

VILLAGE OF ATHENS BOARD MEETING
MINUTES – July 25, 2018 - 6:30PM

PRESENT: Mayor Peter Alberti, Trustee Gail Lasher, Trustee Shannon Spinner and Trustee Stephan Bradicich.

Village Attorney Tal Rappleyea was also present – (6:45PM)

ABSENT: Trustee Marla Butler

Pledge to the Flag

PUBLIC:

1. *Sandra Strauss, resident of Brick Row*, attended the VB meeting to discuss the dormer on the house next to hers. She stated that the Village Planning Board should never have approved this work as it compromises the integrity of the houses around it due to the fact that the houses on Brick Row are all connected and are also very old. She also noted that all of the houses on Brick Row are on the Historic National Register.

Ms. Strauss also noted that she was never apprised of the work that was going to go on next door. As the construction began it caused bricks to start falling down inside the walls of her house. She also questioned the contractor.

Ms. Strauss also made mention of the fact that the windows that were put into the dormer were not those specified on the Building permit application. The whole scope of the project has changed. She also provided pictures for the VB to look at and reiterated that the application should never have been approved by the PB.

Mayor Alberti asked Ms. Strauss if she brought the engineering reports that she mentioned at the last meeting so that they could review them.

Ms. Strauss replied 'no'.

The Mayor also added that it sounds like a civil dispute between neighbors and therefore there is nothing that the VB can do to help her.

Discussion ensued between Ms. Strauss, the Village Attorney and the VB regarding the Planning Board roles, Code Enforcement and building permits.

The Village Attorney also noted that the Village Planning Board's duties and obligations are very limited. They have no jurisdiction over contractors or inspections. Their approval for work done in historic districts is conceptual.

Damage done by a contractor is out of their hands.

2. *Mitch Uriett, owner of Stella's Restaurant located on Water Street*, attended the meeting to discuss the parking situation. They started doing business in Athens last year and all is good except for the area for parking could be larger.

Someone had mentioned to them that years ago there was a plan to trim the bushes across from their restaurant. The bushes have gotten so large that they also block the view of the river. There is also a lot of room between the shrubs and road which could be used for parking. Had anyone discussed perhaps taking those bushes out and planting smaller ones. Perhaps diagonal parking could be explored as well.

The Mayor mentioned that there had been actual plans for the park that created more parking there and he will look into finding and reviewing those plans to see if there might be something they can do to help the situation.

Also, it was mentioned that APAC blocks off traffic at 10-11 AM on Fridays. Is that necessary? If they could start setting up and blocking off the road after lunch that would be helpful.

3. *Mary Ellen Gallagher, representing the tree committee*, attended the meeting to inform the VB that the tree survey has been completed by the Arborist. A copy was given to the Village Clerk last week. Discussion with the Arborist was very helpful. Now that the survey is complete a conversation can begin making a plan to move forward.

Ms. Gallagher noted that 15 trees were identified that should be removed due to serious disease or death. There are 2 diseased trees that may be saved if the village wishes.

The Mayor noted that some of the streets listed on the survey are not on village streets (Schoharie Tpk. and Leeds-Athens Rd.). They should come off the list as they are owned by the homeowners as opposed to the village. (homeowner owns to the middle of the road on county/state roads).

The 13.5 foot standard clearance for tree branches over roadways was discussed as it relates to a trimming program in the village as there are many streets that have a clearance less than this.

Ms. Gallagher also mentioned that the 'Friends of Athens' committee will be meeting on August 10, 2018 and they will be discussing fund raising, community involvement and grant writing.

Ms. Gallagher noted that she will be attending the NYS Regional Urban Forestry Annual conference this weekend.

Mayor Alberti noted that all involved (Mayor, Tree committee, Arborist, DPW Director liaison Trustee Bradicich) should all meet to discuss plans going forward. This is a good start for getting a plan in place. Also, trimming the trees in-house can keep costs down.

4. *John Greco & Wayne Butterworth, members of the AVFD*, attended the meeting to discuss the upcoming Greene County Firemen's Convention.

They provided the VB with a letter outlining the schedule of events for Greene County Fire Convention weekend (Sept. 7-9) and a map for the parade route. Mr. Greco stated that he has already met with sargent Tercasio and DPW Director Anthony Proper regarding some of the needs as noted in their letter.

They requested permission to close certain roads for the parades that are scheduled.

TIPS training has been completed as required by the Village's and AVFD's Insurance Company.

5. *Brandon Place, resident of N. Washington St.*, attended the meeting to discuss a drainage issue at his house. He lives next to the catholic church and there is a drain on that property that backs up when it rains heavy causing his basement to flood with at least 6-8 inches of water.

He informed the VB that the State Highway Dept. came and flushed it out recently. While there they mentioned to him that there should be an 18" pipe there and presently there is a 12" pipe there. Can this be changed?

