

**Village of Athens Board Meeting
May 10, 2023**

Present: Trustee Lasher, Trustee Scott, Trustee Lipsman, and Trustee Phoenix

Absent: Mayor Serrago

Pledge to the Flag

Department Heads:

Northdome-Joe Myers

Joe said that sewer flows are down at both facilities. He said there was a rain event that had the plant process a lot of water on the 22nd. He said that the water plant is having a problem with the filter underdrains. He said there is a problem with the clarifier. He said the DPW is going to try and help them with it. He said if that does not work, grates will need to be purchased. He said that this is their fourth try with recycling and modifications, but if that does not work, they will need 4 new ones which are \$11,000.00.

DPW- Chris Sprague

Chris said that with the help of Glen Davis 5 hydrants have been replaced. He said that the money was allocated in the last budget for this. He said they did some upkeep on their vehicles. He said they assisted with the water plant. Chris said they did some shared service with the Town, and they are moving forward with drainage issues. He said they did some paving projects. He said there are still a few leaks to take care of. He said he met with Colarusso on a paving project. Chris also said that the DPW will be replacing the old backhoe as it is 20 years old and has some issues. He said that he believes that the John Deere that he and Trustee Scott looked at would be the best to replace it.

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Scott, seconded Trustee Phoenix to purchase John Deere for \$23,954.53 and make 7 payments on it. All were in favor.

There was a brief discussion on some sidewalk problems. A homeowner was told to wait to fill in a section as Chris was not sure if it was being filled in or a tree would be replanted. Trustee Lasher said that Mayor Serrago also would like the DPW to fill in a hole with concrete on 385 by the Albright home. Trustee Lasher also mentioned that Mile Pirrone would like to see two benches put in front of the Village Building. She said he said there were two unused benches upstairs that could be used. Trustee Lasher said the flooring people would be here on the 19th and Chris will make himself available to oversee. Chris said he gave Mary Jo some information from Catskill on water hookup rates.

Trustee Lasher said that a public hearing would need to be done on this at the May 24th meeting.

Fire Department-Wayne Butterworth

Wayne said the Fire Department picked up the new truck on Sunday. He said it will be a few weeks until it is in service. He said there is going to be a lot of training for this truck.

APD- Sgt. Jeff Ruso

Jeff said that Senator Hinchey will give an update on the grant they applied for at some point. He said the process could take a year. He said that the cops grant is pending DOJ to have 2 full time officers. He said that right now he and Officer Place work full-time hours.

Trustee Lasher asked who responded to the Second Street accident. Ruso said that Officer Place responded. Trustee Lasher told the board what had happened and said this was the second time an accident had happened on that street.

Trustee Lipsman said that the turn sign may need to be changed.

Officer Ruso and Wayne both said the County would need to change and that a study may need to be done.

Trustee Lipsman said that Mayor Serrago told him about a grant from Senator Gillibrand's office for safety improvement. He said he told Chief Masse and Supervisor Pirrone that some of the intersections around need to be redone. He asked if he were to set up a ZOOM meeting with the County if people would attend.

Code Enforcement- Jeff Ruso

Jeff said that one short term rental violation went out. He said there will be no warnings just a fine for not registering. Trustee Lasher said that if they do not pay the fine it will go on the tax roll.

Trustee Lipsman asked if the code enforcers had looked into the training, he told them about. Jeff said it is one of the electives for this year.

APPLICATIONS:

1. Facility Use Application- Riverfront Park. Applicant: Donna Greiner-Church Meeting
A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Phoenix, seconded by Trustee Scott to accept the application for the use of the park, all were in favor.
2. Facility Use Application- Riverfront Park. Applicant: Athens Cultural Center. Art Classes
A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lipsman, seconded by Trustee Phoenix to allow the use of the park, all were in favor.
3. Facility Use Application- Riverfront Park/Gazebo. Applicant: Kelly and Howard Raver. Wedding Photography
A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lipsman, seconded by Trustee Scott to allow the use of the park, all were in favor.
4. Application for membership- Athens Volunteer Fire Department. Applicant: Paige Swartout.
A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Phoenix, seconded Trustee Scott to allow the new member, all were in favor.
5. Water Connection Application. Owner of property- Dan Van Slyke
A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Scott, seconded by Trustee Phoenix to allow hookup to the Village water system for a fee of \$500.00, all were in favor.

RESOLUTIONS:

1. Proposed Resolution Approving Minutes

BE IT RESOLVED, that Minutes from Village Board meetings held on April 12th, April 19th and April 26th, 2023 be approved:

Offered by: Trustee Lipsman

Seconded by: Trustee Scott

Record of vote: all were 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 Scott
Seconded by: Trustee Phoenix
Record of vote: all were in favor

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. NYS Office of the State Comptroller- Justice Court Fund. Re: March 2023 Receipt and Distribution Summary – court receipts. **Received \$25.00**

OTHER BUSINESS:

- Approve the purchase of the Loader for the DPW
- Review Application fees for municipal water/sewer hookups.

Trustee Lasher- She said that Sgt. Tercasio called her about a fence. Sgt. Ruso said that the person needs a permit as it is black rolled fencing like chicken wire. The area in question he said is to be set up as an agility course for dogs on the corner of Vernon and Market Street. Trustee Lasher also mentioned that the DPW will be helping with the street festival the day before. She also said that Town Supervisor Pirrone had a complaint about the dog park being overgrown. She said he did not specify the area and he also made mention of a possible fox den.

Trustee Phoenix-She brought up an issue she had at the bank and said the police call went to the Sheriff/Troopers and they had to wait 10 minutes for someone to arrive. She said she realizes that there is an officer at the school and would not want to take that officer away. She wondered if there was a secondary officer in the Village that could come down if there was a problem.

Sgt. Ruso said that if you dial the 1559 number it rolls right over to the troopers. He said Athens only gets called if there is immediate harm. The 911 system goes to the Greene County dispatch and will call out the closest detail.

Trustee Lipsman asked if the grant would help this.

Sgt. Ruso said yes as we will be able to add a daytime patrol.

Trustee Lipsman—had nothing.

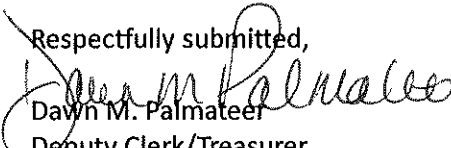
Trustee Scott-had nothing.

Wayne mentioned that the 5K is this weekend.

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Scott, seconded by Trustee Phoenix to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor.

The meeting ended at 8:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Dawn M. Palmateer
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer