

# VILLAGE OF ATHENS BOARD MEETING

Minutes—December 10, 2014 Time: 6:30 pm

## *Pledge of Allegiance*

Present: Mayor Christian Pfister, Trustee Gail Lasher, Trustee Robert June, Trustee Anthony Patsky, Trustee Peter Alberti (enters Meeting at 8:15)

The Mayor opened the meeting with a **PUBLIC HEARING** held for the purpose of receiving suggestions and comments from the public on the current Vehicles and Traffic law, including provisions covering snow emergencies and Second Street traffic patterns/parking regulation.

Draft changes were provided for those attending the hearing.

Brud Miller commented that perhaps the Athens police department could notify the residents via loudspeaker when a snow emergency has been declared.

He also mentioned that the ability to forecast bad weather is so accurate now that perhaps the Village could schedule the police department to work more during those times.

Patrice Miller noted that she felt that the wording for “Option #1 for replacing paragraph 85-12 in the Vehicles and Traffic” regulation was confusing. The reference to ‘48 hours’ in the first part, and then the reference to ‘8 AM to 8 AM’ later on in the same paragraph is confusing to her.

The Village Board discussed the comments made by the public.

The Mayor asked if there were any other comments this evening.

No comments.

Public Hearing closes at 6:45PM.

**REGULAR VILLAGE BOARD** Meeting opens.

## Department Head Reports

- |                               |               |
|-------------------------------|---------------|
| 1. Department of Public Works | Dennis Proper |
| 2. Fire Department            | Chief Greco   |

Fire Chief Greco introduced two new members of the Fire Department (applications were already approved by the Village Board at November’s meeting) Austin Greco and Shane DeRuggiero to the Village Board

- |                      |                     |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 3. Code Enforcement  | Mike Ragaini        |
| 4. Police Department | Sergeant David Deyo |

**PUBLIC:**

1. *Herman Reinhold, 'Ding' Palmateer and Rick Surrano Jr.*, village residents and business owners, attended the meeting to present a petition to the Village Board asking the village to install more docks at the Waterfront Park. The river is the selling point for people visiting this area and if the village could see their way clear budget-wise they would like to see more docks put in.

The Mayor mentioned that he agreed with them, however there are technical issues regarding installing the docks and taking them out of the water the longer that the docks get. Not to mention the expense of it and the expense of the docks themselves.

Ding Palmateer discussed other possible ways to construct the docks to make it more effective.

The Mayor asked that Trustee Patsky meet with the group to discuss some ideas for more dockage.

2. *Patty Lasher, resident of the Village*, attended the meeting this evening to inform the Village Board about a proposed plan to reconfigure the Cocksackie-Athens Elementary School.

Ms. Lasher provided informational handouts for all Village Board Members regarding this issue. Apparently they are proposing to make EJ Arthur Elementary either a Pre-K through 1<sup>st</sup> grade or a Kindergarten through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade building for the whole district. Cocksackie Elementary will then be a 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade building.

Many parents are concerned about this change and the effect on the children as well as the motivation behind it. There are also many concerned residents of the Village of Athens due to the fact that that may mean a possible closure to EJ Arthur Elementary School.

The Board of Education may be voting on this issue at the upcoming meeting this Monday and Ms. Lasher would like them to wait on this issue so that more information can be processed about the motivation and it's merit before making such drastic plans so quickly.

She is asking for a show of support at the upcoming School Board Meeting if anyone is available to attend from the Village Board.

The Village Board thanked her for coming and informing them about this issue.

**MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS**

1. Proposed Motion to Approve the Minutes from November 12, 2014 and October 22, 2014

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

2. Proposed Motion to Accept the Resignation of James Murphy

BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees does, hereby, accept the resignation of James Murphy from the Department of Public Works, effective December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

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

3. Proposed Motion to Accept the Resignation of Joseph Proper

BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees does, hereby accept the resignation of Joseph Proper from the Department of Public Works, effective November 28, 2014.

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

4. Proposed Resolution Accepting the Proposal from NYMIR

WHEREAS, NYMIR has continued to provide insurance coverage at a cost less than previous carriers,

WHEREAS, NYMIR has introduced a series of risk management programs,

WHEREAS, NYMIR, has conducted an assessment analysis of the Village's infrastructure inventory,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees does, hereby, accept the proposal from NYMIR for General Unallocated Insurance Coverage for 2015 at a Cost of \$52,429.29.

