

VILLAGE OF ATHENS BOARD MEETING

MINUTES- June 22, 2016 6:30 pm

Held at the Athens Fire House

Pledge of Allegiance

PRESENT: Mayor Christian Pfister, Trustee Gail Lasher, Trustee Robert June, Trustee Marla Butler and Village Attorney Tal Rapleyea were present.
Trustee Peter Alberti joined the meeting at 7:45 PM.

A Presentation by Robert Scepaniak, a solar energy consultant for Monolith Solar Ass. LLC. was held for the public and the Village Board. Mr. Scepaniak had attended a previous meeting and was invited back to hold a public presentation for interested residents.

The presentation also allowed the public to ask questions regarding the cost, installation and financing of solar panels either on or off-site through solar farms.

PUBLIC MEETING:

1. *Stan and Cathy Hewitt* attended the meeting to discuss their burned out residence located on N. Franklin St. in the Village of Athens. They stated that they have been in the process of trying to sell the property and in doing so they have found out that the village is in the process of tearing it down. Mr. And Mrs. Hewitt stated that they were shocked to hear this news and also stated that they were never informed about this.

Mayor Pfister stated that the Village Board, Code Enforcement and the Attorney have been trying to work with the Hewitt's to resolve the issue of the burned out building.

Village Attorney Tal Rapleyea stated that the Hewitt's were notified of the village's concerns a total of six times by registered letter served by the authorities. They were given a court date. No response.

Mr. & Mrs. Hewitt again questioned the validity of the notifications.

The Village Attorney provided copies of the letters with the information detailing who signed for the letters. All of the letters were signed for by either spouse or their daughter.

Mrs. Hewitt questioned the court dates noted on the letters.

The Village Attorney again stated that they were notified numerous times with a valid court date given and he had advised them on numerous occasions to get an attorney and they did nothing.

Mayor Pfister informed the Hewitt's that the village has turned the building over to the Town of Athens. The Village has no rights to the building. The Hewitt's should go to the Town of Athens Board to discuss the matter.

MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS:

1. Proposed Resolution Approving Board Meeting Minutes

BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees, hereby, approves the minutes, as amended, from the June 15, 2016 meeting.

Offered by: Trustee June
Seconded by: Trustee Lasher
Record of Vote: All in favor

2. Proposed Resolution Approving the Payment of the Vouchers

BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees hereby approves payment of the following vouchers as presented:

GENERAL FUND – Abstracts #1885 and #1886, vouchers numbered #9915927 through #9915955 in the amount of \$13,962.34.

WATER FUND – Abstract #10367, vouchers numbered #9915957 through #9915964 in the amount of \$6,818.53.

SEWER FUND – Abstract #10350, vouchers numbered #9915965 through #9915969 in the amount of \$1957.08.

Offered by: Trustee June
Seconded by: Trustee Butler
Record of Vote: All in favor

3. Proposed Resolution Approving the Fireworks Permit of the Athens Street Festivals

BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees does hereby grant permission to the Athens Street Festival and Young Explosives to conduct a fireworks display on July 9, 2016

Offered by: Trustee Butler
Seconded by: Trustee June
Record of Vote: All in favor

4. Proposed Resolution Setting Date for Unsafe Building Hearing

WHEREAS, the structure located at 25 Union Street, owned by Thomas Bassett and identified by tax parcel #122.15-2-3 is currently uninhabitable,

WHEREAS, the owner has allowed the property to deteriorate and become a collection site for accumulations of junk and rubbish,

WHEREAS, this structure has been inspected by the Code Enforcement Officer and found to be unsafe,

WHEREAS, the Village of Athens has issued an order to correct these conditions,

WHEREAS, a hearing must be held in accordance with Village Unsafe Buildings Law before any further action may be taken,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees, hereby, sets July 27th, 2016 as the date for that public hearing.

Offered by: Trustee June
Seconded by: Trustee Butler
Record of Vote: All in favor

5. Proposed Resolution Authorizing Use of Riverfront Park

BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees does hereby approve the application of the Athens Street Festival to hold a B-B-Q fundraiser in Riverfront Park on July 1 and August 12, 2016.

Offered by: Trustee Alberti
Seconded by: Trustee June
Record of Vote: All in favor

6. Proposed Resolution Approving Cell Phone Policy

WHEREAS, the improper use of a cell phone during work hours results in loss of productive time,

WHEREAS, the current collective bargaining agreement limits the use of any personal electronic devices during working hours to emergencies,

WHEREAS, the current policy is in need of elaboration,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees does, hereby, adopt the new cell phone policy effective immediately.

Offered by: Trustee Butler
Seconded by: Trustee Alberti
Record of Vote: All in favor

7. Proposed Resolution Authorizing Invitation to Bid

BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees does, hereby, authorize the Village Clerk to advertise for bids on the repair of a roof on the old filtration building.

Offered by: Trustee Lasher
Seconded by: Trustee June
Record of Vote: All in favor

8. Proposed Resolution Authorizing payment of Uniform allowance for Officer Rhonda Gaba

WHEREAS, a voucher was submitted and signed by the Chief of Police in the amount of \$300.00 for a contractual uniform allowance for part time Officer Rhonda Gaba,

WHEREAS, the Clerk-Treasurer noted that the Officer had not received a paycheck from the village for over 6 months and was working and receiving paychecks from the Town of Athens while working in the Town Court,

WHEREAS, the Village Board feels that the Officer should receive the pay in that she was working in a village of Athens Police Department uniform,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees does, hereby, authorize the Village Clerk-Treasurer to issue a check from village taxpayers for \$300.00 to Rhonda Gaba for a uniform allowance

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

Trustee Reports

Past Business

1. New electric line in the park
2. Background Checks

New Business

1. Police coverage for the Town Court and the uniform allowance.
2. Future of the Dog Control Officer position

Communications

1. Richard Surrano: Complaint about upkeep of the dog park
2. Richard Apfel: Joint permit application.
3. Michael Ragaini: Bassett Violation
4. Nora Adelman: Report
5. Catskill Mountain Housing Development: Home repair program
6. NYSDEC: Dave Pickett Re: Monitoring spill at sewer plant
7. Janis Gillespie: Tree removal at 18 South Washington Street

Clerk's Report

Adjournment 8:30 PM

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