

# VILLAGE OF ATHENS BOARD MEETING

Minutes—August 27, 2014, Time: 6:30 pm

*Pledge of Allegiance*

**PRESENT:** Mayor Christian Pfister, Trustee Gail Lasher, Trustee Anthony Patsky and Trustee Peter Alberti.

**ABSENT:** Trustee Robert June

Village Attorney Tal Rappleyea present.

## **Public Agenda:**

1. *John Pulice, village resident*, attended the meeting to discuss the recent petition which was presented to the village clerk regarding the purchase of a fire truck.

He asked the Mayor what was wrong with the petition besides the number of signatures.

The Mayor stated that the reason the clerk could not accept it was that there were not enough signatures.

Mr. Pulice provided the attorney and the village clerk with the text of the petition and also a facebook entry that was written regarding him and he stated was all lies.

The Mayor stated that there have been mistruths on each side of this issue.

Mr. Pulice also asked the Mayor if they had ever been given a dollar amount for how much the present Fire truck would cost to fix? He again mentioned the DPW garage's condition as being a safety hazard while the village is purchasing another fire truck.

Trustee Alberti stated this issue has been 'beat to death' and we need to move on.

Trustee Patsky noted that Mr. Pulice's point is that the Firemen never wanted to fix the truck that they have and that they only want the truck that they want and are not willing to look at any other trucks.

Mr. Pulice inquired as to whether the Village Board would consider rescinding the Resolution. It is not too late.

The Mayor stated that the Village Board has discussed rescinding the Resolution but it would not have had the votes to pass.

2. *Herman Reinhold, committee member for the Athens Community Day event*, attended the meeting to inform the Village Board of the events occurring on that day and also to thank the Village Board for letting them use the Riverfront Park.
3. *Ralph Favicchio, village resident and member of ACDC*, attended the meeting to discuss West Point Partners application in the hands of the Public Service Commission.

He inquired as to whether the Village Board has been following the interrogatory comments which have been appearing as a result of the process. He also informed the Village Board that the evidentiary hearings will be starting on September 9. He hopes that they will follow it.

The Mayor stated that he will be.

4. *Rob Butler, Town Councilperson*, attended the meeting to ask some questions about the proposed purchase of a fire truck. Although he stated that he is not against purchasing the truck if we need it, but he is curious as to why they are doing this now since there has been such a push by state government for consolidation of services. Councilperson Butler mentioned that Catskill has a ladder truck and Coxsackie as well...

Trustee Alberti stated that Catskill's aerial truck was too big for village streets and Coxsackie's does not carry water. The Truck the Village of Athens is looking at is a multi purpose vehicle.

Councilperson Butler also questioned the budgetary item for the Firetruck. Years ago the Town wanted to spend \$90,000.00 from a reserve fund and a petition was passed around to bring it to a vote while this Village Board is planning on spending upwards of \$500,000.00 in bonds that the taxpayers have to pay back and taxpayers cannot even make the decision as to whether they want this through the voting process.

The Mayor stated that there is not an immediate impact on taxes.

Councilperson Butler also raised a concern about having too many 'trucks' and then we have no room for the police cars and then we need a new building for the police... etc..

The Mayor stated that they will be getting rid of the old ladder truck.

The Mayor discussed the Town's feeling on the Community Center Building.

Councilperson Butler stated that he cannot speak for the rest of the Town Board but he likes this building and thinks it is a solid building but the inside need a lot of work and he is in favor of keeping it.

The Mayor mentioned that they should all get together soon and discuss the future of the building.

#### Motions and Resolutions

1. Proposed Resolution to Approve the Minutes

BE IT RESOLVED, the minutes, as amended, for the July 23 and August 13 meetings are approved

Offered by: Trustee Alberti  
Seconded by: Trustee Patsky  
Record of vote: All in favor

2. Proposed Resolution to Authorize Payment of the Vouchers

BE IT RESOLVED, the following vouchers are authorized for payment:  
GENERAL FUND – Abstract # 1808, vouchers numbered #9913933 through #9913961 in the amount of \$18,375.15.  
WATER FUND – Abstract # 10311, vouchers numbered #9913962 through #9913966 in the amount of \$1,414.94

SEWER FUND – Abstract #10288 and Abstract #10287, voucher #9913983 in the amount of \$14,150.77 and voucher #9913968 in the amount of \$26.50  
STREET FESTIVAL – Abstract #1, vouchers numbered #9913972 through #9913982 in the amount of \$5335.39.  
YOUTH FUND – Abstract #68, vouchers numbered #9913969 through # 9913971 in the amount of \$2210.00

Offered by: Trustee Lasher  
Seconded by: Trustee Alberti  
Record of vote: All in favor

3. Proposed Resolution Retaining the Firm of Landmark Consulting

WHEREAS, the Municipal Building/Community Center is in need of extensive repairs and renovation

WHEREAS, a professional architectural service, with historic preservation experience, will be required to develop plans and bid documents,

WHEREAS, available funds are limited,

WHEREAS, it is felt that renovation of the first floor would have the most impact,

WHEREAS, funds are available for this expenditure in the Municipal Building Renovation Reserve Fund,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees does, hereby, authorize the Mayor to contract with Landmark Consulting for an initial fee of \$5000.00, and,

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that if the construction cost exceeds \$35,000, compensation will then be scheduled at 12% of any cost above \$35,000.

