

**VILLAGE OF ATHENS**  
**PUBLIC HEARING – BUDGET-APRIL 22, 2009**

*PLEDGE* to the Flag.

**PRESENT:** Mayor Andrea Smallwood, Trustee Tim O’Leary, Trustee Tom Sopris, Trustee Herman Reinhold and Trustee Robert June.

DPW Director Dennis Proper and Village Attorney Tal Rappleyea were also in attendance.

The Mayor opened the **PUBLIC HEARING** to Public comment and questions regarding the Tentative Budget.

Chris Pfister mentioned a few line items in the Budget that he thought the Village Board may want to reconsider:

Administrative Salaries are up 10%. (A1325.1)

There is no money in the line item for Engineering services. (A1440.1)

He would also like to see a capital reserve set up in the Water Fund.

He would like to see money in the budget for a salt shed.

Water and Sewer rates should be increased every year.

The Village Board thanked Mr. Pfister for his comments and they will consider them while finalizing the Budget.

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee O’Leary, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Reinhold, a.i.f., to **close the Public Hearing for the Budget and begin the Regular Work Meeting.**

**OPEN REGULAR WORK MEETING.**

**PUBLIC:**

1. *Herbie Blasewitz, representative of the Athens Street Festival*, attended the meeting to provide a written update for the Village Board of the upcoming Festival.
2. *Diane Fierro, resident of the Village*, attended the meeting to read a statement in response to all of the negativity that has been published in the newspaper and handed out to citizens in the Village by way of Dolores Hodges and Ron Coons. She wanted to come forward and let the Village Board know that she commends them for the hard work they do in making the Village a better place to live. Ms. Fierro stated that she wanted the following statement to be part of the record. (statement attached).

3. *Leah Rhodes, resident of the Village* located at North Franklin Street, attended the meeting to inform the Village Board that she and her neighbor, Alex Krupa, have had an on-going problem with drainage in her yard. A lot of the problem has to do with the run-off created by a house erected about 7-10 years ago on Warren Street (directly in back of Ms. Rhodes house). The house sits a lot higher than all of the other ones and has no gutters and a sump-pump that drains off their property and directly onto hers and her neighbors. When it rains her and her neighbor's garden/yard become flooded.

The other problem is the fact that the sewer/man-hole in front of her house has not been maintained in quite awhile. Maintaining that man-hole is pivotal to keeping the drainage under control.

Ms. Rhodes mentioned that she has tried to rectify this problem with previous Village Board's and has come up 'empty handed'. She is trying again, as it is very frustrating to have the yard constantly flood after putting time and money into their garden/yards.

The Village Board stated that they would look into it again.

Mayor Smallwood said several drainage projects are underway in the Village and when the Engineer is in the Village she will ask them to look at this situation as well.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

1. Kay Brunner. Re: Poppy Tag Day. A RESOLUTION was made by Trustee Reinhold, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Sopris, a.i.f., to approve Tag Day as requested.
2. Valentine Insurance Center. Re: Health Insurance Renewal.
3. Marshall & Sterling Insurance. Re: Disclosure Statement.
4. Greene County Youth Bureau. Re: Update on State Budget.
5. United Way of the Greater Capital Region. Re: Invitation to public launch of United Way 2-1-1.
6. Hunter Foundation, Inc. Re: Rip Van Winkle Homeownership Program Applications.
7. Owen Lipstein, Stewart House Restaurant. Re: Renewal of Liquor license.
8. Athens Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. Re: Election of Officers.
9. Office of Community Renewal, Joseph Rabito. Re: Approval of Grant Agreement Extension.
10. Zion Lutheran Church. Re: Request to use Riverfront Park. A RESOLUTION was made by Trustee Reinhold, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee June, a.i.f., to grant them permission as requested, pending insurance certificate, to use the Park.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Financial Reports have been distributed to all Board Members.

A RESOLUTION was made by Trustee O’Leary, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Reinhold, a.i.f. approving payment of the following vouchers:

GENERAL – Abstract #1542- vouchers numbered #9908999 through #9909048.

WATER- Abstract #10173- vouchers numbered #9909049 through #9909055.

SEWER- Abstract #10159 – vouchers numbered #9909056 and # 9909061.

A MOTION was made by Trustee Reinhold, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee O’Leary, a.i.f., approving Minutes from Meetings held on February 25, 2009, March 11, 2009 and March 30, 2009.

A RESOLUTION was made by Trustee Reinhold, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Sopris, a.i.f. approving the following transfer of appropriations:

Move \$800.00 from Mayor Exp. (A1210.4) to Court Exp. (A1110.4).

Move \$925.00 from Parking Lot Maintenance Exp. (A5650.4C) to:

A3510.4	Dog Warden Exp.	\$750.00
A7560.4	Cultural Ctr Exp.	\$75.00
A8160.4B	Town/Village cleanup	\$100.00

Move \$2500.00 from Community Center Fuel oil Exp. (A1620.4B) to Community Center electric Exp. (A1620.4D).

Move \$1000.00 from Parks Exp. (A7110.4) to Street lighting Exp. (A5182.4).

Move \$750.00 from Planning Board Exp. (A8020.4) to Zoning Exp. (A8010.4).

Move \$8,000.00 from Audit Exp. (A1320.1) to A3120.1 (Police Payroll).

The Village Budget was discussed at length.

A RESOLUTION was made by Trustee Reinhold, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Sopris, a.i.f., to adopt the Village of Athens Budget with a tax rate of 9.92 per thousand.

A MOTION was made by Trustee Sopris, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee O’Leary, a.i.f., to adjourn the meeting at 10:15PM.

Good Evening!!

MJW

