

ATHENS VILLAGE BOARD MEETING

November 30, 2011

Pledge to the Flag.

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

Code Enforcement Officer Mike Ragaini and Village Attorney Tal Rappleyea were also present.

PUBLIC:

1. *Clemmy Jensen, resident of the Village*, attended the meeting this evening to inquire as to whether the Village Board had considered any of the issues that she had raised at the previous Village Board Meeting. The issues discussed involve consideration for lowering the tax rate for village residents since the Village tax rate is 3 times the town tax rate, or having the same tax rate for all residents of the town and village, or perhaps seriously considering dissolution of the village.

She mentioned that she would rather dissolve the town instead of the village, however that can't be done, at least not very easily.

The Mayor stated that the Village Board has discussed and considered looking into this issue further and other cost savings measures such as the recent dissolution of the village court into the Town Court. The Village Board would like to apply (with the town) for an LGE (Local Government Efficiency) grant which would complete a study of shared services and what would be most cost effective. There are many monetary factors to consider.

Ms. Jensen mentioned again that those village residents living in Sleepy Hollow Lake are unfairly taxed by the village since they do not receive any services as they are a private community.

Village Attorney Tal Rappleyea interjected that Sleepy Hollow Lake does receive police and fire protection from the Village.

Trustee Reinhold reiterated to Ms. Jensen that the Village Board had discussed this issue and that he has approached Town Supervisor Lee Allen Palmateer and made him aware of this upcoming issue. Supervisor Palmateer is interested in the creation of a water district in the town and is also open to considering other shared services with the Village.

Ms. Jensen also provided the Village Board with a copy of "The Citizens Guide to Dissolution".

The Village Board thanked her for coming.

2. *Gary Lohse, Andy Cuppola and Edward Steeprook, representing Veolia Water,* attended the meeting to discuss their Contract with the Village which is about to expire on December 31, 2011.

Veolia and The Village Board have been negotiating the terms of this contract for several weeks and they are attending the meeting so that the Village Board may ask them any questions that they have or address any issues that they have. They also handed out a presentation of the services that they provide the Village as contract operators of the water and sewer plants. Veolia stated that they are willing to have a one, two, three 'and up' year lease, whatever the Village is most comfortable with.

Terms of the contract were discussed at length.

The Village Board thanked them for coming and stated that they will be in touch.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Columbia Greene Humane Society. Re: Contract for 2012. MOTION made by Trustee June, seconded by Trustee Reinhold, all in favor, authorizing the Mayor to sign the agreement as written.
2. The Catskill Center for Conservation and Development. Re: Invitation – Catskill Region Leadership Institute.
3. NYS Public Service Commission. Re: Application of Champlain Hudson Power Express.
4. NYS Public Service Commission. Re: Publication provided to the public - energy efficiency and financial assistance info for consumers of energy this winter season.
5. Greene County Legislature. Re: RESOLUTION NO. 407-11 – Authorizing Distribution of Mortgage Tax.
6. NYCOM. Re: Property Tax Cap.
7. NYS Dept. of Health. Re: Notice of Monitoring Due.
8. Joint Landfill Venture. Re: Statement.

OTHER BUSINESS:

A MOTION was made by Trustee Reinhold, seconded by Trustee June, all in favor, approving payment of the following vouchers, with the exception of a Garrison invoice for \$900.00 until further information if provided,:

GENERAL – Abstract #1679, vouchers numbered #9911158 through #9911194 in the amount of \$24,187.19.

WATER – Abstract #10234, vouchers numbered #9911196 through #9911203 in the amount of \$24,339.07.

SEWER – Abstract #10204, vouchers numbered #99111204 and #99111205 in the amount of \$12,453.73.

Financial Reports have been distributed to all Village Board Members.

A RESOLUTION was made by Trustee Lasher, seconded by Trustee June, all in favor, designating that on Village Election Day, to be held on March 20, 2012, that there are two vacancies to be filled, those being two Trustees for 2 year terms each.

A MOTION was made by Trustee June, seconded by Trustee Reinhold, all in favor, to enter into executive session to discuss personnel matters.

A MOTION was made by Trustee Reinhold, seconded by Trustee June, all in favor, to exit executive session and resume the regular work meeting.

A MOTION was made by Trustee June, seconded by Trustee Patsky, all in favor, to adjourn tonight's meeting at 11:00PM.

Good Night!

Mary Jo Wynne