

VILLAGE OF ATHENS NEWSLETTER

PUBLISHED AS A SERVICE TO THE RESIDENTS OF THE VILLAGE OF ATHENS
DECEMBER 2023

203 Alfred Street Po Box 220 Athens, WI 54411 (715) 257-9170

EMAIL: athensclerk@villageofathens.com WEBSITE: www.athenswis.com

Board meetings held on the 4th Monday of the month at 7pm in the Village Board Room

2023 in Review

Public Property:

- Completed remodeling of the old US Bank building and the Village offices and Library moved to the new location! Remodeling consisted of separating the building into 3 areas (Clerk's, Library and Police) and then adding new flooring, new HVAC system, new gutters, and new exterior doors. We were also able to construct a new parking lot thanks to many wonderful people who volunteered their time and equipment. Thank you also to all of the financial donors who made this project happen! And finally, thank you to all the contractors who kept the project on track and made the building look great.
- Exterior sign for the new building was donated by Progress Athens.
- Replaced Village garage shop door.
- Received new 2023 Dodge Ram 1500 and sold old 2014 truck. A Tommy Gate was added to the new truck.
- Purchased Toro lawn mower and sold old Hustler lawn mower
- Composite bowling lane surface was installed.
- Committee has started planning for renovation of the old Municipal Building and Community Hall.

Finance & Personnel:

- 2024 Budget was finalized.
- 10+ Years of Service achieved:
Al Belter: 21 years
Lisa Czech: 21 years (19 years as Clerk/Treasurer – 2 years as Treasurer/Deputy Clerk)
Aaron Stencil: 19 years (18 years as Chief – 1 year as part time officer)

Water and Sewer:

- Replaced water and sewer mains and the public service laterals during the Elm/Schlegel Street project.
- DNR mandated renovations to seal the Elm Street Water Reservoir were bid out. SD Ellenbecker was the low bidder at \$135,300.00. The original estimate of the project from the engineer was \$150,000.
- Approved MSA Professional Service's final Phosphorus Compliance Plan to send to the DNR. Committee recommended Chemical Addition plan. The committee also received information from Wisconsin Water Quality Trading Clearinghouse as an option to purchase credits if we go over our phosphorus discharge limits.
- Signed up for the no cost PFAS litigation and conducted mandatory PFAS testing on each well. We have non-detectable levels of PFAS in all water sources. By signing up for the litigation, it provides funding for any costs associated with mitigation should we detect PFAS in our system through 2030.

Streets

- Pine Street lights were replaced with LED lights.
- Elm Street (between Caroline and Pine) and Schlegel Street (between Maple and Elm) were reconstructed with new curb and gutter and sidewalk. Switlick and Sons was the low bidder for the project and we received 50% cost sharing (\$236,617) from Municipal Street Improvement Discretionary funds.
- Jensen Chip and Seal Coating was awarded the bid to complete cracksealing on needed streets.
- Jensen and Sons was awarded the bid for blacktop patching of several locations.
- High Street was extended (at no cost to Village) to allow for 11 additional building lots
- The 2024 Street project will be Elm Street (Well Street to where this year's project ended) and Schlegel Street (from Elm to Kreutzer)

DECEMBER 2023

Police & Fire

- Lexipol updated the Police Procedure Manual. The cost of the updated manual was covered again by our insurance company.
- Body Camera system was purchased. It was partially funded by a Body Camera grant and a State grant.
- A ballistic shield was purchased through donation for the Athens Area Credit Union
- Athens Lions Club donated funds toward squad equipment.
- Conducted Gun Safety and Bike Safety (Bike Rodeo) to kindergarten students
- The Committee discussed adding another full-time officer to the department. The budget didn't allow for the extra costs but will revisit again next year.
- In 2024, we will be ordering a new squad.

Parks and Public Welfare

- Received donations to purchase a heater for the Erbach Park shelter. We are excited about this addition and hope that it will allow more people to use the shelter during the cold months.
- Athens Area Trail Association had a busy year. They constructed a ramp on the Athens Park bridge making it a much safer bridge, constructed a new bridge on the archery loop, planted over 300 trees and are continuing to work on a mapping project with more signage. Thank you for all of your hard work to make our parks beautiful.
- Athens Girls Scouts landscaped around the Veteran's Memorial on the square and also installed additional benches through the trail system. Thank you to the girls and all of the donors for making these projects happen!
- Thank You to the following for making our Village beautiful:
Jenny Lipinski and her crew for decorating the bandstand and Village square for the holidays.
Nick Peter for making the Village bandstand look beautiful with flowers during the summer.
Tracy Westfall for the hanging and watering of the flower baskets on the light poles all summer.
- Thank you to our volunteer Range Master, Kenny Writz for assisting visitors and keeping a watchful eye on the range.
- Received the Tree City USA designation for the 4th year in a row
- The Erbach Park sign was reroofed with shingles donated by the Weiler family shingle mill.

