

VILLAGE OF ATHENS BOARD MEETING MINUTES – October 23, 2019

Pledge to the Flag.

PRESENT: Mayor Stephan Bradicich, Trustee Gail Lasher, Trustee Robert Scott, Trustee Amy Serrago and Trustee Dr. Joshua Lipsman.

Village Attorney Tal Rappleyea was also present.

PUBLIC:

1. *Jason Preisner of Lamont Engineering* attended the meeting to discuss the proposed DPW garage project with the Village Board.

Three scenarios for the building were discussed. Option #1 is a 54' x 60' building for a cost of between \$648,000.00 to \$810,000.00. Option #2 is a 54' x 90' building at a cost of between \$972,000.00 and \$1,215,000.00. Option #3 is a 80' x 100' building at a cost of between \$1,600,000.00 to \$2,000,000.00.

Plans for the proposed buildings were also provided to the VB to review.

Mayor Bradicich mentioned several scenarios for financing this project. There are monies available presently in the reserve account (DPW building) but in order to complete option #2 and #3 bonding would be necessary. Other items discussed were the sale of the present DPW garage and also the possibility of building option #1 and then adding onto that structure after other bonds/ long term debts for the firehouse or firetruck have been paid off.

Trustee Scott stated that he would like to do the project once and build what is needed. After reviewing the plans and having several discussions with the engineer and DPW Superintendent Anthony Proper he believes that option #2 is the best option for the village to pursue. It is what they need. He noted that he is not in support of an undersized building.

Trustee Serrago also noted that there is probably a potential increase in cost if it is not built at one time and a suitable size. She noted that option #1 looks a bit small. She supports option #2.

Discussion of equipment needed to be put in the building and the possibility of moving some of the village's DPW equipment out to the town highway building was also discussed.

Trustee Lipsman stated that he is very uncomfortable making a decision of this importance without more information. He feels very ill-informed as to what the DPW actually needs and what they don't need in a new garage. He would like a spreadsheet or a narrative with this information.

Trustee Lipsman also stated that he would like more specific financial information on the increase a bond like this would have on the tax rate.

Trustee Serrago agreed that there are still a lot of unknowns. No need to rush into a major decision tonight.

All Village Board members agreed that setting a date (November 13th, 2019) for an informational meeting on the proposed DPW building whereas the public may ask questions or offer comments would be beneficial for all.

Village Attorney noted the importance of passing an Immunity Resolution for this project. He will provide the village with that for the next meeting.

MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS:

1. Proposed Resolution Approving Minutes

BE IT RESOLVED, the Minutes from Village Board meeting held on October 9, 2019 be approved:

Offered by: Trustee Lasher

Seconded by: Trustee Serrago

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 #2007, vouchers numbered #9919130 through #9919164 in the amount of \$22,832.54

WATER FUND – Abstract #10461, vouchers numbered #9919165 through #9919175 in the amount of \$9435.73

SEWER FUND – Abstract #10444, vouchers numbered #9919176 through #9919181 in the amount of \$4049.30

Offered by: Trustee Scott

Seconded by: Trustee Lasher

Record of vote: All in favor

3. Proposed Resolution Approving Adoption of Local Law #5

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board approve the Adoption of Local Law #5 establishing participation in a community choice aggregation (energy) program in the Village of Athens:

Offered by: Trustee Lipsman

Seconded by: Trustee Serrago

Record of vote: All in favor

(Complete Law attached)

4. Proposed Resolution Approving Contract with Community Planning & Environmental Associates

WHEREAS the Village has been awarded a matching grant from NYS Hudson River Valley Greenway in order to update the existing Town/Village Comprehensive Plan and,

WHEREAS, the Village received proposals from two consultants that would administer the project,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Village Board has decided to go with Community Planning & Environmental Associates (Nan Stolzenburg) and authorizes the Mayor to sign contracts for completion of the project based upon their proposal:

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Greene Land Trust. Re: Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) informational session.
2. Whitbeck Benedict & Smith, LLP- Attorneys for the Town of Athens. Re: Notification of second Public Hearing regarding proposed local law amending zoning.
3. Office of the State Comptroller – Justice Court Fund. Re: Distribution statement for funds collected by the Town Court for the Village.
4. Cooperative Extension Columbia & Greene Counties. Re: Questionnaire to be returned by November 15th.
5. Greene County Planning Board. Re: Agenda and Minutes from previous meetings.
6. Greene County Veterans Service Agency. Re: Invitation.
7. NYSDOT. Re: Statement of funding amounts.
8. NY Rural Water Associations. Re: Membership acknowledgement.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Proposals have been received from Consultants to update the Comprehensive Plan (Lalberge Group and Community Planning and Environmental Associates).
2. Plans for new DPW building.
3. Athens Community Benefits Foundation grant applications have been submitted to the Town of Athens.
4. Mystery boat in the park.
5. RESOLUTION to adopt and approve the Community Choice Aggregation Program?

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Seniors housing complex. Paving?

Trustee Scott brought up the issue of Airbnb's in the village. It may be something that the village would like to review and be up to date on as there are some communities that have done so.

Mayor Bradicich asked that the clerk get a copy of the Town of Athens recent legislation on this issue.

Trustee Serrago noted that she has been busy working on the website for the village and will have a cost estimate for the next meeting to make some changes.

Trustee Lipsman discussed the FEMA grant in that it will require further steps in order to qualify for acceptance. He will follow up with Delaware Engineering.

Trustee Lipsman also discussed the status of the Clean Energy Communities Program. Electronic submittal takes place next week.

Trustee Lasher noted the success of the Oktoberfest.

Mayor Bradicich informed the VB that he had a meeting with the police, fire and APAC representatives regarding parking during their events on Friday and they have devised a plan to restrict traffic flow with one-way traffic and parking on one side. Also.. more cops on duty.

Mayor Bradicich noted that he would like to start an Advisory Committee to bring awareness to the opioid epidemic.

Clerk-Treasurer noted that a response to NYMIR needs to be completed regarding their risk findings, training for ZBA and Lawn care needs to be analyzed this winter.

ADJOURNMENT: 8:30PM

Offered by: Trustee Scott

Seconded by: Trustee Serrago

Record of vote: All in favor

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jo Wynne
Clerk-Treasurer