

VILLAGE OF ATHENS BOARD MEETING

Minutes — June 25, 2014 Time: 6:00 pm

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

Village Attorney Tal Rappleyea was also present.

LOCATION: Athens Firehouse, 39 Third Street.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Mayor informed the public that the beginning of tonight's meeting is to be used as an informational session introducing the public to the possibility of purchasing a new or used fire truck. An introduction of this possible purchase will be presented by the firemen on the 'fire truck purchasing committee' to be followed by hearing public comment on this issue, and ending with the Village Board's comments on this issue as well.

The Mayor then turned the meeting over to the Fire Department.

Fire Chief Adam Greco introduced the members of the Fire truck Committee.

Bill Tompkins, member of the Fire truck Committee spoke regarding what the committee has been working on since 2007 in regard to what the village needs and what is affordable.

The Mayor then opened this portion of the meeting over to the public for public comment:

1. *Mike Pirrone* stated that he is in favor of and supports the purchase of a new fire truck. He thinks that the citizens of the village should have the best equipment available for fighting fires.
2. *Mark Levanway* spoke concerning the fact that he feels he does not have the information at this meeting to make a decision on this issue. What is the estimated cost of the required maintenance in order to allow the current truck to pass inspection? It would have been advantageous to know the status of the current truck. There is also no information on the cost of a new truck.

Trustee June asked the Fire Chief to respond.

Fire Chief Greco noted the bad condition of the outrigger, the rust and the need for a new chassis. He also mentioned that the truck had to be re-cabled last year in order to pass inspection.

3. *Larry Styles* asked if the village really needed a ladder truck? He also noted that years ago when the village made a big purchase on behalf of the Fire Department it was put up to vote. He does not see the harm in doing that again. He also asked if the village was still paying for the other truck?

The Mayor replied 'yes'.

4. *Dave Riley* stated that he is not in support of the purchase of a new Fire Truck. He does not support it due to the fact that there are other more 'pressing' issues that need to be addressed first. One of those issues is the DPW garage which is falling down. Another issue is the quality of the water. Mr. Riley mentioned that he supports the firemen and

was on the Village Board when the new firehouse was built. He also noted that if the Village buys a ladder truck the firemen will be asking to buy a pumper truck to feed the ladder truck.

One of the firemen responded that this truck will not need a pumper.

5. *John Pulice* stated that he agreed with Dave Riley in that there are other issues that need to be addressed in this village. It seems to him that whenever the Fire Department or the Police Department want something they get it. There are a lot of senior citizens living on a fixed income in this village and this will affect their tax bills. A purchase of a fire truck should be put on hold.
6. *Rickie Gabrielle* also agreed with Dave Riley and John Pulic. The DPW garage is falling apart. He worked for the Village DPW for 30 plus years and knows the poor condition of this building firsthand. The DPW garage burns 2 barrels of oil a week and it is ready to collapse. The water in the village is also undrinkable.
7. *James King* spoke as a fireman of 3 years with the village and stated that he is in favor of purchasing a new fire truck. The one they are using now is not in good condition and they need a 'sound' Fire truck.
8. *Owen Lipstein* spoke in support of the purchase of a new Fire Truck. He stated that the Firemen are the professionals and if they say that they need one then we should listen to them and purchase it for them.
9. *Ron Puhalski* mentioned that professional fire departments are becoming very expensive and due to that fact the village should be studying the possible creation of a fire district and eventually merge with West Limestone Fire Department before making any major purchases. That way the firemen can control their own budgeting and governing board and the public would vote on it. Wouldn't that perhaps be advantageous?
10. *Ralph Vendresco* asked what was wrong with the ladder truck that they have now.

The Village Board stated that they already went through the issues with the truck.

Mr. Vendresco mentioned that they should have addressed these problems before they purchased it.

More public discussion ensued. Finances were discussed.

Fireman Bill Tompkins stated that the Fire Department has considered the cost to taxpayers in that they have the opportunity presently to purchase something suitable for their needs for a much better price than if they wait.

The Mayor ended the informational portion of the meeting by asking each of the Board Members their thoughts on the purchase of a new fire truck.

Trustee Alberti stated that he was in favor of the purchase of a new fire truck.

Trustee Patsky stated that he was not in favor of the purchase of a new fire truck.

Trustee June stated that he was in favor of the purchase of a new fire truck.

