

Village of Athens Board Meeting

February 22, 2023

Present: Mayor Serrago, Trustee Scott, Trustee Lipsman, Trustee Bradicich, and Trustee Lasher

Meeting began at 6:30pm with the pledge

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

**Public Hearing number one-** Proposed Local Law #1 which would establish a new schedule of Real Property Tax Exemptions for persons 65 years of age and older and person with disabilities and limited incomes.

There were no comments from the public. A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lipsman, seconded by Trustee Bradicich to close public hearing #1. All were in favor.

**Public Hearing number two -** Proposed Local Law #2 providing real property tax exemptions for volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers pursuant to 466-A of the Real Property tax law.

Mayor Serrago said that the Town was in favor of this. She said that NYS and County passed this as well. She said the Village will mirror what the County has done.

Carol Pfister asked what the exemptions were worth in the Village.

Wayne mentioned how many would actually be eligible.

Mayor Serrago said that Tal would be writing the law to mirror the County.

**THE PUBLIC HEARING(S) WERE CLOSED**

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Scott, seconded by Trustee Bradicich to close Public hearing #2, all were in favor.

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Bradicich, seconded by Trustee Lipsman to pass Local Law #1 that would establish a new schedule of Real Property Tax Exemptions for person 65 years of age or older ad person with disabilities and limited incomes, all were in favor.

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Scott, seconded by Trustee Lasher to pass Local Law #2 providing real property exemptions for volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers pursuant to 466-A of the real Property Tax Law, all were in favor.

**THE REGULAR VILLAGE BOARD MEETING WAS OPENED at 6:42pm**

**BID OPENING:**

There was one bid for Lawn mowing this year from Flats Brothers for \$26,760.00

A discussion ensued over the cost for the Village to take over the mowing.

Mayor Serrago decided to wait until the next Board Meeting to make any decisions on this matter.

**PUBLIC**

Sam Sebren- Tree Issue

Sam discussed a tree next to their house he would like to have taken down. He said it is a Bradford Pear and they are extremely invasive and are being banned. He said they have thorns so strong they can puncture tires. The fruit stinks and is sticky and gooey. He said he feels they should be removed. He said they have an extremely large spreading root system. He feels a tree is not needed in that area and will give a better view of the river walking down Second Street.

Mayor Serrago told him to go to the CAC for this

Trustee Lipsman said the next meeting is March 16<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Serrago said our next meeting is 6 days after the CAC and see what they say.

Al Kaplan—Sleepy Hollow Lake

Al is the chair of the Solar Committee for Sleepy Hollow. He said they are concerned about their water source. He and Laurel Wolf gave a talk about the concerns with Flint Mine solar and the storm water that would run into Sleepy Hollows water source. They are looking for a monitor of the water source and are asking for the Village of Athens help in this. The IDA cannot help and told them to look into the village to be the lead agency in this.

Mayor Serrago said she will have Jason from Lamont, the Village Attorney and the CAC look into this.

After a back and forth discussion Mayor Serrago said she believes this needs to be looked into further.

#### **APPLICATIONS:**

1. Facility use application- village streets. Applicant: Athens Cultural Center.

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lipsman, seconded by Trustee Bradicich to allow the use of the Village Streets by the Athens Cultural Center, all were in favor.

2. Facility use application – Riverfront Park. Applicant: Greenville Clematis Garden Club.

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Bradicich, seconded by Trustee Scott to allow the use of the park by the Greenville Clematis Garden Club as long as the fee is paid, all were in favor.

#### **RESOLUTIONS:**

1. Proposed Resolution Approving Minutes

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minutes from the Village Board meeting held on February 8, 2023 be approved:

Offered by: Trustee Lipsman

Seconded by: Trustee Lasher

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:

Per the board one voucher was left out as there was no invoice with it.

Offered by: Trustee Lipsman

Seconded by: Trustee Bradicich

Record of vote: all in favor,

#### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

1. James Hannahs-Greene County Director of Economic Development. RE: Resources and functions.
2. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Permit No. NAN-2022-00865-ULA. RE: Athens Boat Launch Site.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Trustee Scott** said he will be meeting with Jen Moritz about the Summer Recreation Program this year.

**Trustee Lasher** mentioned she received an email from Charge point.

Trustee Lipsman said this was an offer for consulting services.

Trustee Lasher said that code enforcement finished the fee schedule.

Mayor Serrago said she is waiting for edits on this. There was a brief discussion about updating other fees and Mayor Serrago said to have Jeff and Ed look into this.

The clerk asked who informed the Title search companies as they are still sending old fee amounts.

Mayor Serrago said to have code inform the companies and have code enforcement to go after what is hort in the payments.

Trustee Lasher also said that Peckham has taken down Roms old garage and they are looking into the house by the river.

**Trustee Bradicich** said that the Village Historian Jonathan Palmer called and he has 2 historical signs to go up. One for the Swallow Disaster and another for the Lighthouse. He also said he has 9 people interested in the Civilian Oversight Committee.

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Bradicich and seconded by Trustee Lasher to accept the following to the Civilian Oversight Committee:

Jose Villari, Marya Warshaw, Todd Bernard, Guy Griggs, Guia Golden, Sarah Kardos, Ina Guilzon, Wayne Deyo, and Al Ramm

All were in favor.

**Trustee Lipsman** spoke about being approved as a Tree City for the third year in row. He also spoke about Empire State Development and the proposed operation and the management of the facility. He asked if the Village could do snow removal and lawn mowing of the proposed Athens Riverine Living Museum.

Chris Sprague of the DPW said since it is private and not a village building it would cause issues.

Trustee Lipsman also spoke about the Community Choice Aggregation. He said this will appear on our bills in April and that it needs to be publicized now. He said some kind of formal announcement would need to be made.

Mayor Serrago will put this on the Village page.

There was a question on the Community Day application about the hold harmless as this seems to be a Village event. The board said that a rider on the Village insurance could be done.

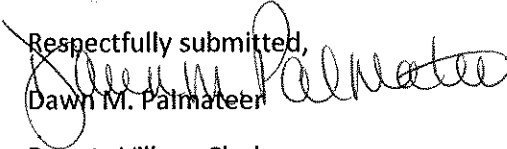
Mayor Serrago said that the .gov email addresses are in the works and should be complete in about 20 days.

Chris Sprague from the DPW said that filter repairs will be done tomorrow. He also let the board know there was high usage of water and that 6 leaks were fixed and there was normal usage again.

A **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting was made by Trustee Scott, Seconded by Trustee Lasher and all were in favor.

Meeting ended at 8:24pm.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Dawn M. Palmateer

Deputy Village Clerk