

ATHENS VILLAGE BOARD MEETING

January 25, 2012

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. *Erin M. Tobin, Regional Director of Technical and Grant Programs for the Preservation League of New York State*, attended the meeting to inform the Village Board how their organization provides private homeowners as well as commercial properties in Historic districts rehabilitation tax credits for completing work on their homes or buildings. The type of work included in this credit is detailed in their literature.

The Preservation League is a non-profit membership organization dedicated to the protection of New York's historic buildings.

Ms. Tobin provided the village with some literature and a map of areas in the village that would benefit from this program. Ms. Tobin mentioned that she would be willing to attend another meeting to detail the program further for residents who may be interested.

The Village Board and a few residents asked Ms. Tobin some questions regarding the program.

The Village Board thanked her for coming to the meeting and stated that the Village Website will be updated to reflect this information and the literature provided will be kept in the Village Office.

2. *Herby Blasewitz, Chairperson of the Street Festival Committee*, attended the meeting to update the Village Board on the upcoming festival to be held on July 14, 2012. He also submitted a letter asking that the Village Board support the Street Festival financially.

Mr. Blasewitz inquired as to whether the Riverfront Park can be used for amusement rides at this year's festival. Since the Waterfront Park Project has been completed there has been an on-going discussion regarding whether the Park will be 'off-limits' for any heavy vehicles, trailers and rides.

Mayor Smallwood mentioned that the Riverfront Park is not 100% complete and that the Village Board will be completing landscaping in the park consisting of new trees and benches. The Village does not want to have to re-seed after the Festival, as was done last year.

Trustee Patsky stated that the Village Board discussed this matter at the last Village Board Meeting and he thought that the consensus was that the Village Board did not want to see the rides go into the Park and that the Village Board and Street Festival Committee should be looking at another place for the rides to go and then work around that. The thought was that people like to use the park as a place to sit and enjoy the river.

Mr. Blasewitz stated that the Street Festival profits highly from the amusement rides and without them they would lose upwards of \$2,000.00. Other committee members stated that they felt the Street Festival would lose money if they moved the rides and it was also mentioned that they felt this was the biggest Public Relations event for the Village.

The Village Board and members of the Street Festival Committee discussed other areas to possibly put the amusement rides the day of the festival.

Trustee Reinhold stated that he feels the Street Festival is an asset to the businesses in the Village and that the Street Festival was good for their word when they stated that they would re-seed the Park last year and they did.

The possibility of moving the rides to North Water Street was discussed at length. If this is the case, Mr. Blasewitz stated that the street would have to be closed for at least 3 days. Is the Village willing to do this?

Code Enforcement Officer Mike Ragaini mentioned that that street is already closed off the day of the Festival.

The Village Board and Mr. Blasewitz discussed the location of the Beer booth as well. This may have to be moved if the rides are moved. A Beer Garden was discussed as well.

The Village Board discussed police protection with the Street Festival Committee

Mayor Smallwood stated that they will have to limit the size of the trailers allowed in the Park.

The Street Festival Committee mentioned that the Lighthouse trailer also uses the access road to the river in the park. The Fire Department may also use this access road.

Mayor Smallwood mentioned that the Lighthouse trailer is not that big. The Firemen would only use it on an emergency basis. The Mayor reported that the access road was removed during the restoration by design and there remains only reinforced turf in that area.

Trustee Patsky asked who will determine what trailer is too big?

Mr. Blasewitz stated that he needs a decision on rides in the park as soon as possible since the Vendor will not wait and may book something else.

Trustee Patsky reiterated that he felt the Park should not be used for rides any longer.

The Village Board agreed to allow the Street Festival Committee to use North Water Street from the Stewart House property to Ding's Marina for the set-up of rides and therefore allow the Vendor to set up on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Rides will be removed on Sunday.

After discussion followed, it was agreed to speak to the residents living on this street first before passing A Resolution.

Trustee Lasher told Chairperson Blasewitz that the Village Board is not telling him that he can't 'book' the Amusement ride vendor, only that the exact location is not yet determined.

