

# VILLAGE OF ATHENS BOARD MEETING

Minutes—January 28, 2015, Time: 6:30 pm

## *Pledge of Allegiance*

PRESENT: Mayor Pfister, Trustee Gail Lasher, Trustee Anthony Patsky, Trustee Robert June and Trustee Peter Alberti.

Village Attorney Tal Rappleyea was also present.

## Public Agenda:

1. *John Pulice* attended the meeting as a follow up on the status of bringing natural gas into the village.

The Mayor stated that there was not enough public interest due to the cost of converting over to the natural gas. After the informational meeting that was held by Central Hudson/Peckham over at the Athens Firehouse only about 5 people signed up, whereas Central Hudson needs at least 100 people signed up in order to make it possible.

2. *Tom Cali* attended the meeting requesting a copy of a report on the Code Enforcement Officers visit to his property located on Second Street on November 11, 2014.

Mr. Cali also questioned his water/sewer bill. He thinks that his reading is wrong. He is also not happy that there are no rate schedules provided with the bill. How does he know what he is being charged for?

The Mayor informed him that he could get a copy of the statement given by the DPW Foreman regarding the incident on November 11<sup>th</sup> 2014 in the Village Clerk's office. He was also told that the rate sheet for water and sewer usage is available in the Village Clerk's office anytime he would like it he can pick it up.

Mr. Cali feels that the new meter reading is not correctly represented on the bill and he wants the Mayor to explain it to him.

The Mayor stated that he would be happy to explain it to him after has had a chance to talk to the DPW and the office.

3. *Bob Hutchinson, representing Green Fiber*, attended the meeting to discuss the recycle receptacle that is located at the Village Building. The receptacle is for paper. The paper is then recycled into cellulose insulation. The Village Building is underutilized and he would like to stimulate some more activity. Presently he picks up at the Athens Firehouse and EJ Arthur Elementary.

The Mayor stated that he doesn't want to take away from the Athens Fire department's receptacle as they make money from it. He has to pick up there anyway so he may as well pick up at the village building also.

A few of the Trustees mentioned that they were unaware of the receptacle and that they would let people know that it is here.

4. *Norman Benjamin and Janice Myers, residents on N. Washington Street*, attended the meeting to discuss their concerns about their neighborhood. The sidewalks going from Stewarts to the National Bank of Coxsackie are missing pieces of sidewalk. The situation is getting worse because of the ice, snow and also the melting of the snow and ice.

Ownership of sidewalks was discussed.

The Mayor stated that the problem is that the sidewalks are the responsibility of the homeowner and not the village.

Ms. Myers mentioned that the owner of the property where there is a problem has not fixed them.

Mr. Benjamin then asked who owns the sidewalks?

The Mayor stated that the unofficial version is that the Village owns the stone however it is not very well defined in the Code.

Mr. Benjamin stated again that regardless of who owns them someone is going to get hurt due to the fact that it is a very busy street, especially when there is a function at the church. Something needs to be done.

Mr. Benjamin also noted that there is always water which appears to be leaking out of the water main and onto the sidewalk at the house next to the church (Multari's). This makes walking very difficult and it is also ruining the sidewalk.

Ms. Meyers mentioned the state of Paul Ochs property (9 N. Washington St.). It is just a shell of a house and has been that way for years. There are skunks and rats dwelling in the structure. It is a hazard and an eyesore.

The Mayor stated that the village has been trying to deal with this property. However the owner lives in the city and it is difficult enough to deal with unkempt properties of local people let alone people who do not live in the area.

Mr. Benjamin asked if there weren't some avenue that the Village can take or perhaps some grants out there that can help the village deal with these properties?

Again, the Mayor stated that they have been trying to manage the unkempt properties throughout the Village with the help of the Village Attorney. It just takes time.

The Mayor thanked them for attending the meeting and also for pointing out some of the hazardous walkways.

