

# **ATHENS VILLAGE BOARD MEETING MINUTES– August 24, 2011**

*PLEDGE* to the Flag.

**PRESENT:** Mayor Andrea Smallwood, Trustee Herman Reinhold, Trustee Robert June, Trustee Gail Lasher and Trustee Anthony Patsky.

Village Attorney Tal Rappleyea was also present.

## **PUBLIC:**

1. *Sandra Strauss, resident of Brick Row*, attended the meeting to voice her concern regarding the odor of Sleepy Hollow's Waste water treatment Plant. The offensive odor which emanates from the plant has been an ongoing problem which everyone in the Village has been aware of for years and lately has become increasingly offensive for those living on Brick Row. This time of year people would like to have their windows open however the smell is so horrible that they cannot.

Ms. Strauss has been in telephone contact and she will be meeting with the APO president. She would like to invite the Village Board or a member of the village board to meet with them as well. Ms. Strauss stated that it is a neighborhood issue which falls under the nuisance law category and it is a quality of life issue for Village residents living on Brick Row. She also mentioned starting a petition.

The Mayor stated that it is offensive and that the Village Board has written letters to Sleepy Hollow APO regarding the issue. They responded by stating that they have been trying to rectify the problem. The Plant is not a Village Plant. The Mayor stated that she thought that it was a good idea for Ms. Strauss to meet with SHL.

Trustee Reinhold asked Ms. Strauss to let him know when she is scheduled to meet with the President of the APO and he will try to attend with her.

The Mayor told Ms. Strauss to keep the VB informed on her progress.

2. *John Pulice, resident of the village*, attended the meeting to discuss traffic issues. Specifically, cars pulling out of Second Street onto State Route 385 do not have enough clearance, especially looking north. Vehicles traveling South on Route 385 are usually going over the speed limit as well.

Visibility is hampered by cars parked too close to the corners. The 'no-parking' area should be farther from the corners than it is now.

He mentioned that there was an accident there a couple of weeks ago. There is a real possibility that someone could be seriously injured at this intersection. If people were driving slower on Rt. 385 it would be different – but they are driving too fast and there is no enforcement.

The Mayor stated that the Village Board changed the parking on Route 385 when they changed the traffic laws to allow for more parking there.

Trustee Lasher agreed that the ‘no parking’ area on that section of Rt. 385 was much bigger.

The Mayor stated that the law could be changed back to allow less parking and create a safer environment for pulling out.

The VB discussed this intersection as well. Is the distance enough for safely going out of Second Street onto Route 385.

The VB will revisit the issue.

Mr. Pulice also discussed the hazard at the crosswalk by St. Patricks Church on Route 385. He has brought this issue up before. When mass is ending there are a lot of people crossing the crosswalk and some of them are elderly. Vehicles are driving over the speed limit and there is a slight dip in the road north of the church which limits visibility. He has asked before and would like to request again that a village cop make a presence when church is getting out at approximately 4:45PM just twice a month for approximately 10-15 minutes. If the Police Department would just park right around that area on Route 385 it would probably slow people down. He is afraid that someone is going to get hurt.

Mayor Smallwood stated that Route 385 is not a Village Road.

Mr. Pulice stated that the APD can patrol it regardless of whether it is a Village street or a State Road.

Mr. Pulice also asked the Village Board what the cost was to village residents to send recruits to the Police Academy every year?

Mayor Smallwood and the Village Board stated that it does not cost the Village anything to send recruits to school.

Trustee June stated that it is cheaper to have a part time police force than a full time force and sending recruits allows us to do that as they usually work for the Village after they complete their schooling.

Mr. Pulice mentioned that retirement must cost the Village.

Trustee Patsky mentioned that people know that they need to slow down on Rt. 385 during the afternoon and evening because they see cops sitting there intermittently, but in the early morning they never see any cops and it is probably the same people going to work or school every day. Perhaps people need to be trained by putting a cop on duty early in the morning randomly once in awhile. Not often, just enough to make people think.

The Village Board will look into this.

3. *Carol Pfister, resident of the Village*, attended the meeting to inform the VB that the pedestrian sign located at Route 385 and Second Street is down.

She also provided a letter (#7 in Correspondence) to the Board written by Howard Zar, the President of the Cultural Center, regarding the necessary roof repairs on the building. They are looking to the Village for financial help to defray the cost. Ms. Pfister also provided 2 quotes to the Village Board.

