

**VILLAGE OF ATHENS BOARD MEETING  
MINUTES – JANUARY 11, 2023**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Amy Serrago, Trustee Gail Lasher and Trustee Robert Scott.

**ABSENT:** Trustee Josh Lipsman and Trustee Stephan Bradicich

Clerk-Treasurer MJ Wynne was present for the purpose of taking minutes.

*PLEDGE TO THE FLAG*

**DEPARTMENT HEADS**

1. Water & Sewer – Joe Myers- Northdome

Provided the VB with a monthly report.

2. DPW- Christopher Sprague

Mr. Sprague gave the village an update on projects they have been working on, for example assisting the Town and Northdome with water/drainage issues due to excessive rain and issues he would like the VB to consider such as adjusting the snow parking laws, lawn mowing contract and paving route 385.

The Mayor also noted that if they have any ‘down time’ this winter the Cultural Center has projects for them.

3. Athens Volunteer Fire Department- Chief Wayne Butterworth

Chief Butterworth discussed the new NYS tax exemption law benefiting local volunteer firefighters with a credit on their property assessment. The law would have to be passed by local law prior to March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Chief John Grecco also informed the Village Board that due to new restrictions with insurance through NYS the Junior program that the Fire Dept. had instituted has to be eliminated. There are 6 members involved in this program and in order to keep them involved in the department they are no longer allowed to attend fires but will remain in the department as social members.

The Fire Chief’s also noted that the Fire truck will be ready for pick-up around the second week of February.

4. Athens Police Department – Chief Roger Masse - ABSENT

5. Code Enforcement – Sergeant Tercasio

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lasher, seconded by Trustee Scott, all in favor approving sending Sergeant Ruso to Supervisor School.

Two property owners were sent ‘condemn notices’ for their properties. One for a property on Constantine Court and one for a property on Washington Street.

**RESOLUTIONS:**

1. Proposed Resolution Approving Minutes

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minutes from the Village Board meeting held on December 14, 2022 be approved:

Offered by: Trustee Lasher

Seconded by: Trustee Scott

Record of vote: All in favor

2. 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 Lasher

Seconded by: Trustee Scott

Record of vote: All in favor

3. Proposed Resolution that the Village Board go forward with RESTORE NY Communities Initiative

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board go forth with application to Empire state development for financial assistance under the RESTORE NY Communities initiative and conduct a public hearing on January 18<sup>th</sup>: (RESOLUTION attached)

Offered by: Trustee Scott

Seconded by: Trustee Lasher

Record of Vote: All in favor

**APPLICATIONS:**

1. Facility use application. Applicant: Athens Paddock club- Riverfront park

A MOTION was made by Trustee Scott, seconded by Trustee Lasher, all in favor to approve the application with restrictions being that they be taken down after the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and that the flags be spaced out as last year.

2 Facility use application. Applicant: Cultural Center- Riverfront Park – film series. A MOTION was made by Trustee Lasher, seconded by Trustee Scott, all in favor approving application as submitted.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

1. Capital Bicycle Racing Club- Tom Gordon. Re: Memorial Race Series. Approved by Trustee Lasher, seconded by Trustee Scott, all in favor

Clerk will ask for completed facility use application and certificate of insurance.

2. Central Hudson. Re: Line clearance program.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. RESTORE NY application- public hearing for 1/18/23

2. Lawn mowing bid. Clerk instructed to put a notice in the paper requesting bids

3. Tree law public hearing

4. Greene Computers. Quote received for updated office emails and monitoring.

A MOTION was made by Trustee Lasher, seconded by Trustee Scott, all in favor to approve \$756.00 per month charge for services provided by Greene Computers for updated email addresses and support for village employees.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

A MOTION was made by Trustee Lasher, seconded by Trustee Scott, all in favor to enter into Executive Session with DPW Director Chris Sprague at 7:39PM

A MOTION was made by Trustee Lasher, seconded by Trustee Scott, all in favor to exit executive session and resume regular VB meeting at 8:02PM

**ADJOURNMENT:**

All in favor 8:02 PM