Trustee Lasher stated that she was in favor of the purchase of a new fire truck.

Mayor Pfister stated that he was in favor of the purchase of a new fire truck.

Public Agenda:

1. *Sandra Strauss, resident of Athens*, attended the meeting to inform the Village Board of an incident which had occurred to her in the Village Clerk's office on Tuesday, January 14, 2014, 9:30AM while she was conducting business with the Code Enforcement Officer.

Ms. Strauss read a description of the incident which she alleges to have happened between her and the Mayor which she feels she was harassed and threatened.

2. *Herman Reinhold, resident of Athens*, attended the meeting to comment on the outdoor application presented by the Stewart house this evening. He stated that he wants the Stewart House to be successful however he is concerned about the volume of the music and the quantity of it.

The Village Board discussed the permit application with Owen Lipstein, his manager and Mr. Reinhold.

Motions and Resolutions

1. Proposed Resolution to Approve the Minutes

BE IT RESOLVED, the minutes, as amended, for the June 11 meeting are approved

Offered by: Trustee June

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 – Abstract #1797, vouchers numbered #9913704 through #9913719 and voucher #9913727 in the amount of \$8231.34.

WATER – Abstract #10304, vouchers numbered #9913724 through #9913726 in the amount of \$9580.40

SEWER – Abstract #10280, vouchers numbered #9913720 through #9913723 in the amount of \$8740.94.

3. Motion to Approve Use of Riverfront Park

The use of Riverfront Park by the Zion Lutheran Church for its annual picnic on July 20, 2014, from 2:00 PM-5:00 PM, is hereby approved.

Offered by: Trustee Alberti

Seconded by: Trustee June

Record of vote: All in favor

4. Proposed Resolution Approving Fire Department Membership

BE IT RESOLVED, the application of Alan Twigg for membership in the Athens Volunteer Fire Department is hereby approved.
No Show.

Offered by:
Seconded by:
Record of vote:

5. Proposed Resolution Approving Fire Department Membership Application

BE IT RESOLVED, the application of Mark Vota for membership in the Athens Volunteer Fire Department is hereby approved.

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

6. Proposed Resolution Approving Fire Department Membership Application

BE IT RESOLVED, the application of Brady Cavnitz for membership in the Athens Volunteer Fire Department is hereby approved.

Offered by:
Seconded by:
Record of vote:

7. Proposed Resolution on Standard Work Day and Reporting Resolution (see attached) for Mayor Pfister

Offered by: Trustee Patsky
Seconded by: Trustee Alberti
Record of vote:
Trustee Lasher votes aye
Trustee June votes aye
Mayor Pfister abstains from vote

8. Proposed Resolution Re-Authorizing Outdoor Entertainment Permit for the Stewart House

Discussion

Offered by: Trustee Alberti
Seconded by: Trustee Lasher
Trustee Patsky votes aye
Trustee June votes aye
Mayor Pfister votes no

9. Proposed Resolution to hold a public hearing on July 9, 2014 at 6:30PM for the purpose of hearing public comment on the proposed Public nuisance law.

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

Communications:

1. NYS Public Service Commission: Ruling on Schedule for West Point Partners Proceeding
2. NYS Public Department of Public Service: Risk Assessment Study for Interaction of Local Gas Distribution Lines and DPW Projects
3. Apfel: Foil Request of Past and Present Park Projects
4. MH Professional Engineering, PLLC: Proposal to do study of fire house HVAC needs.

Trustee Reports

Mayor's Report

1. Lagoon at WTP
2. Covers for Tanks at WTP
3. New Personnel
4. Repairs to Parking Lot
5. Lawn Mowing Contract
6. Code Enforcement
7. Vandalism

Unfinished Business

1. Dam Emergency Action Plan Status
2. DPW Contract
3. LDC/Betke/ELCO
4. Mulch for Playscape/KOMPAN mats
5. DPW Contract

New Business

1. Roof on west bathroom
2. Repair of PRV leak on Schoharie
3. Notification of Constantine Court Residents/Drainage

Clerk's Report

1. Financial reports/End of year status
2. Budget/ Comptroller

Proposed Resolution to go out for bid on a Fire Truck.

Offered by: Trustee Alberti

Seconded by:

Record of vote:

Resolution does not pass

Motion to Adjourn

Time: 8:45PM

Offered by: Trustee Lasher

Seconded by: Trustee Patsky

Record of vote: All in favor