The Mayor stated that he will discuss this with the DPW Supervisor. Also, he noted that this village has many issues with poor drainage and residents often have to have basements pumped out by the AVFD, especially when it rains heavily. Old village and old infrastructure

APPLICATIONS:

1. Vendor Permit Application – State Telephone Company, Inc. (RESOLUTION below)
2. Facility use Application – Athens Riverfront Park – May 18, 2019 (RESOLUTION below)

MOTIONS and RESOLUTIONS:

1. Proposed Resolution Approving Minutes
BE IT RESOLVED that the Minutes from Village Board meeting held on July 11, 2018 be approved:

Offered by: Trustee Lasher

Seconded by: Trustee Spinner
Record of vote: All in favor

2. Proposed Resolution Approving Payment of Vouchers as Presented

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board Approve payment of the following vouchers as presented:

GENERAL FUND – Abstract #1969, vouchers numbered #991801 through #9918030 in the amount of \$13,083.97

WATER FUND – Abstract #10427, vouchers numbered #9918031 through #9918042 in the amount of \$29,385.58

SEWER FUND – Abstract #10409, vouchers numbered #9918043 through #9918048 in the amount of \$10,915.94

Offered by: Trustee Lasher
Seconded by: Trustee Bradicich
Record of vote: All in favor

3. Proposed Resolution Approving the Mayor sign Williamson Law Book contract for software support

Whereas, the Village Office uses Williamson Law Book for their water/sewer billing software, and;

Whereas, the annual contract for software support is expiring at the end of July, therefore;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board Approves the Mayor signing the contract with Williamson Law for the water/sewer billing software support:

Offered by: Trustee Lasher
Seconded by: Trustee Spinner
Record of vote: All in favor

4. Proposed Resolution Approving the Vendor Application Permit for State Telephone Co., Inc.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Village Board Approve the application for vending as submitted by State Telephone, Co, inc.:

Offered by: Trustee Spinner
Seconded by: Trustee Bradicich
Record of vote: All in favor

5. Proposed Resolution Approving the Facility use application for the Riverfront Park

BE IT RESOLVED that the Village Board approve the application for use of the Riverfront Park as submitted by Celeste Murray and Kevin Sickler;

Offered by: Trustee Spinner
Seconded by: Trustee Bradicich
Record of vote: All in favor

6. Proposed Resolution Approving Greene County YMCA's 5th Annual 'Greene Y Tri'

WHEREAS, the Greene County YMCA has asked permission to hold their Annual Greene 'Y' 'Tri' through parts of the village on September 8, 2018, therefore;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Village Board Approve the application as submitted by Greene County YMCA:

Offered by: Trustee Spinner
Seconded by: Trustee Lasher
Record of vote: All in favor

7. Proposed Resolution to close the roads requested by the AVFD for the Greene County Fireman's Convention

WHEREAS, the AVFD is hosting the Annual Greene County Volunteer Fireman's Convention the weekend of September 7, 2018, and

WHEREAS, the AVFD has requested in writing the closure of several village streets in order to create a parade route , therefore;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Village Board approve the closure of the streets as specified by the AVFD:

Offered by: Trustee Lasher
Seconded by: Trustee Bradicich
Record of vote: All in favor

8. Proposed Resolution accepting County Bid for fuel oil

WHEREAS, the Greene County Legislature adopted Resolution No. 144-18 awarding Bottini the bid for Fuel oil, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Village approve participation in Greene County Highway purchases for Fuel oil:

Offered by: Trustee Lasher
Seconded by: Trustee Spinner

Record of vote: All in favor

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Supreme Court of the State of New York County of Greene – Notice of Application for review of assessment. Re: DBTL Realty Corp.
2. Supreme Court of the State of New York County of Greene – Notice of Application for review of assessment. Re: Association of Property Owners of Sleepy Hollow Lake.
3. Greene County Legislature. Re: Resolution NO. 144-18 Awarding Fuel Oil Bids.
4. Williamson Law Book. Re: Water/Sewer Software support contract. Requires Mayor Signature.
5. NYS DOT. Re: CHIPS, PAVE NY, EWR funding amounts.
6. Monty Jordan. Re: Village tax return.
7. Toni Carroll – YMCA. Re: 5th Annual ‘Greene Y Tri’

NEW BUSINESS:

1. American Legion. Re: Water service repair
2. WPV. Re: replace Robert Scott as contact person.
3. DPW Laborer. Re: Notice is in the paper.
4. AVFD. Re: Financial reports.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. ZBA.

A MOTION was made by Trustee Lasher, Seconded by Trustee Spinner to enter into Executive Session at 8:35PM to discuss possible litigation.

A MOTION was made by Trustee Lasher, Seconded by Trustee Spinner to exit Executive Session at 8:50PM

A MOTION was made by Trustee Lasher, seconded by Trustee Spinner, all in favor to adjourn the meeting at 8:55PM

Mary Jo Wynne
Clerk-Treasurer