## **Motions and Resolutions**

### 1. Proposed Resolution to Approve the Minutes

BE IT RESOLVED, the minutes, as amended, for the January 14, 2015 meeting are approved

Offered by: Trustee Lasher

Seconded by: Trustee Alberti

Record of vote: All in favor

### 2. Proposed Resolution to Authorize Payment of the Vouchers

BE IT RESOLVED, the following vouchers are authorized for payment:

**GENERAL FUND** – Abstract #1824, vouchers numbered #9914406 through #9914431 in the amount of \$108,397.32. Abstract #1825, vouchers numbered #9914446 through #9914447 in the amount of \$13,381.14. Abstract #1826, voucher number #9914451 in the amount of \$2,896.12.

**WATER FUND**-Abstract #10324, vouchers numbered 9914432 through #9914441 in the amount of \$13,508.98.

**SEWER FUND**- Abstract #10305, voucher number #9914450 in the amount of \$8500.00. Abstract #10303, vouchers numbered #9914442 through #9914445 in the amount of \$5266.16, Abstract #10304, voucher number #9914448 in the amount of \$9329.91.

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

3. Proposed Resolution Setting Date for Public Hearing Increasing Tax Exemption Maximum Income Level

BE IT RESOLVED, Village of Athens Board of Trustees establishes February 11, 2015 as the date for a Public Hearing on a proposal to increase the senior citizen and disabled citizen exemption maximum income level to \$24,500.

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

4. Proposed Resolution Approving Facility Use Permit

BE IT RESOLVED, the Village of Athens does, hereby, approve the application of Michael Surrano, to use Riverfront Park on July 25, 2015, between the hours of 12 PM and 2 PM for the purposes of conducting a wedding.

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

5. Proposed Resolution Establishing a Safety Committee

WHEREAS, it has been recommended by our current insurance carrier, that the Village establish a safety committee,

WHEREAS, such a committee would conduct regular meetings for the purpose of identifying risks in the municipal operations of the Village of Athens,

WHEREAS, the committee members would include at a minimum the following:

1. A member of the Board of Trustees
2. Superintendent of Public Works
3. Code Enforcement Officer
4. Fire Chief
5. Chief of Police

BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees does hereby establish the Safety Committee with members to be appointed by the Board of Trustees

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

6. Proposed Resolution Appointing Members to the Safety Committee

BE IT RESOLVED, the following individuals are, hereby, appointed to the Safety Commitment

1. Peter Alberti, Chairperson
2. Dennis Proper
3. Michael Ragaini
4. Roger Masse
5. Adam Greco

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

7. Proposed Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Sign a Contract for the Purpose of Conducting Random Drug Testing

BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees does, hereby, authorize the Mayor to sign a contract with EAP, in the amount of \$500.00 to conduct random drug testing for the Village of Athens.

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

8. Proposed Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Purchase Park Benches

WHEREAS, there is a need to purchase benches that are identical to the existing benches,

WHEREAS, the existing benches have proven to be well-constructed and durable,

WHEREAS, additional benches are required by the park upgrade and as replacements at the Triangle Park,

WHEREAS, adequate funds are available in the Parks Fund,

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees authorizes the Mayor to order six addition benches from Victor Stanley at an approximate cost of \$1400.00 per bench, for a total sum not to exceed \$9000.00 F.O.B. Origin.

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

9. Proposed Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of a New VFD for the RAS Pump at the Wastewater Treatment Plant

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees authorizes the Mayor to purchase a new VFD, contingent upon VRI's approval, with installation, for an amount not to exceed \$1875.00.

