

VILLAGE OF ATHENS BOARD MEETING

MINUTES- January 10, 2018 6:30PM

PRESENT: Mayor Peter Alberti, Trustee Marla Butler, Trustee Gail Lasher, Trustee Shannon Spinner and Trustee Robert Scott.

Pledge to the Flag

DEPARTMENT HEADS:

1. *Tal Rappleyea – Village Attorney and Michael Ragaini – Code Enforcement Officer.*

- Mr. Ragaini met with Joe Melino the new owner of the property formerly owned by the Bank of Greene County across from the Sleepy Hollow entrance on Route 385. Mr. Melino will be building a 2 family residence on the property. A 2-family residence is permitted in this district by obtaining a building permit from the Code Enforcement Officer. After that is completed he will then pursue further development which will have to go through the Planning Board.

- The Code Enforcement Officer has also met with the new owners of the Stewart House. They have been to the Planning Board and were not approved for the scope of work that they intend to do due to 'issues with window replacement'.

- The Village Attorney discussed the Heines property (Route 385). He will be bringing Mr. Heines back to court due to the fact that he has not followed through with what he was supposed to do. The case was never officially closed so they just have to reopen it.

- Ochs property was discussed as well. Mr. Ochs was suppose to attend the Planning Board Meeting but did not. He did send his contractor who was unable to clarify some of the issues with his plans that have been outstanding and have needed clarification since his visit to the Planning Board in August. Even with clarification of his final plans for the property he will need to get an area variance.

The VB agreed that the issue with Ochs property has gone on for too long. He appears to never follow through on requests by the Planning Board or Code Enforcement. The VB and Attorney agreed that they need to restart the process of making the property owner progress with some type of cleanup on the property.

- Mr. Rappleyea also noted that the town will start demolishing the Maurer property (N. Franklin St.) as soon as the weather gets better. Also, the St. Pierre property (N. Warren St.) has a new owner.

- The Mayor asked if the Attorney had any news concerning ownership of the Library building? The Mayor wants to be sure that when the deed was filed after they became their own district that the library was listed as owner of the property which is what is reflected on the paperwork for the creation of the district.

The Attorney will do a title search on it.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Mayor made a Motion to enter into Executive Session at 6:45 PM to discuss Personnel issues in regards to the hiring, firing, promotion or demotion of an individual at 6:45PM.

A MOTION was made by Trustee Butler, seconded by Trustee Spinner, all in favor, to exit **EXECUTIVE SESSION** at 7:00PM

2. Adam Greco – Fire Chief

- Mayor Alberti thanked the AVFD for providing some of their pumps at the water break on Union Street this past weekend.

- The future purchase of new pagers for the AVFD was discussed. The Chief stated that it was formerly decided by the VB to put \$11,000.00 away for this purpose. The County is requiring the upgrade in pagers, however a date was not given yet as to when this would happen.

- The Boy Scouts would like to hold an ‘inside encampment’ at the Firehouse. Would like to have permission from the VB to do so.

- Some events coming up for the AVFD swift water rescue team are :

January 20, 2018 Camp Trimount drill with the Greene County Sheriffs Dept.
January 27, 2018 Polar plunge at the Cocksackie Yacht Club
February 24, 2018 City of Hudson Polar plunge event

- The Fire Chief would like to purchase the following equipment from his equipment line item budget:

10 rapid rescue vests for \$1400.00
1 inflatable air kayak for \$1329.00
15 rotary hand saws for

The total purchase for all items will be \$4778.00

The VB inquired as to whether he has enough money in his budget and enough to get to the end of the year and also to provide documentation that he has found the lowest cost to the Village Clerk with the purchase.

Fire Chief Greco stated ‘yes’ and ‘yes’.

The Mayor told the Chief to complete the Workplace Violence Training for the Fire Department. If he needs help with the training please contact Chief Roger Masse as the Police Department has trained instructors. Everyone must complete it and documentation must be provided to the Clerk’s office.

3. *Anthony Proper – DPW*

- Thanked the VB for their help at the water break this past Sunday. Very much appreciated.

- The VB told Mr. Proper to go ahead with sheetrocking the ceiling in the former food pantry located in the lower level of the Community Center. This room will be used for storage space for Village and Town Clerks.

There have been a few frozen meters in the Village. The frozen meter on Franklin Street was the cause of a lot of water loss for the village. The break occurred before the Meter so the village will never be able to bill the owners for the water usage as it was not metered. Is there any way the village can find a way to charge these owners when this happens? Basically, it is neglect on the owners end.

The VB discussed it with the Attorney.

The Mayor mentioned asking the Village of Catskill DPW how they handle these situations.

