

Village of Athens Board Meeting
April 12, 2023

Present: Mayor Serrago, Trustee Phoenix, Trustee Scott, and Trustee Lipsman. Absent: Trustee Lasher
The meeting began at 6:30pm with the pledge.

PUBLIC HEARING:

There was a Public Hearing for the purpose of passing Local Law #3 enabling the village to override the tax levy limit established in General Municipal Law 3-C.

The Mayor asked if there was any public comment and there was not.

The Public Hearing was closed at 6:33pm

The Tax cap law was passed.

DEPARTMENT HEADS:

Northdome-Joe Myers

Joe said that filter#1 is still performing well. He said that he is happy with what is going on and that filter#1 had 2 actuators replaced. Mayor Serrago said that the money came from the County for that. He said that flows are slightly down probably from the work the DPW has been doing. He said that the Sewer compliance is good, and the plant is performing as usual. He said that the progression of the DPW is helping things and it can only get better. He said he will let everyone know when the leak detection service will be used again. He said there is good underflow at Brick Row.

Trustee Lipsman said he has asset management forms to be filled out. He asked Joe to look through to see if he knows any of the answers. He said that maybe Joe could do a 20-minute ZOOM with the three of them. Maybe availability for a call on the 19th.

DPW-Chris Sprague

Chris said he is looking into asset management. He said the DPW has been busy. He said that a lot of seasonal people had broken meter bases and there have been a lot of turn on/turn offs. He said the major leak they had wasn't easy. He said they had to break through a manhole and put an 8ft piece back in. Chris said he has been in contact with Hinchey's office to write for a new push camera. He said that there were trees that had to come down plus the ones at the Senior Center. He said that one resident does not like the tree down on Second Street.

Trustee Lipsman said that the State announced a program for purchase or maintenance of trees. He said it looks like we are well positioned for this.

Mayor Serrago said that there was tree across from John Palmateers that needs to be trimmed as it has branches hanging near the street.

Chris said that he and Wayne attended 2 water classes. He said that New York Rural Water was there. He said they did not have to pay for the class. He said that the Department of Health was there, and we will need to get rid of lead and galvanized pipes by October of 2024 and he said they will need to compile a list of these. He said that the County has a spreadsheet program and that is the only format they will take. He said that we don't need it completely done, but we will need to show an effort. He said that they will give another deadline. Chris also mentioned that our Village charter says that residents are responsible for pipes from the man to the house and the State is trying to change that to the curb to the house. He said that the EPA is trying to come up with funds to offset those costs. He said for now

they will need to keep good records and take pictures. He also said they are working on some Spring cleanup stuff such as raking and reseeding.

Mayor Serrago asked if the poop bag dispenser in the park could be moved to the left of the light post because of the way the historic marker was put in there.

AVFD-Wayne Butterworth

Wayne said that recruitment day will be April 22nd from 10-3pm. He said there is a burn ban until May 14th but this does not include fire pits if they are 2x2 and 3 feet high and you are barbecuing. He said the new truck is at Garrison and should be here for the fire department banquet. He said there will be an open house on July 1, 2023, from 12-4 he said refreshments will be served and there will be tee shirts available for purchase.

APD-Jeff Ruso

Officer Ruso said that officer Raynor has resigned, and they will be getting her equipment. They have a replacement. Barry Rausch has passed the background check and Trustee Lasher has given her okay. He is not certified yet. He just needs to pass the Psych exam.

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lipsman, seconded by Trustee Scott to hire Barry Rausch as an officer for the Police Department. All were in favor.

Trustee Bradicich asked about the speed data in the Village.

Mayor Serrago said she would like a copy of the report forwarded to the board.

Code Enforcement-Jeff Ruso

Officer Ruso said that they have condemned 19 South Water Street and have sent a notice to the owner who allegedly lives overseas. He said they did a walk through and that kids have been in there. He said the Village should be able to get money from the County to have it torn down. It has been condemned for safety and because part of the structure is caving in. He said they have 30 days' notice. He said the 2 others they had condemned have corresponded with them. He said they had 6 renewals for short term rentals. He said they gave the RV owner a ticket. He also said that NYS may be passing an Air B and B law.

