

VILLAGE OF ATHENS NEWSLETTER

PUBLISHED AS A SERVICE TO THE RESIDENTS OF THE VILLAGE OF ATHENS
DECEMBER 2018

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

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

I love this time of the year!! All the Christmas lights and decorations makes everyone's house and our Village look so beautiful and inviting! People seem to be in a better mood and they truly think about peace on earth – goodwill to all mankind. Wish that feeling would go on into and throughout the new year. Especially maybe into our national politics.

Speaking of politics. You can be very proud and very thankful for your local Village board. Their goal that they strive for is to make Athens a better village, a more attractive place to live and to maintain our capital. There is never a lack of things that need attention. Your Board attends to these and does a very good job with what resources we have. They work together and sacrifice their budget priorities to transfer their resources to a more immediate need.

This year was particularly challenging because of some added expenses we incurred and because of some changes in state funding that shorted our Village. We have to learn to deal with that – plus as you read the Water and Sewer Committee's article regarding phosphorus, we could also be faced with a yearly payout of \$30,000 with nothing to show for it. To say that these are challenging years is an understatement. But your Board has showed this year that they are up to the task. I am very impressed with the way they have worked together.

I must again thank all of our employees for the outstanding job they do. We have lost some of our employees to retirement these last few years, but our remaining and our new employees have continued without missing a beat. This speaks volumes to their commitment and dedication to the Village. I feel fortunate to have them all!

I also would like to thank all of our volunteers. We have so many I cannot name them all. A special thanks to Ken Writz for all his time supervising our Rifle Range. Without all of our volunteers, our Village would not be what it is. So, to those of you who have volunteered, you should have a special sense of pride and ownership in our Village

There is so much more to say but we don't have the space here, we could fill the whole newsletter with my article trying to pass on information.

I appreciate and thank all of the people who share their thoughts and concerns with me. I take all of that very serious. I appreciate all the residents who make this Village the place it is. It truly is the best little town around.

I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and happy and prosperous New Year. Remember the reason for the season – slow down and appreciate what we have here. Enjoy family and friends!!

I am grateful and honored for the opportunity to serve as your Village President. If you have any concerns or comments, please feel free to talk to me.

Chuck Kornack, Village President

VILLAGE OFFICIALS PHONE GUIDE

Village President: Chuck Kornack 715-257-7657

Trustees:

Dwight Lenhard	715-257-9922	Randy Decker	715-571-6503	Chris Perkins	715-574-6435
Steve Brewster	715-223-7125	Matt Witucki	715-574-7060	Jonathon Haines	715-470-3169

FINANCE & PERSONNEL

The Village has had to say good-bye to several employees this year. After 30 years of service to the Village, Frank (Schmood) Redmann retired in August. Frank (and all of his skills!) will be greatly missed, but we wish him all the best in retirement! Mark Behringer has also completed his last lawn mowing this fall. Mark has been with the Village for the past 5 summers and has done a great job keeping the Village looking good. We were also sad to see Connie Venzke (Office/Community Hall cleaner) and Jesus Ibarra (Part-time police officer) go but we thank them for their service to the Village. We have gained two new employees. Cindy Wriedt is our new office and community hall cleaner and she is doing a great job. Sarah

Payton has been hired as a part-time occasional public works employee. Sarah will be filling in as needed within the department. By filling the vacant public works position with a part-time person, it is expected to have significant cost savings. Finally, Wyatt Pufall will be starting as a part-time police officer. We welcome all the new employees! Jonathon Haines, Committee Chairman
Dwight Lenhard & Chris Perkins, Committee Members

PARKS & PUBLIC WELFARE

Again, the Parks & Public Welfare Committee had a busy year for projects in 2018. Major upgrades and improvements were completed on the shelter building at Erbach Park this year. Some of the updates include new

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windows and doors, new siding, insulating the building and a remodeled kitchen with new appliances. The steel doors on the restrooms were also replaced. A big thank you to the Erbach family for their donated funds for these projects.

New sand was added to the playground and volleyball court at Erbach Park. Thanks to Switlick and Sons as they donated all of the sand for this.

With the help of the Athens Area Trail Association, we were able to replace another walking bridge in Erbach Park along with other updates and maintenance to the trail system. Thank you to our village employees and the Trail Association members for all their work on the trails, bridges and other park improvements. They have committed a lot of donated time to these areas.