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

5. Proposed Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Contract with Columbia Greene Humane Society

Offered by: Trustee Lasher

Seconded by: Trustee June  
Record of Vote: All in favor

6. Proposed Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Contract with Emurgent Care to Provide Employee Physicals and Preventive Medical Care

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

7. Proposed Resolution Authorizing Use of Village Streets

WHEREAS, the Capital Bicycle Racing Club will once again conduct the Trooper David Brinkerhoff Memorial Race Series,

WHEREAS, the races will be held on March 28<sup>th</sup>, April 4<sup>th</sup> and April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015 in the Village and Town of Athens and the Town of Coxsackie,

WHEREAS, the CBRC is a non-profit organization that donates proceeds from the race to local causes,

WHEREAS, the Club will provide proof of insurance coverage to the Village,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees does hereby agree to allow the CBRC to utilize the Streets of the Village of Athens on the dated listed and be it further,

RESOLVED, that the Chief of Police is authorized to schedule police coverage for this event for the periods in which it passes through the Village of Athens.

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

8. Proposed Resolution Recommending the Appointment to the Greene County Planning

WHEREAS, the term of Peter Alberti on the Greene County Planning Board has expired,

WHEREAS, Mr. Albert has expressed a desire to continue to serve on the Greene County Planning Board,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees does, hereby recommend that Mr. Alberti be reappointed to the Greene County Planning Board.

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

9. Proposed Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Contract with Pump Service and Supply of Troy, Inc.

WHEREAS, an effluent pump at the Brick Row Wastewater Treatment Plant was malfunctioning,

WHEREAS, the pump was evaluated by Pump Service and Supply,

WHEREAS, the repairs are estimated at a cost not to exceed \$2500.00,

WHEREAS, immediate repair of this pump is essential,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees does, hereby, authorize the Mayor to execute an agreement for repair of the influent pump, with Pump Service and Supply of Troy.

Offered by: Trustee June

Seconded by: Trustee Patsky

Record of Vote: All in favor

10. Authorization to Hire New Employees for the Department of Public Works.

Offered by:

Seconded by:

Record of Vote:

11. Proposed Resolution to Approve Changes to the Vehicle and Traffic Law

Offered by: Trustee June

Seconded by: Trustee Lasher

Record of Vote: All in favor

12. Proposed Resolution Authorizing the Payment of the Vouchers

Be It Resolved, the following vouchers are authorized for payment:

GENERAL FUND – Abstract #1819, vouchers numbered #9914228 through #9914280 in the amount of \$37,149.33

WATER FUND – Abstract #10318, vouchers numbered #9914281 through #9914291 and vouchers numbered #9914312 through #9914314 in the amount of \$22,221.55

SEWER FUND – Abstract #10298, vouchers numbered #9914292 through #9914311 in the amount of \$19,146.45

Offered by: Trustee Patsky

Seconded by: Trustee Lasher

Record of Vote: All in favor

13. Proposed Resolution authorizing the Athens Little League to use the Athens Community Center gym as submitted on their application

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

#### Trustee Reports

#### Communications

1. James Murphy: Letter of Resignation
2. Joseph Proper: Letter of Resignation
3. Greene County: Mortgage Tax Distribution
4. Central Hudson: Pole attachments
5. NYSDEC: Spill response required
6. Letter of Appreciation: Pat Kenehan
7. Capital Bicycle Riding Club: David Brinkerhoff Race
8. Notice of Defect 1<sup>st</sup> Alley

#### Unfinished Business

1. Sewer Plant
2. Lagoon
3. Park Fence
4. Courtroom
5. Carpet Cleaning
6. DPW Contract Negotiations
7. Police Contract
8. Water Meter Installation
9. Lagoon Proposal

#### New Business

1. Meeting with Little League
2. Document Storage
3. Construction Plans
4. Victorian Stroll Saturday, December 13
5. NYMIR Visit

#### Clerk's Report:

Review of financials

A MOTION was made to enter into Executive Session by Trustee June, seconded by Trustee Patsky, all in favor at 8:50 PM to discuss the employment history of particular individual (s) and

matters leading to the possible discipline, suspension or removal of a particular individual and the employment of a particular individual.

A MOTION was made to Exit Executive Session at 10:07 PM by Trustee June, seconded by Trustee Patsky, all in favor.

MOTION to adjourn:

Time: 10:12 PM

Offered by: Trustee June

Seconded by: Trustee Alberti

All in favor