The Committee/ Village Board will contact people living on Water Street to alert them of the possibility of the Street being closed.

The Village Board and the Street Festival Committee will continue to work together and keep in touch.

3. *Sandra Strauss, resident of Brick Row*, attended the meeting for a number of reasons.

The first reason being that she would like to know why the penalty for unpaid water and sewer charges is so high at 15%?

The Village Board stated that the rate was established years ago and they have no idea who set the rate at 15% or why they chose that percentage rate.

The second reason that she is attending the meeting is that there is an increasing 'cat problem' in the village. Is there something that can be done to control the 'cat population' in the Village. The Animal Control Officer only deals with dogs. She mentioned that Coxsackie picks up dogs and cats.

Mayor Smallwood stated that it is not quite so easy to control cats. One reason being that they are hard to identify and they are not contained.

The Village Board discussed the matter further.

Third and last reason for attending the meeting is that she would like to know why the Fire hydrant on her street (Brick Row) is encased in plastic.

Mayor Smallwood noted that there has been a problem since Hurricane Irene with large volumes of water entering the basement at 2 Brick Row. After further investigation it was found that there is a leak in the fire hydrant located there. This may very well be the cause of the problem. The DPW will be fixing it.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Greene County Legislature. Re: Resolutions #32-12 and #33-12- Regarding Elections.
2. Greene County Legislature. Re: Resolution #19-12 – Authorizing Municipalities to Participate in County Highway Purchases.
3. Greene County Department for the Aging. Re: “March for Meals”.
4. Greene County Economic Development, Tourism and Planning. Re: Greene County Planning Board – Term of Office for Wayne Deyo.
5. Town of Athens – Office of the Assessor. Re: New Construction/ Demolition.
6. NYS Public Service Commission. Re: Champlain Hudson Power Express- Ruling establishing February 17 Report Date.
7. Delaware Engineering. Re: WWTP – Flood damaged RAS Valve Replacement.
8. American General Life Companies. Re: Group Insurance Plan Renewal.
9. Greene County Civil Service Commission. Re: NYS Civil Service Training Opportunity.

APPLICATIONS:

Applicant: Paul Petramale. Facility: Gym. Re: Baseball. MOTION made by Trustee June, seconded by Trustee Patsky, all in favor, authorizing use of the gym as specified in the request.

Applicant: Stephen Rogers and Alicia Wagner. Facility: Athens Riverfront Park. Re: Wedding. RESOLUTION made by Trustee Reinhold, seconded by Trustee June, all in favor, authorizing use of the Riverfront Park as specified on the application, under the condition that they load and unload any materials by the bandstand.

OTHER BUSINESS:

A MOTION was made by Trustee Reinhold, seconded by Trustee June, all in favor, approving payment , with the exception of the Cabelas (DPW) invoice and the PAGE2 (Fire Department) Invoice, of the following vouchers:

GENERAL – Abstract #1688, vouchers numbered #9911297 through #9911317 in the amount of \$408,979.22.

WATER – Abstract #10238, vouchers numbered #9911318 through #9911322 in the amount of \$5,069.44.

SEWER – Abstract #10208, voucher number #9911323 in the amount of \$142.02.

Bob Wage – worker for the DPW will complete his probation as of January 27, 2012. His hourly rate will increase to \$15.00 per hour.

The Village Board discussed and reviewed the contract for water/sewer plant operations provided by VRI.

A RESOLUTION was made by Trustee June, seconded by Trustee Patsky to accept the terms of the contract for operation of the Water Filtration Plant and the Wastewater Treatment Plant for a 1-year period by VRI, pending the Attorneys approval and minor changes as noted by the Village Board.

Trustee Lasher votes aye.

Trustee Reinhold votes no.

RESOLUTION passes.

A MOTION was made by Trustee Reinhold, seconded by Trustee Lasher, all in favor to enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel and litigation matters.

A MOTION was made by Trustee Patsky, seconded by Trustee Reinhold, all in favor, to exit Executive Session and resume the regular work meeting.

MOTION made to adjourn 10:00PM.

Good Night!

MJW