

ATHENS VILLAGE BOARD MEETING

Minutes-December 14, 2011

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

Trustee Robert June absent.

DPW Director Dennis Proper, Code Enforcement Officer Mike Ragaini and Village Attorney Tal Rapplelea were present.

Pledge to the Flag.

Department Head meeting.

PUBLIC:

1. *Ken Sabio, representing VRI*, attended the meeting to introduce himself to the Village Board. He has given the Village Board a proposal for services to manage the Water Filtration and the Wastewater Treatment Plant. He has also met with Mayor Smallwood and Trustee June a couple of times to discuss his services.

The Village Board asked Mr. Sabio a number of questions regarding his business and the contract he submitted to the Village Board.

The Mayor stated that she will get back to Mr. Sabio after the Village Board has had a chance to discuss the contract as presented.

2. *Brock Juusola, representing Delaware Engineering*, attended the meeting to update the Village Board on the Wastewater Treatment Plant project and answer any questions that the Village Board may have.

The Mayor thanked Mr. Juusola for attending the meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING - The purpose of tonight's public hearing is to allow public comment regarding the proposed amendments to the traffic law.

Copies of the proposed amendments were made available in the office and to those attending the meeting.

Ron Puhalski, resident of the Village, stated that he felt the winter parking law was too strict. Parking regulations should be in effect only when it snows, not all the time

throughout the winter. The lack of traffic in the village does not warrant full-time snow regulations for parking in the village.

John Pulice, resident of the Village, also noted that there is a serious visibility problem heading east on Second Street in the early morning hours (due to the sun). The street is very narrow and there are cars parked on the left and right hand side. Perhaps the Village Board should consider making this street 'no parking' on one side or the other. This would help the problem.

Mr. Puhalski also noted that there needs to be more enforcement of parking regulations at the corners. Presently there is none.

Chris Pfister, resident of the Village, stated that the Public Hearing was advertised to start at 6:30PM and actually did not start until much later. He also noted that the wording of Section 85-4 – 'One-way streets designated' of the traffic law is very tricky. It would be a little clearer if the location description was a bit more detailed.

Mr. Pfister also mentioned that the proposed amendment to section 85-13 which extends the distance that parking is prohibited at the intersection of Second St. and N. Washington Street ignores the opposite side of the street. Shouldn't parking be prohibited in that area to increase visibility as well?

He also mentioned that Section 85-18 'Designation of Handicapped Parking Spaces' #7 states "Two locations in the Village Parking lot". Which parking lot? The Village recently purchased a new parking lot on Franklin Street and there is the Municipal Building parking Lot. Perhaps the law should be more specific.

Mr. Pfister also noted that the amendment to Section 85-27 should include boats.

Mr. Pulice mentioned dumpsters as well. Perhaps there should be a time limit on how long they should be allowed to park on village streets.

Discussion of proposed amendments to the Chapter 85 (Vehicles and Traffic) law of the Village Code were discussed at length.

A MOTION was made by Trustee Reinhold, seconded by Trustee Patsky, all in favor, to exit the Public Hearing and resume the regular work meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Greene County Legislature. Re: Hurricane Irene/ Tropical Storm Lee.
2. Town of Athens Planning Board. Re: notification-Site Plan Review and Height Variance for the installation of two asphalt storage tanks at Peckham – 763 Schoharie Tpk.
3. Greene County Joint Landfill Venture. Re: Statement of Account.

4. Greene County Real Property Tax Service. Re: 2012 Senior Citizen & Disabled Tax Exemption Maximum Income Limits. RESOLUTION made by Trustee Reinhold, seconded by Trustee Lasher, all in favor, approving the 2012 Senior Citizen & Disabled Tax Exemption Maximum Income Limits as recommended by Greene County Real Property Tax.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Financial Reports for the month ending November 2011 were distributed to all Village Board Members.

A RESOLUTION was made by Trustee Reinhold, seconded by Trustee Lasher, all in favor, amending Chapter 85- Vehicles and Traffic Law of the Village of Athens Code as discussed and shown below:

85-4 One-way Streets designated:

Add-

Name of Street – Second Alley

Direction – North

Location – Second Street, Village Parking Lot

85-13 Parking Prohibited at all times in certain locations:

Amend-

Name of Street- North Washington Street

Side- West

Location – At intersection with Second Street for a distance of 95 feet.

85-18 Designation of Handicapped Parking Spaces:

Add-

5. Two locations at 6 S. Water Street, one east and one west side of Water Street
6. One location at the entrance to the Riverfront Park by the south end of the Ferry slip.
7. Two locations in the Village Parking Lot.

85-27 Parking of certain large vehicles prohibited in certain locations.
Still being reviewed.

A RESOLUTION was made by Trustee Reinhold, seconded by Trustee Patsky, all in favor, approving payment of the following vouchers:

GENERAL FUND- Abstract #1683, vouchers numbered #9911215 through #9911235 and voucher number #9911239 totaling \$58,330.87.

WATER FUND- Abstract #10235, vouchers numbered #9911240 and #9911236 totaling \$12,039.74.

SEWER FUND- Abstract #10205, vouchers numbered #9911237 through #9911238 totaling \$12,489.70.

The following Resolution was made by Trustee Reinhold, seconded by Trustee Patsky: Whereas the Appropriation for NYS Retirement was budgeted for \$45,500.00 and the actual invoice received was for \$58,577.00 leaving a deficit of \$13,077.00. A RESOLUTION approving the following transfer of appropriations will be completed in order to correct this deficit:

\$2511.00 from A9040.8 (Workers/Firemens compensation)
\$3300.00 from A9710.6H (Parking Lot LTD payment)
\$2000.00 from A1325.4 (Office expenses)
\$1000.00 from A5650.4 (Parking Lot maintenance)
\$2000.00 from A1989.4 (Code Update)
\$1000.00 from A1420.1 (Attorney)
\$1266.00 from A9060.8 (Hospitalization)

Trustee Lasher votes aye.
Trustee June absent.
Mayor Smallwood votes aye.
RESOLUTION Passes.

Minutes from meetings held on November 9, 2011 and November 30, 2011 were available but not approved at this meeting.

A RESOLUTION was made by Trustee Reinhold, seconded by Trustee Patsky, a.i.f., approving payment application #8 for Kingsley Arms in the amount of \$410,441.83.

A RESOLUTION was made by Trustee Reinhold, seconded by Trustee lasher, all in favor, that based upon the Mayors review, invoices submitted by Delaware Engineering be approved for payment.

A RESOLUTION was made by Trustee Reinhold, seconded by Trustee Lasher, all in favor, approving the renewal of Veolias contract with the Village for the water filtration plant and the wastewater treatment plant for 1 year with the stipulation that they provide better maintenance and reporting to the Village Board for both plants and also allow the Mayor to discuss lowering their fee.

A Motion was made by Trustee Reinhold, seconded by Trustee Lasher, all in favor, to adjourn the meeting this evening at 9:10PM.

Good Night Athens!

Mary Jo Wynne