There should be a way to charge people who do not properly winterize their house and cause breakage to meters and water losses. Water loss can be estimated noted the Village Attorney.

The Mayor asked Mr. Proper to get prices on the sign recommended by NYMIR for the playground.

4. *Roger Masse – Police Chief. No show.*

5. *Seth Mann & Joe Myers - Northdome*

- There is an excess sludge issue at the WWTP that needs to be corrected. The problem lies in that the press has not been working for quite some time. Therefore the sludge was put solely on the drying bed which is not an effective way for moving the sludge out quickly.

Northdome is asking that the VB approve a proposal from Precision Industrial Maintenance, inc. to provide a rolloff onsite so that they can fix the press and start pressing the sludge and moving it out quickly.

Three companies were contacted to provide costs and details. After review, Northdome would like to go with Precision Industrial Maintenance, inc. as they will be the cheapest since they do not require monitoring as sludge is disposed of in state. No monitoring/testing will save the village \$6,000.00 per year. Other companies contacted were Earthcare and Cinigro.

- Northdome has requested that the village allow them to purchase spare parts for the UV reactor at the Water Filtration Plant (WFP). Presently there are no

bulbs and ballasts available when needed to be changed. Would like to have spare parts available when things need to be fixed.

- Working on alarm issues at the WFP. Smith Controls has been onsite trying to figure it out. Smith Controls had originally installed the alarms/SCADA when the plant was built. Backwashing (which wastes a lot of treated water) in order to end the alarm issue short term was used but did not get to the 'root' of the problem.

- WFP – SCADA system has no backup – Smith Controls will build the WFP a backup while they are there. Without a backup system, if an emergency occurred at the WFP the Village will still be able to make water but there would have to be someone there 24 hours a day in order to do it.

Trustee Butler asked if the WWTP has a backup? Seth Mann replied that he thinks so but they will be looking at that as well.

Trustee Spinner stated that getting a new 'system' had been discussed in the past, however it was not explained in detail as to why.

Joe Myers stated that he would like to see a new SCADA system installed eventually but that would be a capital item.

Mayor Alberti mentioned also that the problem with the SCADA was never explained fully.

Targeting the SCADA system at the WFP is pivotal. It appears that there are 2 systems trying to make water at the same time and not always working together. Any WFP that they have been involved with only has one system- not two.

Smith Controls is working on it and they will figure it out.

- Brick Row needs a little TLC when the weather gets warmer.

APPLICATIONS:

1. Facility Use Application – gym. Applicant: Cody Daniel Beachler

MOTIONS and RESOLUTIONS:

1. Proposed Resolution Approving Minutes

BE IT RESOLVED that the Minutes from Village Board meeting held on December 13, 2017 be approved:

Offered by: Trustee Scott

Seconded by: Trustee Butler

Record of vote: All in favor

2. Proposed Resolution Approving Payment of Vouchers as Presented

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board Approves payment of vouchers as presented:

GENERAL FUND –Abstract #1951, vouchers numbered #9917455 through #9917491 in the amount of \$98,131.29

WATER FUND – Abstract #10411, vouchers numbered #9917492 through #9917503 in the amount of \$20,932.39

SEWER FUND – Abstract #10394, vouchers numbered #9917504 through #9917510 in the amount of \$11,869.52

Offered by: Trustee Spinner

Seconded by: Trustee Lasher

Record of vote: All in favor

3. Proposed Resolution Approving Proclamation for Eagle Court of Honor for local Eagle Scouts

WHEREAS Steven Maurer and Michael Wais from Troop 45, Coxsackie-Athens have recently achieved the rank of Eagle Scout, Scouting's highest rank; and

WHEREAS there will be an Eagle Court of Honor held at the Athens Firehouse on February 11, 2018 in order to celebrate their achievements; and

WHEREAS the VB has been invited to attend this event and speak on their behalf,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the VB approve the attached Proclamation to be given to them at this event:

Offered by: Trustee Lasher

Seconded by: Trustee Spinner

Record of vote: All in favor

4. Proposed Resolution approving transfer of \$11,000.00 from Fire Dept. equipment line item to Fire Dept. Equipment reserve fund

WHEREAS the Fire Chief has informed the VB that the County will require that the AVFD purchase new pagers in the near future; and

WHEREAS there has been no specific target date for this change; and

WHEREAS the cost for the replacement of pagers will be \$11,000.00; and

WHEREAS the AVFD has asked that the VB move \$11,000.00 from the 6/1/17 through 5/31/18 Village of Athens Budget in order to assure that the monies be available for this purchase,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the VB approve the transfer of \$11,000.00 from A3410.2 line item to the Fire Department Equipment Reserve where it will be available to purchase the pagers in the future:

