

VILLAGE OF ATHENS BOARD MEETING MINUTES– FEBRUARY 13, 2013

Pledge to the Flag.

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

Fire Chief Jim Robinson Jr., Code Enforcement Officer Mike Ragaini, DPW Director Dennis Proper, Village Attorney Tal Rappleyea and Ken Sabia (VRI) were also present. Sgt. Tercasio was filling in for Chief of Police Roger Masse.

Department Head Meeting.

A RESOLUTION was made by Trustee Patsky, seconded by Trustee Reinhold, all in favor, approving, upon recommendation of Sargent Tercasio, having a criminal justice student ride along with the Athens Police Department as part of their schooling. The student will have to sign a waiver.

DPW Director Dennis Proper introduced James Murphy to the Village Board. Mr. Murphy will be employed by the Village starting February 25, 2013 as a DPW laborer.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. NYSDEC- Division of Water. Re: WWTP Scoring and Descriptive Data of Municipal WWTP's in New York.
2. NYS Department of Health. Re: Monitoring Notice – Athens Village Water System.
3. NYSDEC- Division of Water. Re: Survey.
4. NYS Department of Public Service. Re: Public Statement Hearing dates for Case 12-M-0192 of the joint petition of Fortis Inc. et al. and CH Energy Group, Inc. et al.
5. NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation. Re: SRF Project No: C4-5430-02-00. Short term financing conversion to long term financing.
6. John Surrano. Re: Application for use of the gym. MOTION made by Trustee June, seconded by Lasher, all in favor, permitting him to use the gym as requested.
7. Delaware Engineering, PC. Re: Consent order R4-2001-0313-35M4. Copy of letter sent to NYSDEC by Delaware Engineering.
8. Greene County Department of the Aging. Re: March for Meals.
9. NYS Public Service Commission. Re: CASE 10-T-0139 Errata Notice, Ruling on Motion to strike briefs on exception and Ruling deny.
10. Greene County Legislature. Re: RESOLUTION NO. 42-13 Authorizing obtaining and furnishing of election related services and materials, RESOLUTION NO. 43-13 Authorization to facilitate 2013 annual village elections and RESOLUTION NO. 25-13 Authorizing Municipalities to participate in County Highway Purchases.
11. Office of the Assessor. Re: New Construction/Demolition.
12. NYS Department of Transportation. Re: CHIPS statement.

OTHER BUSINESS:

As requested by the Village Board, the Village Attorney discussed changing the term limits for the positions of Trustee and Mayor from 2 years to 4 years. The pros and cons of changing the length of time have been discussed on and off over the past couple of years.

The Village Attorney stated that it can be accomplished one of 2 ways. The first way is to enact a local law subject to permissive referendum. As with all the adoptions of local laws this would require holding a Public Hearing prior to adoption and then the public can petition for referendum if they would like. The second way to accomplish this is to pass a RESOLUTION, subject to permissive referendum changing the terms from two to four years. A second RESOLUTION would then be passed stating that the choice will be placed on the ballot whereas the voters may choose.

The Village Attorney stated that he recommends the second option. This way the voters will have to decide whether they want to change the terms of office.

Trustee Reinhold inquired as to when it would take effect, if it passes.

The Village Attorney stated not until 2014.

A RESOLUTION was made by Trustee June, seconded by Trustee Lasher, subject to permissive referendum, extending terms from 2 years to 4 years for both the position of Trustee and Mayor.

Trustee Reinhold votes aye.

Trustee Patsky votes no.

RESOLUTION passes.

A RESOLUTION was made by Trustee Reinhold, seconded by Trustee June, subject to permissive referendum, to exercise the right to bring it to referendum and the decision be made by the voters at the next election.

Trustee Lasher votes aye.

Trustee Patsky abstains.

MOTION passes.

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

GENERAL – vouchers numbered #9912325 through #9912335 and vouchers numbered #9912337 through #9912366 in the amount of \$27,711.30. (Abstract #1734).

WATER- voucher number #9912367 and vouchers numbered #9912374 through #9912376 and voucher number #9912384 in the amount of \$9838.79. (Abstract #10265).

SEWER – vouchers numbered 9912368 through #9912373 and voucher #9912377 in the amount of \$18457.87. (Abstract #10236).

A RESOLUTION was made by Trustee Lasher, seconded by Trustee Reinhold, that given that the cost of having a separate mailing for the Notice of violation – THM’s for water is prohibitive and that a water billing is being done at the end of March anyway – that the THM notice will be placed in the water/sewer bills as well as posted on the Bulletin Board in the Community Center and published on the website.

A RESOLUTION was made by Trustee Reinhold, seconded by Trustee June, All in favor, approving the Minutes from meetings held on January 9 and January 23, 2013.

Financial Reports for January 2013 have been distributed to all Village Board Members.

A RESOLUTION was made by Trustee June, seconded by Trustee Lasher, all in favor, that contingent upon the Village Attorney’s review, that the VRI contract for 5 years be approved and signed by the Mayor.

A RESOLUTION was made by Trustee Reinhold, seconded by Trustee Patsky, all in favor, that the Village Board be kept apprised of all correspondence regarding the acquisition of Central Hudson Energy Group, Inc., by et al & Fortis Inc. et al.

MOTION made to adjourn the meeting at 9:45PM. All in favor.

Good Night Athens!

Mary Jo Wynne