

ATHENS VILLAGE BOARD MEETING

September 28, 2011

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

Village Attorney Tal Rappleyea was also present.

PLEDGE to the Flag.

APPLICATION: Community Center Gym. **APPLICANT:** Kasey McCarthy.
RESOLUTION made by Trustee Reinhold, seconded by Trustee June, all in favor, approving usage of the gym as requested.

PUBLIC:

1. *Charles and Marie Hunt, residents of Franklin Street*, attended the meeting to discuss their ongoing drainage problems in their basement with the Village Board. They also discussed the sidewalk project that the Village is in the process of completing on their street and how it may be beneficial for them if the Village would put a drain/catch basin at the end of their driveway.

The Village Board discussed a couple of options in regard to the sidewalk project. The Village Board agreed that a drain/catch basin would probably not help the problem.

The Hunt's stated that they have a constant problem with flooding in their basement due to the fact that they have a pipe carrying water that goes through their basement. The pipe has been there since they purchased the house. Mr. Hunt also stated that he was trying to fix the pipe and he accidentally broke it.

DPW Director Dennis Proper said that he could try and snake the pipe on Market Street to see where it originates and where it goes.

The Hunt's asked the Village Attorney whose responsibility it is to rectify this situation if it's a village storm-drain pipe?

The Village Attorney said that he could not say for sure without looking it up, however, his guess right now would be that it is the homeowner's responsibility.

The Hunts also mentioned that their neighbor up the road from them, Rob Fensterer, installed a pool and when he removed the pool the problem got even worse creating more water running down into their basement.

Peggy Toranto and Rick Surrano, Jr., neighbors of the Hunt's were in attendance for the meeting and concurred that there was an ongoing problem.

Tom Sopris, another neighbor, wrote a letter in agreement with his neighbors regarding drainage problems on this street.

The Mayor mentioned that the backyard issue is a neighbor issue that the Village Board cannot get involved in. Perhaps all of the neighbors that have this flooding problem could get together and try to find a solution.

The Hunts also wondered if perhaps a pipe were leaking on Fensterer's property which led to more water running through their yard when it rains.

The Mayor mentioned having the DPW snake the pipe. However, she is concerned about having the Village DPW work on private property. The Mayor also stated that the Village has already expended a lot of money on Franklin Street with the installation of 6 new drainage culverts, re-paving and they are now in the process of installing a new sidewalk and curb which should stop any water from entering the homes.

The Village Attorney stated that the Village cannot use public money on private property issues.

The Mayor also stated that the Village has spent a lot of money and time, with much success, in alleviating a lot of the drainage problems on this street. The past month has had an unusual amount of rain and a lot of people that do not have water or very little in their basements have had it this year. The village continues to work on this problem.

2. *John Pulice, resident of the Village*, attended the meeting to follow-up on his last month's attendance at the Village Board meeting. He inquired as to the status of the discussion on the intersection of Second Street and Route 385? How long does it take to accomplish this task?

The Mayor stated that it will take a bit of time as the traffic law needs to be changed which requires DOT approval and then a public hearing to amend the existing traffic law.

Mr. Pulice stated that he would like to see the Village Board contact their representatives in order to have a traffic light installed at this intersection.

Mr. Pulice also mentioned that the Nursery School on Second Street is a continuing safety hazard. Parents are still illegally parking to drop off their kids creating a dangerous situation on Second Street. He noted that the Nursery School is under new management and perhaps someone should write her a letter stating that the parking lot has just been purchased this past year and they would appreciate her patrons using it instead of parking illegally.

The Mayor stated that she is in the process of writing letter to the Owner.

3. *Steve Kirk, of DBS Planning*, attended the meeting to inform the Village Board of an opportunity to apply for a planning grant with Greenway that he feels that the Village of Athens would be a good fit for.

The Mayor told Mr. Kirk to keep the Village Board informed.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Robert J. Van Valkenburg, Greene County Solid Waste. Re: Flood cleanup.
2. Greene County Legislature. Re: RESOLUTION NO. 309-11 Requesting extension of time from the NYSDEC for Irene related damage.
3. NYS Department of Public Service. Re: National Discount Telephone Lifeline Awareness Week.
4. Central Hudson. Re: Decorative temporary attachments to utility poles.
5. Central Hudson. Re: Central Hudson's Special Services Division.
6. NYS Public Service Commission. Re: Champlain Hudson Power Express. Ruling establishing October report date.

OTHER BUSINESS:

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

WATER FUND – Abstract #10230, vouchers numbered 9911053 through 9911056 totaling \$37,651.79.

GENERAL FUND – Abstract #1669, vouchers numbered 9911033 through 9911052 totaling \$23,613.47.

SEWER FUND – Abstract #10200, voucher number 9911057 totaling \$12,021.95

A MOTION was made by Trustee Reinhold, seconded by Trustee June, all in favor, approving Minutes from Meetings held on August 24, 2011 and September 14, 2011.

Effective immediately, Trustee Gail Lasher will replace Trustee Herman Reinhold as the liaison to the Street Festival Committee.

A Motion was made by Trustee June, seconded by Trustee Lasher, all in favor, to discuss personnel issues.

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

A MOTION was made by Trustee Reinhold, seconded by Trustee Lasher, all in favor, to adjourn tonight's meeting at 9:15PM.

Good night Village of Athens!

Mary Jo Wynne