

**VILLAGE OF ATHENS  
BOARD MEETING - March 28, 2012**

*PLEDGE* to the Flag.

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

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

**PUBLIC:**

1. *John Pulice, resident of the Village*, attended the meeting to follow-up with the Village Board on his last appearance before the Village Board regarding the possibility of establishing two more one-way streets in the village and also the possibility of extending Iroquois gas pipeline into the village in order to provide residents with natural gas.

Trustee Reinhold stated that he has written a letter to Iroquois Gas regarding the possibility of extending the pipeline into the Village. In regard to establishing two more one way streets in the village as mentioned at the last public meeting he feels that the driver is responsible for driving safely in these areas and he is not in favor of making those streets mentioned one-way.

Other Village Board members discussed the areas in question again.

They will review the matter again and get back to him.

2. *Chris Pfister, resident of the Village and County Legislator*, attended the meeting to inquire as to the status of the Riverfront Park and the plans he submitted for it.

Mayor Smallwood stated that the Village has not received the final monies from the grants they were awarded through the state. The money should be coming shortly and then the Village will know exactly how much they have to spend on the park. There are a lot of expenditures to be made in the park for benches, docks and lighting as well as some landscaping. The Village Board needs to prioritize these items and then budget accordingly.

Mayor Smallwood asked Mr. Pfister if he would like to meet at the park and look over the plans again.

Mr. Pfister stated that he would like to meet at the park and discuss the plans again as it has been over 2 years and nothing has been resolved.

Mayor Smallwood also stated that the Village Board has received an estimate for fertilizing the Park. She would like to share the expense for this with the Street Festival.

Discussion ensued regarding the quality of the soil in the park and the seeding of grass by the landscaper.

Trustee Reinhold brought up the park plans for discussion.

Mr. Pfister stated that he would like to see something done in the Park. The Park looks good but it does not look finished. He would like to see it finished. The plans for the park can be revised if the Village Board chooses to.

Mr. Pfister also mentioned that he would be willing to donate some money towards the Park Project.

Trustee Reinhold stated that he appreciated the offer.

Trustee Reinhold also raised the issue of purchasing more docks for the park.

Trustee June inquired as to how the park project could be completed in steps and how those steps could be prioritized.

Trustee Patsky asked if Mr. Pfister's kind offer was for vegetation only.

Mr. Pfister stated that it would be good for benches as well.

Mr. Pfister asked if there were any written agreements made with the Street Festival regarding how the Riverfront Park will be used for that function and if not then perhaps there should be.

Trustee Reinhold stated that the park has always been viewed to be an open space and that is the way he thinks everyone wants to see it stay.

Mr. Pfister also mentioned that he would like to plant some trees in the Village, especially in the new parking lot off of N. Franklin Street and Second Street.

Trustee Lasher asked where exactly he would like to plant the trees in the parking lot?

Mr. Pfister stated that he would like to plant the trees on the North Side of the Parking Lot by Stacey's house-perhaps 4 trees. He would also like to see a fence put up on the North Franklin Street side of the parking lot.

Mr. Pfister also informed the Village Board that the Flower Program will be cutting back substantially this year and they will not be installing the hanging flower baskets throughout the Village.

The Village Board also discussed the Greene County Planning Board Appointment with Mr. Pfister.

The Mayor stated that she will be in touch with Mr. Pfister to plan a meeting at the Riverfront Park.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

1. Village of Catskill- Community Development Coordinator Nancy Richards. Re: 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Rip Van Winkle Wacky Raft Race.
2. NYS Public Service Commission. Re: Notice of Public Statement Hearings on the Champlain Hudson Power Express, Inc.
3. Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund. Re: Stopping Marcellus Shale Gas Drilling at the Municipal Level.
4. Iroquois Gas Transmission System. Re: Iroquois Report.
5. Mid-Hudson Cablevision. Re: Annual Franchise Fee.
6. Blue Shield of Northeastern New York. Re: Renewal information.
7. Edward J. Arthur Elementary School – 4<sup>th</sup> grade teachers. Re: Request to use the Little League Park.
8. State Farm Grant Funds. Re: Application announcement.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

A RESOLUTION was made by Trustee Lasher, seconded by Trustee June, that upon the Village Attorney's approval, appoint Trustee Herman Reinhold to the position of Greene County Planning Board Member. Trustee Patsky votes aye. Trustee Reinhold abstains.  
RESOLUTION approved.

A RESOLUTION was made by Trustee Reinhold, seconded by Trustee June, all in favor, that upon Village Attorney's approval of paperwork, the Police Department have an intern from Columbia Greene Coursework observe and ride with the Athens Police Department.

A MOTION was made by Trustee Reinhold, seconded by Trustee Lasher, all in favor, approving the following Vouchers for payment:

GENERAL- Abstract #1697, vouchers numbered #9911442 through #9911450 in the amount of \$5,336.59.

WATER – Abstract #10242, voucher number #9911441 in the amount of \$1,670.81.

SEWER – Abstract #10212, vouchers numbered #9911452 and #9911451 in the amount of \$2,774.17.

The Village Board discussed the Tentative Budget.

A MOTION was made by Trustee Reinhold, seconded by Trustee June, all in favor to adjourn the meeting at 9:45PM.

Good Night Athens!

Mary Jo Wynne