

VILLAGE OF ATHENS EMERGENCY BOARD MEETING
MINUTES – December 9, 2016 6:00PM

Pledge of Allegiance

PRESENT: Mayor Christian Pfister, Trustee Robert June, Trustee Gail Lasher, Trustee Peter Alberti and Trustee Marla Butler.

Dale Post, VRI representative, was also present.

The Mayor noted that the meeting was called this evening to discuss the current status of the filters at the Water Filtration Plant.

Mr. Post informed the Village Board that it was noted after Thanksgiving that there was a problem with the filter systems at the WFP.

Shortly thereafter, filter number one malfunctioned and stopped working. Filter number 2 seems to have a slight problem as well and may malfunction in the future. That would leave the village with no filtered water for users.

Village Board Members asked several questions regarding what actually created the malfunction or blowout of the filter.

The company that installed the equipment years ago, Koester Associates, was consulted and they stated that they had never seen this happen before. Many filters last more than 25 years with no problem.

Trustee Butler was under the impression that this equipment should be inspected and maintained on a regular basis. Was it?

Mr. Post stated that 'no' they do not require regular maintenance.

Mayor Pfister also noted that the equipment is only guaranteed for one year.

Trustee June inquired as to whether it could be the way they are processing the water that could have caused the malfunction in the filter.

Mr. Post has been consulting with the experts in the business trying to figure out what could have gone wrong to cause this problem but there seems to be no answer.

Trustee Alberti asked if it were possible that the equipment was slightly damaged when they installed it.

Mr. Post stated that anything was possible.

Mr. Post was also asked about using two filters at the same time for long periods of time. The thought is to only use two of them together for short periods of time while demand is high.

Discussion ensued regarding:

Pricing of pumps and media.

Stainless steel versus PVC piping.

Time period between ordering and delivery of the equipment.

After further discussion, it was determined that the Village will proceed with purchasing a new filter and the media to replace filter #1. After filter #1 is up and running, the village will examine filter #2 to see if it is operating correctly. The media will be replaced on filter #2. This may be all that is needed for Filter #2.

An alternative plan was discussed in case filter #2 malfunctions while filter #1 is defunct, leaving the village with no filtered water.

Options for this scenario:

Bring in a mobile filtration unit. These run \$40,000.00 per month with a 3 month minimum. If it is needed less time than 3 months there will be penalties. It would also require extra costs to hook up the electric.

Bring in a bag filtration system (Rain for rent) which is not NSF approved but does provide filtered water at a much lesser cost.

Open the valve at Sleepy Hollow Lake. There is a connection between their water system and ours. The valve was put into place by the order of the Dept. of Health more than 35 years ago while SHL's infrastructure was being developed. It has never been used and there are many questions regarding how it would affect the Village's water system and whether it would create more problems than we anticipate as far as dirty water, broken pipes and distribution to outer areas such as Schoharie Tpk.

All of the options were discussed at length.

Trustee Alberti also mentioned that the AVFD should be sent a memo regarding the problem so as not to open any hydrants. Mutual aid must be used if there were a fire so as not to stress the village's water system.

Trustee Alberti confirmed with Dale Post that if the second filter breaks down then the village can make water it just won't be filtered. People would be able to use it to shower, etc. but there would be a boil water advisory for cooking and drinking.

Mr. Post confirmed that that would be the case. The village will be able to make water – just not safe water. Calling for a boil water advisory is not something most counties like to do.

That is why several Trustees felt it was important to call for a State of Emergency. If a 'State of Emergency' is declared the Department of Health will realize that we are doing the best that we can in a 'dire straits' situation.

The Mayor will meet with County 911 and Dept of Health this week.

1. Authorization to Proceed with Filter Repair

WHEREAS, the operator of the filter plant observed that one of the filters has been losing media,

WHEREAS, one of the filters at the Village of Athens Water Filtration Plant has experienced a failure of the underdrain system,

WHEREAS, both of the filters have been inspected by the manufacturer and area representative,

WHEREAS, one of the filters has been emptied and the underdrains removed,

WHEREAS, it was discovered that the underdrains contained media and that at least one of the underdrains had suffered a large crack,

WHEREAS, the Village of Athens has received a quote of \$41,966.00 (includes media) from the manufacturer's only area representative for the rebuilding of one filter with Triton PVC underdrains,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees does authorize the mayor to contract with Koestner Associates for the installation of one new underdrain system for the first filter at a total cost of \$41,966.000

Offered by: Trustee Lasher
Seconded by: Trustee Alberti
Record of Vote: All in favor

Adjournment 7:30PM

Offered by: Trustee June

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