The timber harvest will continue this winter as the weather conditions permit. The project was awarded to Thurs Logging and is currently under way. The remainder of the select cutting will take place mainly in the northern areas of the village forest. Please be aware of this project if you utilize these trails during this time. As a reminder, there may also be some temporary closing of certain trails as needed during the harvest.

Thank you to Nick Peter for planting and maintaining the flowers around the band stand and the Athens 4H for decorating for the holidays. Thanks to the Girl Scouts Troop for raising funds to purchase disposal containers for cigarette butts. These are placed around the village square.

Matt Witucki, Committee Chairman

Jonathon Haines & Randy Decker, Committee Member

WATER & SEWER COMMITTEE

The Village has begun the process for the waste water permit renewal. The Village's first step for our new WWTP permit is a facility plan at an estimated cost of \$25,000-\$30,000.

We will need to deal with Phosphorus limits with this new permit. Phosphorus limits were created in the Clean Water Act. Athens is in the Wisconsin River Shed, which has a set TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) set in the Clean Water Act, describing a plan for restoring impaired waters that identifies the maximum amount of a pollutant that a body of water can receive while still meeting water quality standards.

There are also several options available to comply with phosphorus limits:

1) **Facility Upgrades:** Facilities can choose to add treatment technology to their plant to comply with the new phosphorus limits. This is the traditional method used to comply with permit limits. For Athens, the cost of a facility upgrade to incorporate an Algae system would cost between \$1.5-2M. The Village would then be able to sell the algae for \$1-\$1.50/lb.

****Note** – Cadott recently spent \$7.5M on a plant upgrade and they still CANNOT meet their new permit requirements.

2) **Water Quality Trading:** Water quality trading allows point sources to offset their pollution load, and comply with

phosphorus limits, by taking credit of other phosphorus reductions within the watershed. These reductions can occur within urban or agricultural areas, or from other point sources within the watershed. Trading is a viable compliance option in most watersheds, and should be utilized when the cost of purchasing offset credits is less than the cost of facility upgrades. A permittee may also choose to participate in trading in conjunction with a facility upgrade to comply with phosphorus limitations. For Athens, (based on our WWTP daily average output of phosphorus of 3-4 lbs) this would result in paying the county \$25-27,000.00 annually to use for phosphorus trading with farmers using Water Quality Trading.

3) **Adaptive Management:** Similar to water quality trading, adaptive management allows a point source to reduce other sources of phosphorus pollution within a watershed to achieve compliance with phosphorus requirements. Unlike water quality trading, however, adaptive management focuses on improving water quality, rather than simply offsetting a permit limit. The role of the permittee under adaptive management is to work with others to reduce the overall phosphorus load from nonpoint and/or other point sources in the watershed so that water quality improvements can be made. Adaptive management should be considered in situations where point sources meet the eligibility requirements pursuant to s. NR 217.18, Wis. Adm. Code, water quality improvements can be demonstrated over time, and the cost of the watershed project is less than the cost of facility upgrades.

4) **Economic variances:** In some cases, the available compliance options are simply too costly, and would result in an economic hardship for the community or industry. In these cases, the discharge can request an economic variance. Variances allow communities to take economically viable steps towards compliance. Besides economic considerations, there are other factors listed in Wis. Stat. s. 283.15(4) that may apply when seeking a variance to a water quality standard. See Section 3.03, p. 86, for additional information about economic variances. WDNR must seek EPA approval of a variance before an economic variance can be authorized.

Chris Perkins, Committee Chairman

Steve Brewster & Matt Witucki, Committee Members

FIRE & POLICE COMMITTEE

The Athens community has some great volunteers and public safety professionals! I hope you all agree. As the chair of the Police and Fire Committee, I have the unique opportunity to see things from the inside. Being an EMT on the Athens Area Ambulance sure helps deepen that appreciation. 2018 brought both the Police and Fire departments major equipment upgrades. In the spring the fire department took delivery of a 2018 Freightliner/Rosenbauer engine. It ultimately replaced an engine that was made in 1994. Some of the benefits of the new engine include: LED work lights, power ladder and porta tank lifts, slide out cross-lay trays. It is capable of

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pumping 1500 gallons of water per minute. It also has a high volume blitz gun and a foam inductor system. The fire department is VERY satisfied with this new piece of equipment.

The Athens Police department upgraded its squad car in September. Thanks to all of you that voted on our Facebook poll and helped us choose our new squad graphics. The vehicle is similar to the old so that the majority of the equipment can be transferred from the old squad to the new one. The new vehicle is a 2018 Ford Interceptor. Aaron really likes the SUV all wheel drive vehicles better than the standard police cruisers. The AWD makes it a great utility vehicle in our harsh and sometimes never ending Wisconsin winters.

2019 will bring more challenges to our budget. The new Marathon County Sheriff's dispatching system, Superiorion is being implemented. It is replacing the Tiburon system. This is the system our law enforcement uses as a communications tool with dispatch but also is where all the data is stored. It allows all the small towns like Stratford, Athens and Edgar to all see each other's information. In the past, we could not see if Edgar had a file on a person. Now that data is available, ultimately keeping us safer since the data flows better. It seems however, that the computer maintenance and support costs were more than advertised. At this time, we are trying hard to minimize the impact of these increased costs. I am not sure how successful we will be. There are not a lot of options available. More to follow on that issue in my next note.

Steve Brewster, Committee Chairman

Jonathon Haines & Randy Decker, Committee Member

STREET COMMITTEE

2018 was a busy year in Athens for Streets. Projects were:

*Finishing Mount View Lane (& Detention Pond)

*Finishing Parkview Lane with curb & gutter

*Caroline Street 2nd layer of blacktop

*West Village Limits (Pulverizing & Paving from Mueller Street to Plisch Street)

In completing the Parkview Street project, we opened up several more lots for businesses to build on in the Industrial Park of which 1 lot has been sold and an office building has been built.

On the West Village Limits project, we tried a new technique with installing concrete around the 8'x8' sanitary manholes to prevent fill from washing out under blacktop. This procedure has been done in other villages with success.

We also repaired 12 catch basins on streets where needed, focusing on streets where new blacktop was installed. We also did some street patching where needed.

Marathon County Sheriff's Department completed a study on streets by school for the safety of the students. The Village installed several signs as recommended by the study. They are also in the process of checking highway counts on Hwy M (to the Village limits) to see if the speed

limit should be changed to 35MPH because of school practice fields being next to 55MPH speed limits.

The street committee recommended to the Village Board to open all streets and alleys in the Village (with the exception of Hwy, West Alfred (one way) and Well Street north of Kreutzer Street) to ATV/UTV and golf courts. Signs were installed in September. Please remember that this is a privilege and not a right, so it is important that rules are followed.

In 2019, our goal (if our current financial situation allows it) is to pulverize and pave Caroline Street from Hwy 97 to Kreutzer Street along with some curb and sidewalk replacement on the same street. We get quite a few calls concerning streets during the year and we try to spend your money wisely so the Village gets the best deal for the dollars spent.

Randy Decker, Committee Chairman

Dwight Lenhard & Steve Brewster, Committee Member

PUBLIC PROPERTY COMMITTEE

A noteworthy occurrence took place this summer as Jan Drexler stepped away as manager of the 11th Frame Bar and Bowl. We thank Jan for her efforts in helping us provide a recreational space as well as a social gathering place for area residents. New managers are Michelle Henrichs and Aaron Doll. They come to us with a strong bowling background and we wish them the best in "The Hall".

The committee knew that the 2018 budget would be relatively bare bones due to the purchase of the Mack plow truck in 2017. That bare bones budget became a boneless budget shortly into the new year after cost over runs on the industrial park projects came home to roost. The planned pickup replacement and compact tractor accessories were swapped out for a less costly window project in the Community Hall. Inevitably, that too was scrapped because of lack of funds. We were able to blacktop an approach to the salt shed and buy some tire chains for the Mack. Thanks to a Focus On Energy program, we were able to upgrade the shop lights to high efficiency LED fixtures. The lights should pay for themselves in about two years.

Looking ahead to 2019, the committee will try to once again replace the Community Hall windows on the east and west ends. The backhoe tractor and the Dodge pickup will need new rubber all around. A walk behind concrete saw is being budgeted which will allow our employees to saw cut the streets for repair purposes. As always, we will set aside some money to build up our equipment replacement fund and finally, we've allocated an amount to purchase gates to secure the area going to the village shop and also the yard waste dump site. That about sums up the anticipated expenditures for the Public Property Committee.

