

VILLAGE OF ATHENS BOARD MEETING

Minutes—January 22, 2014 Time: 6:30 pm

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

Trustee Robert June was absent.

Village Attorney Tal Rappleyea was also present.

Pledge of Allegiance

A Moment of Silence for Ralph A. Favicchio.

The Mayor opened the **Public Hearing** for public comment regarding the proposed sewer rate increase.

A fact sheet listing all of the costs, including operational and debt related, for running the WWTP was provided for the public.

Ron Puhalski, resident of the Village, inquired about the fund balance amount in the Sewer Fund.

He also questioned whether the water rates will be determined by the purchase of meters.

The Mayor stated that the fund balance figure used last year is on the informational sheet. The amount to be used this year has not been determined yet.

A MOTION was made by Trustee Reinhold, seconded by Trustee Patsky, all in favor, to close the Public Hearing at 6:42 PM.

The **REGULAR BOARD MEETING** is opened.

Public Agenda

1. *Stan and Cathy Hewitt* attended the meeting by invitation of the Village Attorney, per Village Board request, to discuss their intentions for their property located at 10 N. Franklin Street in the Village, with the Village Board. The house has been vacant since a house fire occurred several years ago. The Village is concerned since it seems to have become an unsafe and abandoned building. They would like to know what the owner's intentions are for the structure?

Ms. Hewitt asked the Village Board if all of the abandoned properties in the Village were being questioned like hers is? She feels that she is being treated unfairly since there are other houses in the village that are in poor condition or abandoned as well.

Ms Hewitt also stated that they had had plans to re-do the house. They had cost estimates which they provided to the bank in order to get a loan/mortgage. The bank refused their application stating that they thought the amount they wanted to borrow was too high considering the poor condition of their neighbor's house.

The Mayor stated that the Village has made numerous attempts to contact them to provide them the opportunity to discuss their intentions and options with the Village

Board in regard to their building. What are they planning to do with it? Presently it is boarded up and not liveable. The Village would like to give them the chance to do something with the building and make it better.

Ms. Hewitt stated that she had given the Code Enforcement Officer numerous letters responding to this request. She also stated that she does want to have her house back.

The Mayor also stated that the Village needs to keep its properties looking good in order to keep property values as a whole from decreasing. The Village is willing to work with them.

The Village Attorney informed the Hewitts that the Village wants to help them get back into their house. He asked that, if they would like help, then to provide the Village with their completed applications which had been denied for financing by the bank so that they may be able to help them with the process.

The Village Attorney reiterated that the Village does want to work with the Hewitts to get them back into their house.

2. *Scott St. Pierre*. No show.
3. *Athens Citizens Development Committee* attended the meeting to discuss the West Point Partners Project currently in the Public Service Commission's hands.

Jackie Goddeau spoke on behalf of the Committee this evening. She stated that they were happy that the Village Board passed a RESOLUTION opposing the proposed Route. She asked why the Village had not submitted it to the NYS Public Service Commission.

The Mayor stated that they could do that.

Ms Goddeau also asked if they have talked to WPP lately?

The Mayor replied that they met on December 20, 2013 since they wanted to meet the new Town Supervisor.

On a positive note, the Mayor also noted that National Grid has agreed to allow WPP to conduct a study alongside their Right of way.

Sam Sebren mentioned the importance of the upcoming hearings that are being held on all of the power projects proposed for this area.

Mr. Sebren noted the discussion tonight on the effect of derelict properties on property values and the disconnect public officials seem to have when convertor stations in the town effect property values as well.

Motions and Resolutions

1. Proposed Resolution to Approve the Minutes of the January 8, 2014 Meeting

BE IT RESOLVED, the minutes of the January 8, 2014 meeting are hereby approved.

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

2. Proposed Resolution to Authorize Payment of Vouchers

BE IT RESOLVED that the Village Clerk is authorized to pay the following vouchers as presented.

GENERAL FUND – Abstract #1778, vouchers numbered #9913306 through #9913337 in the amount of \$31,520.26.

WATER FUND – Abstract #10293, vouchers numbered #9913338 through #9913349 in the amount of \$8254.32.

SEWER FUND – Abstract #10266, vouchers numbered #9913350 through #9913357 in the amount of \$ 5339.31.

