4. RVW Gun Club 80<sup>th</sup> Celebration Invite

5. GCHS Annual Senior Citizens Day

#### NEW BUSINESS:

1. Insurance. Retirees are not happy with the rate increase. Retired clerk MJ Wynne has reached out to a broker. Trustee Phoenix will work on this matter with Clerk Dawn Palmateer. Village would pick up Part B and cost is low.

2. RCAP Fee For Service Agreement. DPW Supervisor Sprague says to pay the \$250 for the GIS Maps. Diamond maps can be altered.

3. Bond Renewal Resolution- TAN. Trustee Dillberg made a motion to extend the TAN seconded by Trustee Phoenix. All were in favor. TAN extension is for 90 days.

4. Legal Notice of Estoppel-TAN. Trustee Dillberg made a motion to put the legal notice in the paper seconded by Trustee Phoenix. All were in favor.

5. Tax Levy Limit Signing. Trustee Lasher made a motion to approve seconded by Trustee Dillberg. Record of Vote: All in favor.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

1. Employee Handbook for Office Staff. The Board has received the info from Mayor Serrago for review.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- 1.Trustee Lasher: Boardwalk in the park needs to be fixed on the walkway side. It will need to be torn up and the hangers replaced. Hedges need to be trimmed. Ramp to the pavilion could use millings.
- 2.Trustee Dillberg: Kayak launch is overgrown. DPW will take care of. Portable Potties for the park; the Village would own them, and the cost is between \$3000 and \$4000. Will be discussed at the July 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. Could be part of the NY Forward Grant.
- 3.DPW Supervisor Chris Sprague: Can the station on the docks be taken off? Yes, if it is not being used.
- 4.Mayor Serrago: Hudson Ferry is not running but there is a company from Catskill that will do the service; boat can only accommodate 6 passengers at a time. The sign for Hudson Ferry will need to come down. The Historic Marker for Brick Row is in. DPW will handle.
- 5.Trustee Phoenix: Music in the park should be advertised on the website and the newsletter.
- 6.Attorney Rappleyea: Local Law for 4-way-stop On Second St and Franklin St. will be on the July 8<sup>th</sup> agenda.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: With nothing further to come before the Board, Trustee Phoenix made a motion to enter into Executive Session seconded by Trustee Lasher. Record of Vote: All in Favor. 7:20 pm.

Trustee Lasher made a motion to exit Executive Session seconded by Trustee Dillberg. Record of Vote: All in Favor.

ADJOURNMENT:

Trustee Lasher made a motion to adjourn seconded by Trustee Dillberg. Record of Vote: All in Favor.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:52 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gail Stacey  
Village of Athens Deputy Clerk