

# VILLAGE OF ATHENS BOARD MEETING

Minutes - December 28, 2016 Time: 6:30 pm

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Public Agenda:

1. *Anthony Cimino, representing St. Patricks Church in Athens*, attended the meeting to discuss the property recently purchased by the Church located at 26 N. Washington Street. The property is right next to the church. The church had considered a few options after purchasing the property but due to the poor condition of the property they felt that it would be in their best interest to tear it down and create handicapped parking.

Mr. Cimino informed the Village Board that he attended the Planning Board meeting a few weeks ago with a demolition application for the property. The Planning Board is requesting that the Church provide a structural engineer's report on the building to determine that it really is not worth saving. Mr. Cimino stated that the church has already paid for an asbestos study costing \$4,000.00 and does not feel that paying for an Engineer's report makes much sense.

Mr. Cimino stated that time is of the essence. That would require waiting another month until the next Planning Board meeting and then they may require something else. It's pretty clear that the building is in very bad shape. The foundation is starting to buckle, the roof is sagging and there is evidence of flooding.

Mayor Pfister stated that the Planning Board has not made their decision yet and the Village Board has to let the Planning Board do their job.

Mr. Cimino stated that the Planning Board also mentioned determining the historic significance of the building. He has researched the property and has found nothing of historical value regarding it. The building sits on blocks, with no foundation.

Mayor Pfister agreed that he sees no historical value in the building either but they have to let the process unfold.

Fire Chief Adam Greco also spoke on behalf of the church and stated that the building is in bad shape and will only get worse the longer it is allowed to deteriorate. It is a liability for the village.

Trustee Alberti stated that he was at the Planning Board meeting along with Code Enforcement Officer Mike Ragaini. The Code states that if the Code Enforcement Officer reports that a structure is unsafe than it should be removed.

Trustee Butler also noted that she was at the Planning Board meeting and was wondering whether the Code Enforcement Officer received the demolition permit application and whether he had approved it or sent it to the Planning Board first.

Mr. Cimino stated that the church has purchased the property with an unsafe building on it and they want to take it down. It is not affecting anyone else to do so and it is

frustrating to come before the Planning Board and be asked for a number of items to justify this action. It will improve the area.

The Mayor inquired as to how many parking places they thought they could put in there?

Mr. Cimino responded that perhaps 12 spaces but that it is not just the parking spots but also the on/off access into the Church for some of the elderly or disabled from the Main road. It would make it much safer than what they have now.

Mayor Pfister agreed that that would make sense and that that property is not very marketable to anyone else since it sits right next to the church. The process has to run itself but perhaps he will have an interim meeting with the Planning Board Chairperson to discuss the matter further.

## Motions and Resolutions

### 1. Proposed Resolution Approving Minutes

BE IT RESOLVED, the minutes from the December 14, 2016 Village Board of Trustees meetings are hereby approved.

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

### 2. Proposed Resolution Setting Date for a Public Hearing on Proposed Local Law #5

BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees does, hereby, establish Wednesday, January 11, 2017 as the date for a public hearing on Local Law # 5, Amending Local Law #1, adopted 2/11/2015, which relates to exemption from real property taxes of property owned by persons with limited incomes and/or disabilities.

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

### 3. Proposed Resolution Accepting Insurance Proposal

WHEREAS, Marshall & Sterling, broker for the Village of Athens, does periodically solicit quotes on insurance coverage from various companies in the municipal market,

WHEREAS, NYMIR has been judged by Marshall & Sterling to currently provide the most competitive coverage,

WHEREAS, NYMIR has competently served the Village of Athens in the past,

WHEREAS, NYMIR has a well managed risk management system,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Village Board of Trustees does, hereby, authorize the Mayor to contract with NYMIR for insurance coverage, for the period, beginning on 12/23/16 and ending on 12/23/2017 at an annual premium of \$58,959.07.

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

4. Proposed Resolution for Payment of Vouchers

BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees, hereby, authorizes payment of the following vouchers as amended or presented:  
GENERAL FUND – Abstract # 1909, vouchers numbered #9916463 through #9916482 in the amount of \$24,928.10  
WATER FUND – Abstract #10382, vouchers numbered #9916483 through #9916494 in the amount of \$23,037.87  
SEWER FUND – Abstract #10365, vouchers numbered #9916495 through #9916500 in the amount of \$4461.02

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

5. Proposed Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Sign Drug Testing Agreement

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the staff of the Department of Public Works to participate in a random drug testing,

WHEREAS, EAP Services has provided drug testing services satisfactorily and is one of the few drug testing services available in the area,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees, does hereby, authorize the Mayor to sign agreement with EAP Services of the Mid-Hudson Valley in the amount of \$500.00 per year.

Offered by: Trustee June  
Seconded by: Trustee Butler  
Record of Vote: All in favor

6. Proposed Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of Supplies for the Filter Repair

BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees does, hereby, approve the purchase of required filter repair supplies from Koester Associates in the amount of \$1236.00 plus shipping.

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

7. Proposed Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to approve the proposal from Seaway Diving & Salvage Co. for work to be done at the Water Filtration Plant

BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees does, hereby, approve the proposal for cleaning two clear wells inside the water treatment plant due to the recent filter malfunction

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

## Trustee Reports

### Past Business

1. Filter Repair Status
2. Web Design

### New Business

1. Financing Filter Repairs
2. Water Fund
3. DPW Contract
4. Senior/Disabled Tax Exemption

### Communications

1. Letter from Gracie's Luncheonette
2. Proposal from Marshall & Sterling
3. Letter from Town of Athens, County of Greene
4. NYCOM Tax cap

Adjournment 8:30PM

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