Offered by: Trustee Reinhold

Seconded by: Trustee Patsky

Record of vote: All in favor.

3. Proposed Resolution Appointing Mary Jo Wynne as Registrar of Vital Statistics

BE IT RESOLVED, Mary Jo Wynne is hereby appointed to be the Registrar of Vital Statistics for the Village of Athens

Offered by: Trustee Reinhold

Seconded by: Trustee Lasher

Record of vote: All in favor

4. Proposed Resolution Appointing Mary Ann Peters as Deputy Registrar of Vital Statistics

BE IT RESOLVED, Mary Ann Peters is hereby appointed as Deputy Registrar of Vital Statistics for the Village of Athens

Offered by: Trustee Reinhold

Seconded by: Trustee Patsky

Record of vote: All in favor

5. Proposed Resolution Approving the Settlement of the Forstman Tax Certiorari Matter

BE IT RESOLVED, the Village of Athens hereby consents to the change in the assessed value of tax parcel# 122.19-4-30 to a full assessed value of \$95,000 and,

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Village Attorney is authorized to sign the Stipulation settling same.

Offered by: Trustee Reinhold

Seconded by: Trustee Patsky

Record of vote: All in favor

6. Proposed Resolution Authorizing the Sponsorship of Lucas Palmateer.

BE ITS RESOLVED, the Village of Athens does hereby agree to sponsor Lucas Palmateer as a student at the Law Enforcement Police Academy at Columbia-Greene Community College, and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that during that sponsorship, Lucas Palmateer will be employed by the Village of Athens without compensation.

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

7. Proposed Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of Fire Hydrants

WHEREAS, THE Village of Athens has begun the ongoing process of replacing aging and malfunctioning hydrants in the Village,

WHEREAS, current supplier is facing a substantial price increase for the next buying season,

WHEREAS, current projections estimate that five hydrants will need to be replaced,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees does hereby authorize the Superintendent of Public Works to obtain pricing on the materials needed for the hydrant installation and to proceed with said purchase from Vellano Corporation, at a cost of \$13,265.00.

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

8. Proposed Resolution Authorizing Truck Repairs

BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees does, hereby authorize the Superintendent of Public Works to proceed with the repair and or replacement of the clutch on the 1994 International Plow Truck at a price not to exceed \$1809.77 as estimated by W&W Truck and Transmission.

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

9. Proposed Resolution Authorizing Emergency Repairs at Water Treatment Plant and Brick Row Waste Water Treatment Plant

WHEREAS, VRI, contract operator of the water plant and waste water treatment plants, has examined the check valves on the raw water pumps at the water treatment plant and found them to be in a dangerously deteriorated position, creating an emergency situation,

WHEREAS, this condition could interrupt the raw water supply to the water filtration system,

WHEREAS, the air lift and sludge return line for the Brick Row Waste Water Treatment are also in need of immediate replacement,

WHEREAS, estimates were solicited and Harkins Mechanical was determined to be most suited to conduct both repairs at a competitive price,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees does hereby authorize the Mayor to contract with Harkins Mechanical to carry out said repairs at an estimated cost of \$8750.00.

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

Communications:

1. Statement of Cash Flow for CD Landfill
2. Central Hudson: Request for Use of the Firehouse
3. West Point Partners: Response to Interrogatories
4. Delaware Engineering: Letter stating that engineering budget has been exhausted.

Mayor's Report

Unfinished Business

1. Gas Expansion Update: January 27 Meeting
2. Discussion of Union Street Culvert
3. I & I Project Update: Delaware engineering budget
4. Update on WPP and A/C Projects:

New Business

1. Street Signage
2. Cost Projections for DPW Garage
3. Volunteer of the Year Awards
4. Credit Card Payment Options

Clerk's Report

Trustee Reports

A Motion was made by Mayor Pfister, seconded by Trustee Reinhold, all in favor to Enter Executive Session at 9:08PM in order to discuss the employment history and matters leading to the possible discipline of a particular individual(s).

A MOTION was made by Trustee Lasher, seconded by Trustee Patsky, all in favor, to Exit Executive Session at 9:30PM and adjourn the regular meeting.

Adjourn: 9:30PM

Mary Jo Wynne