

ATHENS VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
Minutes – October 28, 2009

PRESENT: Mayor Andrea Smallwood, Trustee Tim O’Leary, Trustee Tom Sopris, Trustee Herman Reinhold and Trustee Robert June.

Village Attorney Tal Rapplelea was also in attendance.

PLEDGE to the Flag.

PUBLIC:

1. *Herbie Blasewitz and Patty Whiteman, representing the Athens Street Festival Committee*, attended the meeting to present the Village Board with a report on this past Street Festival.
2. *Jane Kerr, representing the Athens Dog Park*, attended the meeting to present the Village Board with an end of year report. Ms. Kerr informed the Village Board that all of their goals were achieved and the expenses came in under budget.

The Village Board thanked her for all of her hard work. They also stated that this park project is a success because it is being used more now than ever before.

3. *Sandra Strauss, resident of Brick Row*, attended the meeting to complain about the ‘lack of police response’ she received recently when she tried to get in touch with a Village Police Officer after her porch had been vandalized.

When she tried dialing the Village Police she reached the State Troopers who forwarded her message to the Village Police Officer on duty. No one came.

Ms. Strauss called the next day- no response.

The next day she went to the Office of the Village Police Dept. The Officer there at the time stated he would send an Officer to her residence that evening. No Police Officer came.

Mayor Smallwood stated that she would look into the matter.

Ms. Strauss also stated that a school bus operated by ‘First Student’ spilled some oil on Brick Row Friday and it still has not been taken care of.

Mayor Smallwood stated that she would have Dennis Proper take a look at it.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. State of New York- Dept. of Health. Re: Lead/Copper Sampling.
2. Columbia-Greene Federal Credit Union. Re: Upcoming Promotions and Events.
3. NYS Office of the State Comptroller. Re: Audit.
4. Michael Black. Re: Roadwork.
5. The State Education Department. Re: Local Government Records Management Improvement Fund Grant Application.
6. Greene County Economic Development, Tourism and Planning. Re: 2010 Greene County Travel Guide.
7. Greene IDA. Re: Expansion of Broadband wireless initiative.
8. Athens Volunteer Fire Department. Re: Meeting – November 7, 2009- Sleepy Hollow Dam Emergency Procedures.
9. Iroquois Gas Transmission System. Re: Community Grant Program.
10. National Grid. Re: Notice of Application for use of Land Underwater of Niagara Mohawk Existing 115kV Electric Transmission Line.
11. The family of Lillian Salvino. Re: Thank you for flowers.
12. Dennis Heines. Letter stating why he was unable to attend the meeting this evening. He had been asked to attend by the Code Enforcement Officer regarding property he owns on the corner of Second and Montgomery Streets.

OTHER BUSINESS:

A RESOLUTION was made by Trustee Sopris, 2nd by Trustee Reinhold, a.i.f., approving Minutes from Meetings held on August 26, September 9, September 23 and October 14, 2009.

A RESOLUTION was made by Trustee Reinhold, 2nd by Trustee June, a.i.f. approving payment of the following vouchers:

GENERAL- Abstract #1570.

WATER- Abstract #10184.

SEWER- Abstract#10166.

Trustee Reinhold discussed the possibility of combining the Village Election, held in March annually, with the County Elections which are held annually in November. He also provided Board Members with a copy of State law which outlines the procedure for doing such and all the legality of changing Village Election. He would like the Village Board members to seriously consider this.

The Village Board also discussed the consolidation of the Village and Town Courts. In consolidating these two courts there would be a considerable savings for Village taxpayers. This needs to be reviewed further.

The lawyer will advise the Village on consolidation of the Courts and also on combining Village and Town elections.

The Lease agreement with the Town was discussed.

The Lawyer added a clause in the lease regarding insurance and Trustee Reinhold added a statement requesting that the Town try to be conservative with utility usage and energy consumption.

Lease increase this year will be minimal - \$24,000.00 per year.

MOTION made by Trustee Reinhold, 2nd by Trustee June, a.i.f., to adjourn the meeting at 9:30PM.

GOOD NIGHT!!

Mary Jo Wynne