APPLICATIONS:

Facility Use Application-

1. Riverfront Park. Applicant: Athens Food Pantry.

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Scott, seconded by Trustee Phoenix to allow the use of the park, all were in favor.

2. Facility Use Application- Riverfront Park. Applicant: Athens Performing Arts Corp. – Music in the Park.

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lipsman, seconded by Trustee Scott to allow use of the park and to waive the alcohol ban for APAC, all were in favor.

3. Facility Use Application- Riverfront Park/Streets. Applicant: Athens Street Festival.

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Phoenix, seconded by Trustee Scott to allow use of the park, all were in favor.

RESOLUTIONS:

1. Proposed Resolution Approving Minutes

BE IT RESOLVED that Minutes from the Village Board meeting held on March 22nd, 2023, be approved:

Offered by: Trustee Scott

Seconded by: Trustee Lipsman

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 Lipsman

Seconded by: Trustee Scott

Record of vote: all in favor

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Greene County Veterans Service Agency. Re: Annual Greene County Honor a Vet Memorial Ceremony. Honoring John Cameron on May 20th
2. Greene County Office of the County Administrator. Re: Resolution No. 61-10, adopted by the Greene County Legislature- 2/17/10
3. Town of Athens Planning Board. Re: Notice to Adjacent Municipality. Verizon Wireless Cell Tower
4. Office of the State Comptroller- Justice Court Fund. Re: Distribution Statement.

Trustee Scott

He said that he and Chris have been to look at the loader. He said that John Deere was offering \$40,000.00 for a trade in. They will take as is and fix what is wrong with it. He said he feels the best option is to purchase it and finance it for 5 or 7 years. He said the trade is good and we will not get the same next year.

Mayor Serrago said at the next board meeting we will make this a main issue.

Trustee Lipsman

Trustee Lipsman said that there were a few applications for the CAC. He said that Bob Brunner would bring a very valuable perspective and Leslie Reed who has great qualifications have applied.

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lipsman, seconded by Trustee Scott to appoint Bob Brunner to a one-year term and Leslie Reed to a two-year term of the CAC, all were in favor.

Mayor Serrago said that Trustee Lipsman could be an ex officio but a new chair needs to be appointed to the CAC. She said she had run this past Tal.

Trustee Lipsman spoke about Drinking Water Source Protection and the tree management/inventory program. He spoke about Hudson River Greenway and the Community Choice Aggregation having another workshop on 4/19/2023 at 5:30 and 6:30pm. He also said he would be attending a RESTORE grant webinar. Trustee Lipsman also said about keeping money in the budget for solar panels for the DPW building.

Trustee Phoenix-

She did not have anything for this meeting.

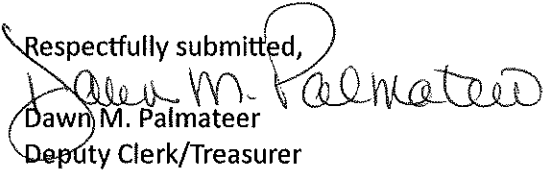
Mayor Serrago-

Mayor Serrago would like the clerk's office to look into getting Porta Johns for this year. She asked that we get three prices and forward to the board. She spoke about Al Kaplan from Sleepy Hollow and about them wanting us to be lead agency on a project. She said she will review this again but does not feel we should get involved. She also mentioned a problem with the office flooring and would like someone to look at it.

Janis Pforsich Village resident asked in a new sign could be put on Third Street to mark the street as it has been down for 5-10 years. She also said she did not like the large flags in the park and would like to see smaller ones. She was told to write a letter to the clerk's office.

A **Motion** to adjourn the meeting was made by Trustee Scott, seconded by Trustee Phoenix all were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 8:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Dawn M. Palmateer

Deputy Clerk/Treasurer