Misc

- SC Swiderski had ground breaking ceremony for their multi-family housing units on the south end of Caroline Street. Several units are scheduled to be ready for occupancy in 2023 and construction completed by the end of 2024.
- We welcomed 3 new trustees this year and a new Village President. Taran Brodziski is the Street Committee Chairman, Tyler Socha is the Public Property Committee Chairman and Cody Thorson is the Finance and Personnel Committee Chairman. Former Trustee Randy Decker took over as Village President as well.

VILLAGE OFFICIALS PHONE GUIDE

Village President: Randy Decker 715-571-6503

Trustees:

Cody Thorson	715-573-8725	Taran Brodziski	715-370-8355	Chris Perkins	715-574-6435
Chris Guden	715-219-8825	Tami Schreiner	715-218-0329	Tyler Socha	715-370-5887



The Village has created a Facebook page...please be sure to "like us" to get up to date information on happenings around the Village!

To contact the Police Department -

The entrance to the Athens Police Department is on the north side of the building at 203 Alfred Street. If there is no one in the office and you wish to leave a message...please call **257-7611** and an officer will get back to you as soon as possible. If you wish to speak to an officer immediately, please contact the Marathon County Sheriff's Dept. @ **261-7794**

NOTICE

Village Tax Collection Hours

Monday thru Friday: 7:30AM TO 11:30AM AND 12:30PM TO 4PM. **THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 25th, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26th, AND MONDAY, JANUARY 1ST.** **If paying with cash, please bring exact amount!** You can also mail your taxes to the Village of Athens, P.O. Box 220, Athens, WI 54411 or drop it in the payment drop box at the Municipal Building (203 Alfred Street) *****Please include a self-addressed stamped envelope if you would like a receipt returned to you**

****If your payment is being sent directly by your bank and you would like a receipt via email, please email athensclerk@villageofathens.com to request a copy be emailed after payment is received.**

Attention Dog Owners

Wisconsin State Law Requires All dogs to be vaccinated against rabies and to be licensed ANNUALLY. Property owners may pay for dog license in Village Clerk's Office. Licenses will be issued after the fee and proof that the dog has been vaccinated has been furnished.

RATES For Dog Licenses Are:

Neutered/Spayed Dogs \$ 5.00
Males/Females \$10.00

VILLAGE OF ATHENS SNOW & ICE REMOVAL POLICY

Within 24 hours after the cessation of any fall of sleet or snow, it shall be the duty of the owners and/or the occupants of any lot or parcel of land to remove the snow or sleet from any and all sidewalks adjacent to the premises of such owner or occupant, and to keep the same free and clear of snow and ice for the **FULL** width of the sidewalk. If the owner/occupant fails to remove the snow or sleet (ice) from the sidewalks, Village employees shall remove the snow/ice and assess a fee of **\$75/hr with minimum charge of \$75** against the owner for the cost of removing the ice/snow.

Rentals (Reservations can be made by calling/emailing clerk's office)

Athens Community Hall

Resident: \$25/hr or \$250/day + \$100 deposit.
Non-Resident: \$30/hr or \$300/day + \$100 deposit (deposit is refundable if cleaned up after use)

Athens Village Park: Resident Rate: \$80/day

Non-Resident Rate: \$100/day

Erbach Park: Resident Rate: \$125/day Non-Resident Rate: \$175/day

ATV/UTV RULES:

- *Hours of operation are 5am to 10pm
- *Speed limit is 15 MPH
- *Use is prohibited on State Hwy 97 (can cross Highway)
- *Use also prohibited on the Alfred Street one-way, Well Street (north of Kreutzer Street), on public sidewalks and in parks.
- *No person under 12 may operate ATV (age 12-15 must be accompanied by an adult)
- *No person under 16 may operate UTV
- *Must possess valid safety certificate if born after 1/1/88
- *Helmets with chin straps (not bicycle helmets) are required for anyone under the age of 18

SNOWMOBILE USAGE RULES:

- *Speed limit is 10 MPH
- *Residents are only allowed to travel the roads/alleys to and from their house using the most direct route only. Travel is prohibited on STH 97 (Pine St., Mueller St., and Alfred St.) except to cross highway
- *Hours of Operation. Except on a designated snowmobile trail, no person shall operate a snowmobile within the Village of Athens between the hours of 11:00pm and 7:00am, except for returning home via the most direct route.

BUILDING PERMITS

Anyone planning on building a new house or structure, remodeling or doing alterations to existing buildings in the Village of Athens, shall apply for a permit from Ben Brooks, (257-7183) to obtain such a permit. No work should proceed until the permit has been issued. No permit is required for construction or repair work with a value of \$1,000 or less. Remember, this dollar figure is based on material and labor costs. Even if you do your own labor, you must include at least a minimum labor cost along with the material cost for permit purposes. Permits are good for 6 months, and projects not having permits displayed for public view, or without permits, can be halted by the inspector or the Police Department.



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28	29	30	31			

* Observed holidays - Service delayed 1 day throughout remainder of week.

Village of Athens

 TRASH AND RECYCLING

WM Customer Service
1-888-960-0008

2024 HOLIDAYS - ONE DAY DELAY

- New Year's Day Jan 1
- Memorial Day May 27
- Independence Day July 4
- Labor Day Sept 2
- Thanksgiving Nov 28
- Christmas Day Dec 25