Offered by: Trustee Scott
Seconded by: Trustee Butler
Record of vote: All in favor

5. Proposed Resolution approving the Boy Scouts use of the Athens Fire House for a one night event.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the VB approve the AVFD allowing the Boy Scouts to hold a one night 'inside encampment' at the Athens Fire House:

Offered by: Trustee Scott
Seconded by: Trustee Butler
Record of vote: All in favor

6. Proposed Resolution authorizing the Fire Chief to make the purchases he has requested under the proper procurement policy criteria

WHEREAS the Fire Chief would like to purchase the following items:

1 air inflatable kayak - \$1449.00
10 Rapid Rescue vests – 200.00 a piece
15 dokehom hand saws – 209.35 total

WHEREAS, the equipment will be used in conjunction with the water rescue team

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the VB approve the purchase of items described:

Offered by: Trustee Spinner
Seconded by: Trustee Butler
Record of vote: All in favor

7. Proposed Resolution authorizing Northdome to make purchases from UV Doctors

WHEREAS Northdome has advised the VB that they are in need of making purchases for parts needed on the UV reactor at the WFP; and

WHEREAS the parts are needed to have on hand and to also replace the ballasts and bulbs for aforementioned equipment; and

WHEREAS the UV Reactor is a vital piece of equipment for providing clean and safe water for the residents of the village

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the VB approve the purchase of various parts from the UV Doctor as per quote provided by Northdome:

Offered by: Trustee Butler
Seconded by: Trustee Spinner

Record of vote: All in favor

8. Proposed Resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign a proposal from Precision Industrial Maintenance, Inc.

WHEREAS Northdome has advised the VB that the sludge situation at the WWTP needs to be addressed as there is excess sludge due to the press not working and the use of only drying beds; and

WHEREAS Northdome has contacted 3 vendors and analyzed which vendor would provide the best option at the best price for providing a rolloff and removal of the sludge,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the VB authorize the Mayor to sign the proposal for services from Precision Industrial Maintenance, inc.

Offered by: Trustee Butler
Seconded by: Trustee Spinner
Record of vote: All in favor

9. Proposed Resolution granting the Moreton's restitution for damages to their automobile for an accident which occurred on December 23, 2017 with the DPW

WHEREAS a dpw vehicle caused damage to a vehicle owned by John Moreton while sanding village streets on December 23, 2017; and

WHEREAS NYMIR (the village's insurance company) has denied paying for damages incurred stating Section 1103(b) of the Vehicle and Traffic Law which exempts vehicles that are engaged in highway work from complying with the rules of the road and limits liability in this regard to reckless conduct; and

WHEREAS there was no recklessness involved only sanding of roads; and

WHEREAS NYMIR also cites Riley vs County of Broome 719 N.Y.S. 2d 623 (2000) to justify their stance on this issue; and

WHEREAS the village believes that they are at fault in this matter as the Moreton's vehicle was not a moving vehicle and was parked off the road; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that given the circumstances, the village is responsible and should pay for the cost of repairing the car for only those damages which occurred as a result of the dpw vehicle hitting it and that the Moreton's request the cost of damages by providing proper documentation of proof of cost and payment made:

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

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Vendor permits
2. Cold War Veterans Exemption.
3. Lightower Fiber Network, LLC

NEW BUSINESS:

1. ZBA meeting – January 22, 2018 – 19 N. Warren St.
2. Columbia Cooperative – letter of support

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. David M. Bloodgood –Senior Risk Control Specialist Wright Insurance Co. – NYMIR. Re: Recommendations for playground sign and court security issue.
2. NYMIR – VATHE-2017-005-001 (claim number). Incident 12/23/17. Moreton.
3. EAP Services of the Mid-Hudson Valley. Re: renewal agreement 1/1/18-12/31/18. VB approves the renewal.
4. Athens Community Garden Club. Re: Grant award for flower baskets at the Riverfront Park.
5. Greene County Real Property Tax Service. Re: Senior Citizen & Disabled Tax Exemption Maximum Income Limits.
6. NYSDOL-Public Employee Safety and Health Bureau. Re: Notice of failure to abate violation and order to comply.
7. Boy Scout Troop 45. Re: Eagle Scout Ceremony.
8. Phyllis Dinkelacker- AVFD - Convention.

The VB thanked DPW laborer Wayne Butterworth for receiving his water license. For this reason the VB would like to raise his hourly salary by .50 cents per hour. MOTION made by Trustee Butler, seconded by Trustee Spinner, all in favor.

ADJOURNMENT: 8:30PM

Offered by: Trustee Spinner
Seconded by: Trustee Butler
Record of vote: All in favor

Mary Jo Wynne
Village Clerk-Treasurer

