

ATHENS VILLAGE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
December 11, 2019

Pledge to the Flag

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

Departments:

Mike Ragaini-Code Enforcement

Mr. Ragaini stated he wrote a violation for 19 Water Street. He said the owner was unaware that anything was going on. The owner may sell the place. He said the value on it is probably less than the original value.

Mr. Ragaini also stated there had been a vent problem on someone else's property. The State Police were called and he believes the issue is now closed. He said he also spoke with the Stewart House on a problem there. There was a discussion on the Merlino property by Brick Row.

Mayor Bradicich said he meets with Merlino about once a month. Mr. Ragaini said drainage would need to be discussed and Merlino would need to go to the planning board.

Tal Rappleyea-Village Attorney

Mr. Rappleyea stated that the buyers of North Franklin Street will be tearing the house down, but will allow the Fire Department to use it for drills in the meantime. The fire department will need additional insurance to drill at the house. Mr. Rappleyea also said that the conveyance of the Village Building has been signed and filed.

Mayor Bradicich said he would like something in writing how the village board would like to see the new layout of the building.

Commercial use was discussed as well as the zero percent loans (Revolving Loan Fund) the Village has available.

Mayor Bradicich said that he would like to see how other areas use this (Revolving Loan Fund), as we are restrictive to historical and residential.

Mr. Rappleyea also said that he was working on financing scenarios for the new DPW building.

Mayor Bradicich said he is confident with the financing and the building will go to bid in January.

Anthony Proper-DPW

Mr. Proper stated there is a woman in the Village that needs another meter installed as it is frozen again. This is the 6th time and I think the money should be collected he said.

Tal Rappleyea said the Village can make her pay before installing.

Mayor Bradicich said to install the new meter, insulate and charge for both.

Anthony said he has an old jet dock and sander to be scrapped. There are also 2 old benches to throw away, but someone was interested in taking them and trying to redo them. There was a discussion on the trees at the new DPW site.

Mayor Bradicich said to leave the trees for now, as he is reluctant to take them down.

Anthony stated the one tree would be in the way of the door.

Mayor Bradicich said to keep all the trees we can for light pollution.

Wayne Butterworth –Fire Department

Wayne stated that they are aware of being able to train in the house on North Franklin Street and they would contact Dave on the insurance.

Mayor Bradicich said it would stand on the liability.

Trustee Lispman asked how long they would train.

Wayne said the training officer would decide and probably until they are ready to tear it down.

Mayor Bradicich said 3 to 6 months probably.

Tal Rappleyea said real estate is high now and the man wants to get a house up fast.

Wayne read the firehouse report and said that the turnout gear was going up 5% the first of the year and if the fire department ordered now they wouldn't see it until April-May.

Trustee Serrago said \$500.00 was not a lot if the board wanted to hold off, but I want to make sure the fire department gets them.

Mayor Bradicich said to hold off per the plan as we are willing to pay the \$500.00

Trustee Serrago said to talk about it in February.

Roger Masse-Police Department

Not present. Mayor Bradicich stated that a police officer was inadvertently put into the wrong retirement system plan at the direction of NYS retirement, it amounts to around \$6000 to \$7000 that would have to be paid by the Village. My feeling is we should pay it. They have to go through legislation to have it changed. Mayor Bradicich said he is going to see about a SAM grant and will speak with Amedore.

Trustee Lipsman said what if the lawyer sends an angry letter to retirement for them to pay it since they made the mistake. He also said the Association of Mayors may have advice.

Mayor Bradicich said the police union would know how to handle pulling us through the process.

Roger is going to send me a txt for the DCJS grant.

Seth Mann-Water

Mayor Bradicich asked Seth if they use Surpass Chemicals. Seth said they do and he knows there will be a 3% increase.

Mayor Bradicich asked about the renewal to be signed and Seth that he will fill it out.

Seth gave his report on the water and said all is good. The only this is repairing the panel. He said he has 1 bid as the their company never submitted one.

Mayor Bradicich said he though there was a line item

Seth said maybe in a reserve fund.

Mayor Bradicich said we will figure out how to do this the beginning of January.

Seth said there was 1 foil request on flow #'s and then there was a brief discussion on testing and contracts and the bidding of the testing.

Mayor Bradicich then spoke about the Local Law Commercial overlay on Second Street. He said he had received 3 emails and 2 letters with concerns. He stated it is important to drive opportunity and provide benefits for people opening establishments. He said he feels it is important to move quickly as people will see it is a low-income area. Mayor Bradicich said he, Josh, and Amy met with the Greene County Chamber of Commerce to get business on Second Street.

Village Residents made comments and asked questions regarding the overlay.

A RESOLUTION to accept the proposed local law #4 creating a supplemental commercial overlay zone on Second Street was

Offered by: Trustee Lipsman
Seconded by: Trustee Serrago
Record of Vote: all in favor

A **RESOLUTION** to approve the Village Board meeting minutes held on 11/14/2019 was

Offered by: Trustee Scott
Seconded by: Trustee Serrago
Record of Vote: All in favor

A **RESOLUTION** to approve payment of vouchers as presented:

General Fund - Abstract # 2011, vouchers 9919258-9919282 in the amount of \$120,299.85
Water Fund- Abstract #10463, vouchers 9919239-991249 in the amount of \$9291.60
Sewer Fund - Abstract #10447, vouchers #991238-991250 in the amount of \$9285.89

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

Trustee Serrago said she will publicize the NYS Public Service booklets

The assessors monthly report stated property values are going up, but it does not raise the tax base.

Trustee Serrago was notified by Janise of Crossroads that the homeowner next door to her does not remove snow from the sidewalk as he leaves for the winter.

Mayor Bradicich said to have her fill out a complaint.

Trustee Lipsman said the board needs to engage an administrator for the energy program. There were 2-presented Joule and Good Energy.

A **RESOLUTION** was made to authorize Good Energy as the administrator to the Community Choice Aggregation Program.

Offered by: Trustee Lipsman
Seconded by: Trustee Serrago
Record of Vote: all in favor

Trustee Serrago announced that the Village website would be launched this Friday. All the old info was moved over.

Trustee Serrago said that a Steering Committee is being put together and the 1st meeting will be the end of January. This board will need to approve the Steering Committee; we are looking for a broad input. A joint meeting will be held in February with the town board. She said Mary Jo gave her a list of people that may be good committee members and Trustee Serrago suggested that a letter be sent from the village to see if there is interest.

Mike Pirrone (resident) mentioned meeting with Tim Mercer and OPIOID strategies as well as others that will be on board to help out.

Mike Pirrone also mentioned that the Library will be losing the tree on the side of the building for the renovations that will take place.

Air B and B's were discussed and whether or not the village would need to set any regulations.

Trustee Lipsman has set up a meeting with Brock, Delaware Engineering on Jan 21st for FEMA funding for underground infrastructure. He also stated that it would be 4 months before we hear anything on the Clean Energy Grant. Trustee Lipsman also said he can reach out to NYCOM for a utility savings audit.

Mayor Bradicich said to call.

Mayor Bradicich also said that the police insurance went up and he has asked Roger to count hours to see where we are.

A MOTION to adjourn was made by Trustee Scott and Seconded by Trustee Lipsman.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:12pm

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn M. Palmateer
Deputy Village Clerk/ Treasurer