Offered by: Trustee Lasher  
Seconded by: Trustee Alberti  
Record of vote: All in favor

4. Proposed Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Negotiate a Contract with Lamont Engineering for Work on Water Treatment Plant Lagoon

WHEREAS, THE Village of Athens has made a commitment to NYSDEC to remove the contents of the current existing lagoon and to begin the design of a new lagoon,

WHEREAS, Lamont Engineering has extensive experience in the design of wastewater treatment facilities,

WHEREAS, the Village has visited other projects designed by Lamont and found them to be well designed and cost effective,

WHEREAS, funds for this project exist in the Water System Improvement Project Reserve Fund,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees authorizes the Mayor to sign an agreement with Lamont Engineering for an initial amount not to exceed \$10,000 for the review of

plans to remove existing contents of the lagoon and to create a preliminary design for a second lagoon.

Offered by:  
Seconded by:  
Record of vote:  
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5. Proposed Resolution Authorizing the Repair of Bathroom Roof System

WHEREAS, the northwest bathroom at the Municipal Building received considerable damage from ice dams during the winter of 2013-14,

WHEREAS, a new roofing system on the southwest bathroom eliminated all ice damage and leaks,

WHEREAS, in order to retain consistency of appearance and construction, the Village of Athens wishes to retain the same contractor used for the southwest bathroom,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees authorizes the Mayor to contract with Tri-Power Roofing & Painting to build a hip roof over the northwest bathroom for the amount of \$4200.00. Monies to be taken from the Municipal building renovations fund account.

Offered by: Trustee Alberti  
Seconded by: Trustee Patsky  
Record of vote All in favor

6. Resolution Authorizing the Village of Athens to Participate in the County Bid for Propane

WHEREAS, Greene County solicited bids for the supply of propane for the period of September 1, 2014 thru August 31, 2015,

WHEREAS, the lowest responsible bid was Nolan Bottle Gas Company, Inc. with a bid of \$1.44 per gallon,,

WHEREAS, Greene County has authorized the participation of its municipalities in the fuel procurement program,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees authorizes the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Nolan Bottle Gas Company Inc. for the purchase of propane per the bid awarded by Greene on August 20, 2014.

Offered by: Trustee Patsky  
Seconded by: Trustee Lasher  
Record of vote: All in favor

7. Proposed Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Sign a Contract with Cummins Northeast for Annual Generator Inspections and Maintenance.

BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees authorizes the Mayor to contract with Cummins Northeast in the amount of \$2778.88 for annual generator maintenance programs at the Water Treatment and Wastewater Treatment Plants.

Offered by: Trustee Alberti  
Seconded by: Trustee Lasher  
Record of vote: All in favor

8. Proposed Resolution Accepting the Bid for Sealcoating Firehouse Driveway

WHEREAS, the Village of Athens received bids for the sealcoating and restriping the firehouse driveway,

WHEREAS, the lowest responsible bid was from It's Show Time Sealcoating in the amount of \$2500.00,

Monies to be taken from A3410.4 buildings and grounds \$1000.00 ad A3410.4 Miscellaneous firehouse exp. \$1500.00,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Village of Athens accepts the bid of It's Show Time Sealcoating.

Offered by: Trustee Patsky  
Seconded by: Trustee Alberti  
Record of vote: All in favor

9. Motion Allowing the Use of Riverfront Park on September 14, 2014 for a Funeral Service to be held by the Alberti Family

Offered by: Trustee Patsky  
Seconded by: Trustee Lasher  
Record of vote: All in favor

10. Proposed Resolution regarding property at 10 S. Franklin Street

WHEREAS, the Village Board of Trustees has enacted a Public Nuisance Law and...

WHEREAS, the Village Board believes that property owned by the Hewitts at 10 S. Franklin Street may be in violation of such Public Nuisance Law...

THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Village Attorney is hereby authorized to investigate, commence and prosecute any violations of the Public Nuisance Law that are found.

Parcel # 140.06-2-7

Offered by: Trustee Patsky  
Seconded by: Trustee Lasher  
Record of vote: All in favor

Communications:

1. Camoin Associates: Letter regarding assumptions made in economic impact study.
2. NYMIR: Rate reduction for next year
3. NYMIR: Annual Report
4. Town of Athens: Letter of concern regarding conditions of Municipal Building
5. Clarkson University: Letter detailing request for hydrologic monitoring station

6. Greene County Emergency Services: Invitation to 9/11 Service
7. Greene County Public Health: Annual Walking Program
8. Teamsters: Declaration of Impasse

#### Trustee Reports

#### Mayor's Report

#### Unfinished Business

1. DPW Contract
2. Firehouse HVAC
3. Outdoor Entertainment Permit: Stewart House
4. Bruno Property Sewer Hookup
5. Constantine Court Project
6. Caravan Stage

#### New Business

1. Traffic Law/Snow Emergency Regs
2. Fire Truck Disclosure
3. Clarkson University Proposal
4. Welcome Package
5. Website Development: Zoning Information
6. Community Foundation Applications

#### Clerk's Report

#### Motion to Adjourn

Time: 9:00PM

Offered by: Trustee Alberti

Seconded by: Trustee Patsky

Record of vote: All in favor