Mayor Smallwood stated that the Village will get back to her on this issue.

Trustee Patsky asked what amount the Cultural Center is looking for from the village percentage-wise.

Ms Pfister replied that 100% would be nice.

4. *Chris Pfister, resident of the Village and Greene County Legislator*, attended the meeting to provide the Village Board with tentative plans to review for the landscaping at the Athens Riverfront Park designed by a local landscape architect.

The VB reviewed them.

Trustee Reinhold stated that the Street Festival has opted to have North Country Landscaping do the hydroseeding at the Riverfront Park. Initially Rick Albright was scheduled to re-seed the park, however, he increased the price and would not guarantee the work.

Trustee June reiterated that the Village Board first needs to decide what they intend on using the Riverfront Park for in the future before the landscaping designs can be reviewed.

Trustee Reinhold offered the suggestion that Herbie Blasewitz, chairperson for the Street Festival, and others that use the Park for activities be invited to a Village Board Meeting to provide input on this discussion.

Mr. Pfister stated that the VB will need to establish usage at the Park. The Street Festival is a one day event. The roadway into the park is also debateable- will that continue to be used?

Mayor Smallwood discussed the landscaping plans and her concern regarding the view shed due to the fact that there are quite a few trees planned towards the river edge. She does not want the trees to become a problem for viewing the river.

Mr. Pfister stated that there are trees in other parks that do not block the view. The key is to keep the lower branches at 6-8 feet high. The plan tried to incorporate some shade.

Trustee Reinhold asked if the Village was interested in pursuing this plan starting this fall?

Mayor Smallwood stated that it would probably not start until the Spring. There are budgetary concerns in that the village is still waiting for grant money to be received. She does not want to spend money that she doesn't have yet.

Mr. Pfister mentioned that it would be nice to plant trees in the fall and also get the sidewalks in before planting the grass.

Mayor Smallwood thanked Mr. Pfister for the plans and told him that the VB would be in touch after financial figures are finalized and also after all input and feedback has been received by VB members and other committees.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

1. Greene County Landfill Fund. Re: Financial Statement.
2. Greene County Legislature. Re: Resolution #296-11 – Approving Reimbursement to Community Colleges.
3. Greene County Legislature. Re: Resolution #285-11 – Awarding quick quotes for pavement contracts under NYS Contract.
4. Michael Brady. Re: 20 foot variance.
5. The Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund (CELDF) and the Lehigh Valley Community Rights Network. Re: Conference on banning hydrofracking.
6. Norman Mason. Re: Dockage. The Village Board discussed the issue of overnight docking and 4 hour docking as well as other options. To be discussed again.
7. Howard Zar- Athens Cultural Center. Re: Existing roof on building.
8. Michelle Capuano. Re: Athens Riverfront Park plans.
9. DEC-James Malcom.
10. DEC- SPDES permits.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

A MOTION was made by Trustee June, seconded by Trustee Lasher, all in favor, to approve payment of the following vouchers:

GENERAL FUND -Abstract #1665- vouchers numbered #9910959- #9910991 totaling \$226,304.16.

WATER FUND – Abstract #10228- voucher number #9910967 and vouchers numbered #9910984 - #9910986 totaling \$12,985.34.

SEWER FUND – Abstract #10198 – vouchers numbered #9910987 -#9910988 totaling \$12,021.94..

YOUTH FUND- Abstract #50. vouchers numbered #9910991 and #9910992 totaling \$1749.85.

TRUST & AGENCY- Abstract #10273. vouchers numbered #9910989 and #9910990 totaling \$334.78.

MOTION was made by Trustee Reinhold, seconded by Trustee June, all in favor approving the Minutes from meetings held on June 22, July 13, July 27 and August 10, 2011.

Financial Statements for the month of July were distributed to all Village Board Members.

A MOTION was made by Trustee Lasher, seconded by Trustee Patsky, all in favor, to advertise for Proposals (RFP) to complete and install the floor in the gym entranceway, and also the sidewalk project.

As per the NYS and Local Retirement System, a RESOLUTION was made by Trustee Lasher, seconded by Trustee June, all in favor, hereby establishing the following as standard work days for elected and appointed officials (RESOLUTION attached).

A MOTION was made by Trustee Reinhold, seconded by Trustee Lasher, all in favor, to adjourn the meeting at 10:30PM.

Good Evening!