

VILLAGE OF ATHENS BOARD MEETING

Minutes—October 23, 2013 Time: 6:30 pm

PRESENT: Mayor Christian Pfister, Trustee Herman Reinhold, Trustee Robert June, Trustee Gail Lasher and Trustee Anthony Patsky.

Village Attorney Tal Rappleyea was also present.

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Agenda

1. *Randy Squire, Superintendent of the Coxsackie-Athens School District*, attended the meeting to discuss a Referendum they are considering putting on the Ballot this year regarding how the School Board candidates are put on the ballot. Presently candidates choose which seat on the Board they are running for as opposed to having an open election whereas if there are three openings on the Board and there are six people running for office then the top 3 vote 'getters' take those seats. They would not pick an actual seat.

Mr. Squire stated that they are considering changing this method since they feel they would have more candidates running due to the fact that people would not feel that they are taking someone's seat or running against someone in particular. Open elections are the norm as well.

Mayor Pfister asked Mr. Squire to explain why it had been set up like this.

Mr. Squire stated that it was originally done this way to keep a certain amount of seats held by residents of Athens and a certain amount of seats held by Coxackie residents. So that Athens does not lose representation.

The Village Board and Mr. Squire discussed this issue as well as other issues regarding pros and cons of changing the method.

2. *Sam Sebren, resident of Athens*, attended the meeting to discuss energy issues with the Village Board. He stated that presently the village is involved with 2 projects which are energy related. The Natural Gas pipeline and West Point Partners.

He is concerned that this is a pivotal moment for our local government to set a precedent for the other companies which will be coming along shortly. If we allow these companies to come into our Village and 'set up shop' then we need a strong backbone to let them know what we expect of them and not letting them tell us what they are going to do.

Mr Sebren mentioned some ideas that may be considered by the Village Board.

Mayor Pfister stated that it is very early in the process and he is certainly going to get the best deal for the village that he can. He noted that the Village is hiring a competent legal representative who specializes in this type of law to look out for the best interests of the Village. Hopefully they will be able to join forces with the Town.

They Mayor also stated that he appreciates his thoughts on the issue.

Motions and Resolutions

1. Proposed Resolution to Approve the Minutes
BE IT RESOLVED, the minutes for the October 9, 2013 meeting are accepted

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

2. Proposed Resolution to Authorize Payment of Vouchers
BE IT RESOLVED, the Village Clerk is authorized to pay the following vouchers as presented:
GENERAL FUND – Abstract #1764, vouchers numbered #9913062 through #9913077 in the amount of \$5760.69.
WATER FUND – Abstract #10288, vouchers numbered #9913078 through #9913084 in the amount of \$9910.83
SEWER FUND – Abstract #10258, vouchers numbered #9913085 through #9913089 in the amount of \$9873.26.
YOUTH FUND – Abstract #63, voucher number #9913060 in the amount of \$715.00

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

3. Proposed Motion to Approve the Use of the Community Room by the Paddock Club on November 5th, 2013, from 6:30-9:30 PM for the Purposes of a Meeting

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

4. Proposed Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Sign a Letter of Engagement with Young/Sommers LLC

WHEREAS, West Point Partners, LLC has filed an application, PURSUANT TO Article VII of the PSL with the New York State Public Service Commission for the authority to construct a high voltage AC/DC transmission facility from the existing Leeds Substation in the Town of Athens to Buchanan in the Town of Cortlandt,

WHEREAS, the application indicates that suggested construction routes are located in the Village of Athens and have the potential to have a substantial impact on the Village of Athens,

WHEREAS, it is currently in the best interest of the Village to partner with the Town of Athens in the retention of legal representation and to share in the legal expenses that are generated up and to that point when the Village of Athens no longer has an interest in these matters or its interests deviate from those of the Town,

WHEREAS, Article VII establishes the availability of intervenor funding to municipalities with formal party status,

WHEREAS, the Village of Athens intends to apply for access to intervenor funding to cover future legal and consultation expenses

BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees authorizes the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Young/Sommer LLC for representation in the West Point Partners, LLC transmission matter, Case 13-T-0292

Offered by: Trustee Reinhold

Seconded by: Trustee Patsky

Record of vote: All in favor

5. Proposed Resolution Authorizing the village of Athens to Intervene and Apply for Formal Party Status in A/C Matters before the PSC:

WHEREAS, THE Village of Athens has received notice that, as part of the State of New York's Energy Highway Initiative, numerous proposals for A/C transmission have been received by the NYSDPS,

WHEREAS, these proposals have the potential, to directly or indirectly impact the Village of Athens,

BE IT RESOLVED, THE Board of Trustees does hereby, authorize the Mayor to apply to the New York State Department of Public Service for Intervenor and Formal Party Status on behalf of the Village of Athens in the following matters:

Case 13-T-0454 North American Transmission Corporation

Cases 13-T-0455 and 13-T-0456 NextEra Energy

Case 13-M-0457 New York Transmission Owners

Case 13-T-0461 Application of Boundless Energy NE, LLC for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need Pursuant to Article VII for the Leeds path West Project.

Offered by: Trustee Reinhold

Seconded by: Trustee Lasher

Record of vote: All in favor

6. Proposed Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Sign a Letter of Engagement with Young/Sommers LLC in A/C Transmission Matters Before the PSC

WHEREAS, the Village of Athens has received notice that, as part of the State of New York's Energy Highway Initiative, numerous proposals for A/C transmission have been received by the NYSDPS,

WHEREAS, these proposals have the potential, to directly or indirectly impact the Village of Athens,

WHEREAS, it is currently in the best interest of the Village to partner with the Town of Athens in the retention of legal representation and to share in the legal expenses that are generated up and to that point when the Village of Athens no longer has an interest in these matters or its interests deviate from those of the Town,

WHEREAS, Article VII establishes the availability of intervenor funding to municipalities with formal party status,

WHEREAS, the Village of Athens intends to apply for access to intervenor funding to cover future legal and consultation expenses,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees authorizes the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Young/Sommer LLC for representation in the following A/C transmission matters:

Case 13-T-0454 North American Transmission Corporation

Cases 13-T-0455 and 13-T-0456 NextEra Energy

Case 13-M-0457 New York Transmission Owners

Case 13-T-0461 Application of Boundless Energy NE, LLC for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need Pursuant to Article VII for the Leeds path West Project.

Offered by: Trustee Reinhold

Seconded by: Trustee Lasher

Record of vote: All in favor

7. Proposed Resolution approving the use of the 'Application for use of village facilities' with amendments as discussed among Village Board members and also to charge a \$25.00 key deposit here on in.

Offered by: Trustee Reinhold

Seconded by: Trustee Patsky

Record of vote: All in favor

Correspondence:

1. Letter from Mark Levanway re: Alternative routes for the WPP Project
2. Request to Use Community Room: Herman Reinhold
3. Request to Use Gym for Basketball Program: Gary Cunningham
4. Request to Use Gym for Winter Baseball Program: Robert Krogh/Upstate Orioles
5. Letter from Central Hudson: Authorization for Temporary Attachments to Utility Poles

Mayor's Report

Unfinished Business:

1. Facility Use Document & Policy
2. Non-Profits and their relationship with the Village
3. Gas expansion Update
4. I & I Project Update
5. Update on WPP Project
6. Carpet Cleaning and/or Removal

New Business:

1. Office for Water filtration plant
2. Pumpkin parade

Clerk's Report:

1. Sewer Rate Increase
2. Update on tax and water bill delinquency

Trustee Reports

Adjournment 9:05PM

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