

VILLAGE OF ATHENS BOARD MEETING  
MINUTES - February 8, 2023

*PLEDGE TO THE FLAG*

PRESENT: Mayor Amy Serrago, Trustee Gail Lasher, Trustee Josh Lipsman and Trustee Rob Scott.

ABSENT: Trustee Stephan Bradicich

Clerk-Treasurer Mary Jo Wynne was present for the purpose of taking Minutes.

Meeting held at 6:30 PM at the Athens Firehouse.

**DEPARTMENT HEADS**

1. Water & Sewer

Joe Myers, representing Northdome, attended the meeting and provided a monthly report of activity at the WFP and the WWTP's for the Village Board.

2. Department of Public Works

Director Christopher Sprague informed the VB that they have been working on hydrant maintenance, replacing some road signs and working with Northdome at the Water Filtration Plant.

The Director also gave the VB information on the possibility of purchasing:

- A new loader to replace the Backhoe
- A new chipper to be used when they take down trees
- Pressure washer
- Discussed the possibility of purchasing new lawnmowers and hiring part time

employees in order to mow lawns in the village as opposed to going out to bid every year. It may be less expensive in the long run.

3. Athens Volunteer Fire Department

Fire Chief Wayne Butterworth provided the VB with a list of items that they overlooked and would like to have for the new firetruck. They also need to have an answer from the VB by tomorrow. Due to the fact that their equipment budget line item is over-expended they would like the VB to approve spending \$2441.00 from misc. expenses and \$1963.00 from the buildings and grounds line item for the requested equipment.

**A MOTION** was made by Trustee lipsman, seconded by Trustee Scott, all in favor, to expend \$2441.00 in the misc exp line item to pay for requested equipment and;

**A MOTION** was made by Trustee Lipsman, seconded by Trustee Scott, all in favor, to expend \$1963.00 from buildings and grounds appropriation for requested equipment.

Asst. Chief John Grecco informed the VB that the Fire Department received a \$50,000.00 grant from Senator Henchey's Office to be used on the dive team. It is a reimbursable grant in that the village purchases the items and then gets reimbursed later after providing proof of payment.

4. Athens Police Department – Chief Roger Masse – absent.

5. Code Enforcement – Sergeant Ruso attended the meeting and provided a report for the police department and code enforcement.

**APPLICATIONS:**

1. Facility use application. EJA Elementary. Re: Margaret Schmidt 5k Memorial Run. A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lasher, seconded by Trustee Lipsman, all in favor approving application as submitted.

**RESOLUTIONS:**

1. Proposed Resolution Approving Payment of Vouchers as Presented on Abstracts  
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board approve the payment of vouchers as presented:  
Offered by: Trustee Lipsman  
Seconded by: Trustee Scott  
Record of vote: All in favor

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

1. Office of the State Comptroller- Justice Court Fund. Re: Distribution Summary.  
2. Central Hudson. Re: Gas leaks.  
3. NYSDEC. Re: Lead Agency Coordination Response.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Public Hearing set for next meeting – Senior Citizen & Disabled tax exemption maximum income limits (adjustment).  
2. Discuss the Volunteer Firefighter and Volunteer Ambulance workers real property tax exemption.  
Clerk was instructed to publish a notice for a public hearing to pass this local law as well.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Williamson Law Contract for new software.  
A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lasher, seconded by Trustee Scott, all in favor to authorize the Clerk-Treasurer to sign for the purchase of new software (G/L and A/P modules) and move forward.  
2. Lawn mowing bids – due date Feb 21, 2023

Trustee Lipsman informed the VB that Iroquois gas transmission is applying to the state for another air permit for their facility on Schoharie Turnpike. He noted that there are residents whom are concerned about possible health and safety issues associated with this application.

A few members of the public spoke regarding this issue. They asked that the VB and village residents write to their representatives in opposition to this application.

The Mayor stated that she appreciates them bringing this before the VB but she cannot recommend that as a VB, without review of both sides of the issue, take a stand in opposition to this. She also noted that this project is in the Town of Athens.

**A MOTION was made to enter into Executive session at 7:35PM**

**ADJOURNMENT:**