

Village of Athens Board Meeting – July 8, 2026

MINUTES

Present: Mayor Serrago; Trustee Lasher; Trustee Phoenix; Trustee Dillberg; Trustee Eastwick.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

PUBLIC:

1. Joshua Lipsman: Releives on Tax Bill.

Mr. Lipsman would like the Board to consider tweaking the way releives are handled. He pays his water/sewer and tax bills through his bank (bill processing). He stated that he has never been late with any payments. The bills do not reflect a breakdown of charges. He has paid the bill in full and would like the Board to also consider a possible refund or credit. Mayor Serrago feels that Mr. Lipsman should take the late payment up with the bank. The office will check with the County to see if they could do a breakdown of releives. Going forward, the May water/sewer billing due date will be five days prior to relevy submittal to the County. The Board will look into a possible refund to Mr. Lipsman.

DEPARTMENT HEADS:

1. Joe Myers: Northdome: The reservoir is not where it should be; two more days of heavy rain would put the reservoir in good shape. The voluntary water restriction will stay in place for now. All avenues have been utilized to get the word out about water conservation.

226,000 gallons of water used in the month of June. Hydrant flushing was done in June. The water main on N Washington St was taken care of by the Village DPW. The compression valve has been replaced. The gate at the plant needs to be looked at.

197,000 gallons at sewer plant with no days of excess. Brick Row: 1000 gallons per day, no days flow excess. The EFC has awarded the Village a 1.5 million dollar grant for the sewer infrastructure project. A total of 3.2 million dollars has been awarded for this project; may be possible to earmark some of these funds for the Rt 385 lines.

There were a couple of ground water issues- the pool and Church St.

2. Chris Sprague: DPW: Millings in the alleys has been completed and are prepped for oil and stone. Street Festival prep has begun. The County helped bring in stone for the alley work. Would like monthly reports as previously asked for (the office staff is closing out the year). He would like to discuss department issues in executive session.

Mayor Serrago stated that the crosswalks are in place. The State still has to come back and do the signage and put grass down in areas, should be concrete. The DPW was asked if they could weed eat on Second St. before Street Fest- they will take care of. Residents have put plantings around the fire hydrants; the DPW will be taking care of that issue. The DPW crew will be in on Sunday after Street Fest to collect the garbage.

3. Jimmy Robinson: AVFD: Asked if landscaping could be done in front of the firehouse- Trustee Lasher made a motion to accept the request seconded by Trustee Dillberg. All were in favor. All department physicals have been completed (26). Would also like the Village DPW crew to help with the memorial. Board agrees with request.

4. Roger Masse: APD: Trustee Lasher gave the report. Several incidents reported in the Village. Speed

control is in effect, tickets are being issued. Officers will be on duty at Street Fest. The SRO contract still has not been finalized.

5.Ed Tercasio: Code Enforcement: Trustee Lasher gave the report. 17 Building Permits issued. Projects: 53 Second St.- interior renovation (\$4050); 3 N Washington St- permit issued, failed inspection; 11 N Water St- near completion.

Short term Rentals- 10 complete; 3 violation letters have been sent.

8 S Church St (Stearns)- The Village has held an escrow BAN escrow on this property. A stop work order had been issued and then was lifted and has since finished his project in a timely manner.

Trustee Phoenix made a motion to close out the account and return the money to the owner seconded by Trustee Dillberg. Roll Call: All in Favor. Motion carried.

APPLICATIONS:

1.Facility Use Application: Ms. Kathy STEM LLC: Pavilion.

Trustee Dillberg made a motion to approve seconded by Trustee Lasher. Roll Call: 3 Ayes (Mayor Serrago, Trustee Lasher, Trustee Dillberg; 2 Abstentions (Trustees Phoenix and Eastwick).

Motion carried.

2.Fireworks Display Permit: Street Festival.

Trustee Dillberg made a motion to approve seconded by Trustee Phoenix. Roll Call: All in Favor.

3.Facility Use: Municipal Lobby: Town of Athens.

Trustee Lasher made motion to approve seconded by Trustee Phoenix. Roll Call: All in Favor.

4.Permit to Peddle: The Squeeze Shack: for Cruisers Car Shows.

Trustee Dillberg made amotion to approve seconded by Trustee Phoenix. Roll Call: All in Favor.

RESOLUTIONS:

1.Proposed Resolution Approving Minutes from the June 24, 2026 Village Board Meeting

Offered by: Trustee Phoenix

Seconded by: Trustee Lasher

Record of vote: All in Favor

2.Proposed Resolution Approving Payment of Vouchers:

Offered by: Trustee Dillberg

Seconded by: Trustee Eastwick

Record of vote: All in Favor

3.Resolution to Dissolve the Youth Commission.

Offered by: Trustee Dillberg

Seconded by: Trustee Lasher

Record of Vote: All in Favor

CORRESPONDENCE:

1.EFC: Sewer Overflow & Stormwater Reuse Municipal Grant Award.

-\$1,513,016 OSC Grant awarded to the Village of Athens.

2.Upper-Hudson Valley Community Center Survey.

- Will post on Village Bulletin Board.
- 3.CDPHP Proposed Premium Rate Change.
- 4.National Rural Water Assoc. Circuit Rider Services Program.
- Copy to DPW Supervisor and Joe Myers, Northdome.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1.NY Forward Selected Projects with Funding Amounts.
\$300,000 was awarded for small projects. Next steps are to contract with the State on NY Forward projects. The public will be able to speak once the committees are formed.
Press release is on the website. Residents have to live within the approved NY Forward zone; may be 10-12 residents.
- 2.Local Law Adding a Four-Way Stop Intersection in the Village.
Trustees Phoenix & Dillberg feel that a four way stop at the intersection of Second St. and Franklin St is a good idea; there have been accidents there. Trustee Lasher disagrees and feel that it should remain a through street and that parking at the corners should be monitored. Trustee Eastwick drivers do not pay attention regardless. Mayor Serrago stated that the matter can be taken to public hearing. Trustee Dillberg agrees.

OLD BUSINESS:

- 1.Portable Restrooms in Park.
-Tabled for the August 12th meeting.
- 2.Retirees Insurance.
-Still in process. A meeting time will be set up with representative Erin Nevins.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- 1.Trustee Phoenix: Summer Recreation: 1 child dispute complaint.
- 2.Mayor Serrago: Habitat Mapping is underway. Tree bid sent around from CAC. Cocksackie has opened a new skate park at McQuade.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Personnel

Trustee Dillberg made a motion to enter into executive session seconded by Trustee Lasher. Record of Vote: All in Favor. 7:22 pm.

Trustee Dillberg made a motion to exit executive session seconded by Trustee Phoenix. Record of Vote: All in Favor. 7:38 pm.

The July 22, 2026 meeting will be cancelled due to no quorum.

A public hearing will be scheduled for August 26, 2026 for the 4-way stop at the intersection of Second Street and Franklin Streets.

ADJOURNMENT:

With nothing further to come before the Board, Trustee Lasher made a motion to adjourn seconded by Trustee Eastwick.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:40 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gail Stacey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "G".

Gail Stacey
Village Deputy Clerk