

**VILLAGE OF ATHENS- BUDGET WORKSHOP
MINUTES – April 20, 2010**

PRESENT: Mayor Andrea Smallwood, Trustee Tom Sopris, Trustee Robert June and Trustee Gail Lasher.
Trustee Herman Reinhold absent.

Fire Chief John Greco and Village Attorney Tal Rapplelea were present.

PLEDGE to the Flag.

Warren Hart, representing Greene County Economic Development attended the meeting to discuss and answer any questions the Village Board may have regarding the possibility of preparing an on-behalf Community Development Block Grant Application for Athens with Greene County.

If the Village Board approves, Greene County would prepare and administer a grant application for economic development for the Athens Hotel Economic Development Project. The amount would be \$216,000.00 in the 2010 NYS Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program.

Mr. Hart stated that presently the Village is allocated up to \$750,000.00 of potential grant monies for the year 2010. The County would utilize \$216,000.00 of this potential grant money. This would only be for the year 2010.

The Business plan that the Athens Hotel/Stewart House has provided the County would be part of the pre-application process.

Trustee Sopris asked Mr. Hart what the outcome would be for the Village of Athens if the Athens Hotel Project defaulted and their project fails. In other words, would this hurt the Village's chances of securing more funding through Small Cities in the future. The Village has one project funded through Small Cities that may be in default presently.

Mr. Hart stated that it would not hurt the Village's chances of receiving grant money from this program in the future. The best any applicant can do for these funds is put a project together in hopes that it will be funded and then become successful economically. It is a chance that the program takes. No guarantees.

Mr. Hart stated that this was only a pre-application at this point and that the project may not even be funded.

Trustee Sopris also stated that he has read the Business Plan and Projections and is concerned that it may be too optimistic. He is not sure that he wants to be held liable for their outcome if it does not result in their stated goals.

The lawyer stated that he does not see where the Village would ever be held accountable to Small Cities for this application funding if this project fails. The Village only gains since the building will benefit from the money which therefore benefits the Village.

The Village Board discussed the importance of having a hold harmless clause in the RESOLUTION if it is to pass.

The Attorney stated that he will be sure to include the proper wording in the RESOLUTION.

A MOTION was made by Trustee Sopris, 2nd by Trustee Lasher to pass the attached RESOLUTION authorizing the Village of Athens to request Greene County's Assistance in the preparation of an 'on-behalf' Community Development Block Grant Application in the amount of \$216,000.00 for the Athens Hotel Economic Development Project.

Trustee June votes aye.

Trustee Reinhold absent.

Mayor Smallwood votes aye.

RESOLUTION passes.

A MOTION was made by trustee June, 2nd by Trustee Lasher, in so much as the Village has received 2 quotes for the asbestos removal and replacement of flooring on the gym entryway floor, and ultimately replacing the flooring with rubber flooring, and that the proper Certificate of Insurance and Certificate of asbestos removal, and that the price remain under the amount awarded from the Athens Community Benefits Grant Program, that the Lowest bidder, that being Bessemer Flooring be awarded the job in the amount of \$3500.00.

The Village Board discussed the Village Budget at length.

Public Hearing for the Tentative Budget is scheduled for April 28, 2010 at 6:30PM.

MOTION made to adjourn meeting at 9:45 PM.

Good Evening folks.

Mary Jo Wynne