

VILLAGE OF ATHENS BOARD MEETING
October 26, 2011

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

Trustee Gail Lasher absent.

Sergeant Ed Tercasio and Village Attorney Tal Rappleyea were also present.

Pledge to the flag.

APPLICATION: Gym. **APPLICANT:** Soup-2-nuts Theatre Co.
RESOLUTION made by Trustee June, seconded by Trustee Patsky, all in favor, approving the application as completed.

APPLICATION: Gym. **APPLICANT:** Athens Volunteer Fire Department.
RESOLUTION made by Trustee Reinhold, seconded by Trustee June, all in favor, approving, based upon availability, the application as completed.

PUBLIC:

1. *Clemmy Jensen, resident of the Village and Sleepy Hollow Lake*, attended the meeting to discuss taxes. She is concerned that Village residents pay 3 times more taxes than town residents. Ms. Jensen provided the Village Board with a handout, which exemplifies taxes for village residents as opposed to town residents, based upon the same assessment.

Ms. Jensen expressed her concern that this is unfair to residents and she would like to see something done about it. She has consulted with the state and was informed that the Village and Town could become one government and that if this were to happen all residents would be taxed the same rate.

Ms. Jensen stated that she was here this evening to ask the Village Board to consider doing this. There are three ways to accomplish this task: 1. Dissolution, 2. Consolidation or 3. Annexation. The state would have to be petitioned in order to start any of these processes.

The Mayor stated that the process is possible but not as easy as it sounds. This issue needs to be analyzed further in order to do it in a way that does not hurt residents of the town and the village. The Mayor also mentioned that perhaps Ms. Jensen should approach the Town of Athens. Also, perhaps the Village and Town could apply for a LGE Grant (Local Government Efficiency) to analyze becoming one government.

Ms. Jensen also thanked the Mayor for spending time with her the other day to explain the intricacies involved with the town and the village in regards to their districts and also their debts. Ms. Jensen stated that she understands that it is not an easy thing to do but would like the Village Board to at least consider it.

The Village Board agreed that they would consider this.

2. *John Pulice, resident of the Village*, attended the meeting to again discuss the intersection of Rt. 385 and Second Street. He informed the Village Board that there was an accident there yesterday.

The Mayor stated that the sun being in the driver's eyes caused the accident.

Mr. Pulice also mentioned that he had been working in St. Patrick's Church at 7:35AM when he heard a loud crash. He went outside to see what it was and a vehicle had hit one of the road signs and sent it flying.

The Village Board agreed that there are 'speeders' on this stretch of Route 385.

The Mayor informed Mr. Pulice that the traffic law which had been adopted last year decreased the 'no parking' at the aforementioned intersection from 95 feet to 50 feet and that the Village Board will be changing it back to 95 feet. When they reviewed the traffic law previously they thought that it would be okay to decrease it to create more parking in that area. The Village Board is in agreement that it needs to be changed back.

3. *Thayer Parrish, representing HD Supply and Lee Martin of DataMatic Co.*, attended the meeting to provide the Village Board with a water meter presentation.

Mr. Parrish and Mr. Martin asked if they could return at another time in order to present a more thorough demonstration and perhaps have a representative from the DPW and a couple of Village Board members attend.

Trustee Patsky inquired as to how much the water meters cost per unit, including software.

Mr. Parrish and Mr. Martin agreed that they run approximately \$140.00 per unit.

The Village Board stated that they would meet again.

4. *Derek Apa, resident of the Village*, attended the meeting to express his concern regarding the traffic's rate of speed on his street. He also is concerned about the graffiti in the parks. It seems like things have gotten worse in the Village and he is concerned that perhaps there has been a lessening of police coverage.

The Mayor stated that all departments have been affected by budget restraints but they have been working to schedule police when coverage is most needed. There is also mutual aid with the State and County that respond in a timely fashion.

Mr. Apa also stated that he thought a traffic light at the intersection of Route 385 and Second Street was not a good idea since trucks with air brakes would be making a lot of noise stopping at that intersection.

5. *Chris Pfister, Greene County Legislator and Village resident*, attended the meeting to update the Village Board on County Business and answer any questions that the VB may have.

He also attended the meeting to voice some concerns regarding issues in the Village. He mentioned that the upkeep on village properties is being neglected. He also mentioned that the number of nuisance properties in the village is increasing, but how can you enforce that when village properties are neglected. He also mentioned concern for the condition of some of the village's equipment.

He realizes that staffing and budget cuts have made this more difficult but he would like to see the village pay attention to these issues a little more. He also offered his assistance.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Amy Serrago-Goldberg. Re: Resignation from Zoning Board.
2. Delaware County Board of Supervisors. Re: Copy of Resolution #147- Proposal to allocate portions of the New York City Land Acquisition Program Funds for Flood Mitigation.
3. Greene County Economic Development, Tourism & Planning. Re: 2012 Travel Guide.
4. NYS Public Service Commission. Re: Champlain Hudson Power Express, Inc. Application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility

OTHER BUSINESS:

A MOTION was made by Trustee Reinhold, seconded by Trustee Patsky, all in favor, to enter into Executive Session with Sergent Tercasio to discuss personnel matters.

A MOTION was made by Trustee June, seconded by Trustee Patsky, all in favor, to exit Executive Session and resume the regular work meeting.

After much discussion, A RESOLUTION was made by Trustee June, seconded by Trustee Patsky, all in favor, to increase sewer Rates from \$78.00 to \$109.00 per quarter effective with December 31, 2011 billing

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

GENERAL-Abstract #1674, vouchers numbered 9911095 through 9911125, in the amount of \$490,662.93.

WATER- Abstract #10232, vouchers numbered 9911126 through 9911129 in the amount of \$12,343.05.

SEWER – Abstract #10202, voucher number 9911130 in the amount of \$12,021.95.

A RESOLUTION made by Trustee Reinhold, seconded by Trustee June, all in favor, approving change order #1 for Stilsing Electric in the amount of \$22,722.00

A RESOLUTION made by Trustee June, seconded by Trustee Reinhold, all in favor, approving the attached Resolutions, per the NYS Comptroller's office, regarding Fund Balance and Receivables amounts in the Water and Sewer Funds.

A RESOLUTION was made by Trustee Reinhold, seconded by Trustee Patsky, all in favor, approving a change order for MJR & Sons in the amount of \$1690.00 for work done on sidewalks (per bid).

A RESOLUTION was made by Trustee Reinhold, seconded by Trustee Patsky, all in favor, approving the revised Delaware Engineering invoices.

A RESOLUTION was made by Trustee Reinhold, seconded by Trustee Patsky, all in favor, approving C.T. Male and Associates invoice for overage work completed at the Athens Riverfront Park (\$3302.50).

A RESOLUTION was made by Trustee Patsky, seconded by Trustee Reinhold, all in favor, increasing the lease amount for the Town of Athens to \$27,000.00 per year.

MOTION made to adjourn the meeting this evening at 11:15PM.

Good Night!

Mary Jo Wynne