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

10. Proposed Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of Tax Collection Software

WHEREAS, the posting of and retrieval of tax records is a very time consuming task,

WHEREAS, such a software system would provide increased efficiency,

WHEREAS, the Village Clerk has examined several software systems for the management of the tax collection system and feels that the BAS best meets the Village's needs,

WHEREAS, money was included for this purchase in the 2014-15 Budget,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Trustee accepts the proposal from BAS in the amount of \$2480.00 for one workstation and authorizes the Mayor to contract for the above with BAS

Offered by: Trustee June  
Seconded by: Trustee Alberti  
Record of vote: All in favor

11. Proposed Resolution Ratifying the Contract between Teamsters Local and the Village of Athens

BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees, hereby, ratifies the Agreement By and Between the Village of Athens and Teamster Local #294, International Brotherhood of Teamsters for the period of June 1, 2014 thru May 31, 2017.

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

12. Proposed Resolution Declaring the Aerial Ladder Truck to be Surplus

WHEREAS, the Village of Athens has recently purchased demo model aerial truck,

WHEREAS, due the above purchase the Village of Athens no longer has a need for the 1986 Spartan/LTI Aerial Ladder Quint,

RESOLVED, the Village of Athens does, hereby, declare the 1986 Spartan/LTI Aerial Ladder Quint to be surplus equipment and directs the Mayor to advertise said truck for sale.

Offered by: Trustee Alberti  
Seconded by: Trustee June  
Record of vote: All in favor

### 13. Proposed Resolution Accepting Offer to Purchase Ladder Truck

WHEREAS, the Athens Volunteer Fire Department has publicized the availability for sale of the 1986 Spartan/LTI Aerial Ladder Quint,

WHEREAS, only two bids have been received during this period,

WHEREAS, continuing attempts to sell this vehicle appear to be counterproductive,

WHEREAS, Adirondack Fire Equipment, acting as a broker for Stewart County Fire Rescue Tennessee) has proffered a bid in the amount of \$15,000.00 F.O.B. Athens, NY,

WHEREAS, delivery of the vehicle will be the sole responsibility of the broker and its client,

WHEREAS, purchase of the vehicle will be in "as is" condition with the Village of Athens accepting no responsibility for the current or future condition of the vehicle,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Village of Athens does, hereby, accept the bid of Adirondack Fire Equipment acting as broker for Stewart County Fire Rescue in the amount of \$15,000, minus a 10% commission.

Offered by: Trustee June

Seconded by: Trustee Alberti

Record of vote: All in favor

### 14. Proposed Resolution to Purchase Water and Sewer Billing Software

WHEREAS, new automated water meters has been purchase and installed by the Village of Athens,

WHEREAS, the current billing software needs to be upgraded in order to interface with the new water meters,

WHEREAS, funds for the new billing software are available through adjustments to the water and sewer budgets,

WHEREAS, the purchase of this software will result in improved efficiency of the water and sewer billing operation

BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees authorizes the Mayor to contract for the purchase of new billing software for an amount not to exceed \$13,000.00, pending technical review by the Village Clerk/Treasurer  
RESOLUTION Tabled until next meeting.

#### Communications:

1. Greene County Real Property Tax Service: Senior Tax Exemptions
2. Paula Butler: Community Day
3. Various A/C Proposals
4. General Control Proposal
5. Tal Rappleyea: Structure of Existing Reserve Funds

#### Trustee Reports

## Mayor's Report

### Unfinished Business

1. Water Meter Installation, Software and Funding
2. Lagoon Proposals
3. Street Festival Update
4. Bathroom Roof
5. Brick Row Sidewalk

### New Business

1. Presentation on the Dangers of Heroin
2. Water Main Breaks
3. SCADA Recommendations
4. Tax Cap & Budget

## Clerk's Report

### Motion to Enter Executive Session:

Purpose: To discuss matters leading to the possible discipline, suspension or dismissal or removal of a particular person

Time: 8:59PM

Offered by: Trustee June

Seconded by: Trustee Alberti

Record of vote: All in favor

### Motion to Leave Executive Session:

Offered by: Trustee Lasher

Seconded by: Trustee June

Record of vote: All in favor

### Motion to Adjourn

Time: 9:24

Offered by: Trustee Lasher

Seconded by: Trustee Alberti

Record of vote: All in favor

MJW