Dwight Lenhard, Public Property Chairman

Chris Perkins & Matt Witucki, Committee Member



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

VILLAGE OF ATHENS WINTER PARKING REGULATIONS

No person shall park any vehicle on any public street or highway in the Village of Athens between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m., Monday through Friday, and from 2:30 a.m. and 7:00 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday, from November 1st through April 1st inclusive, except under circumstances described in Sec. 346.50, Wis. Stats., and on New Year's Day when there shall be no restrictions.

GARBAGE BILLING CHANGES

~Effective with the 12/31/18 billing, Advanced Disposal has increased the garbage/recycling costs to \$12.45/month.

NOTICE

Village Tax Collection Hours

ALL TAX COLLECTIONS WILL BE DONE IN THE CLERKS OFFICE DURING WEEKDAY HOURS- 7:30AM TO 11:30AM AND 12:30PM TO 4PM. THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON MONDAY DECEMBER 24TH, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25TH, AND TUESDAY, JANUARY 1st.

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. *****Please include a self-addressed stamped envelope if you would like a receipt returned to you**

NOTICE

Construction – Remodeling – Repair

All parties doing any major work to houses, garages, etc., are required to contract with a supplier for a dumpster to put your debris in. This is your cost or the cost of the contractor.

NO DEBRIS IS ALLOWED AT THE DISPOSAL SITE, VILLAGE GARAGE, OR ANY PARK DUMPSTERS!!!

Anyone found dropping debris, garbage, or any materials at the Disposal Site or in the dumpsters will be issued citations.

RENTALS

Athens Community Hall (approx. 250/chairs & 33 tables)

Rates:

Resident: \$20/hr or \$200/day + \$75 deposit.

Non-Resident: \$25/hr or \$250/day + \$75 deposit.

If the hall is cleaned up after use, the deposit is returned.

Athens Village Park & Erbach Park

Resident Rate: \$80/day

Non-Resident Rate: \$95/day

RESERVATIONS CAN BE MADE BY

CALLING/EMAILING THE CLERK'S OFFICE

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.

Attention Dog Owners

Wisconsin State Law Requires All dogs to be vaccinated against rabies and to be licensed. Property owners may pay for dog license when paying property taxes or 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
- Puppy M or F\$2.50 or 5.00
- Kennel License 50.00

A list of delinquent dog owners will be sent to the District Attorney's office on April 1, 2019. Fines of \$50 to \$100 may be imposed for unvaccinated dogs.

*****HUNTING ORDINANCE*****

No hunting of any kind (INCLUDING PURSUING, DRIVING OR CHASING ANIMALS) shall be allowed on Village owned property.



Snowmobile Trail Access

As in the past, residents will be allowed to travel the roads and alleys to and from their houses, using the most direct route to the trail. The speed limit will be 10 mph and the snowmobiles must yield the right-of-way to other vehicles using the streets and alleys. Snowmobiles are prohibited from traveling on STH 97 (Pine St., Mueller St., and Alfred St.); however, snowmobiles are allowed to cross the highway.

Please realize it only takes one problem snowmobile rider to ruin this privilege for the residents. Therefore, it is important that if you see violations/abuse of this privilege, that you collect what information you can and report it to the Athens Police Department.

To contact the Police Department

If there is no one in the office and you wish to leave a message...please call **257-7611** and we 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**

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.

New Home – 1500 sq feet or less	\$350
New Home – 2500 sq feet or less	\$400
New Home – 2500 sq feet or more	\$450
Mobile/Manufactured Homes	\$300/unit
Multi-Family Homes/Commercial	\$200/unit
Residential additions/garages	\$100
Commercial & Residential repair	\$25
Siding, roofing, windows, fences, pools, decks, sheds, porches, gazebos, awnings, etc.	
Moving Building	\$50
Driveway Permit	\$15
Re-inspection Fee	\$25
Building without a Village Permit	DOUBLE FEES!

Common Recycling Mistakes

These are commonly mistaken items that often show up in recycling carts and bins, but they CANNOT BE RECYCLED AT YOUR CURB. Please don't toss these in with your recycling.

- ⊗ **Plastic Grocery Bags**
These are the most common items in the bin or cart that shouldn't be there, and they can be the most detrimental. When they get caught in the recycling sorter, they have to shut the whole system down and manually pull them out. Instead, consider recycling them by taking them back to the grocery or pharmacy, or big box stores where there are specially designated bins for recycling plastic bags.
- ⊗ **Take-Out Containers & Donut Boxes**
Food residue can contaminate the boxes or other recyclable material. They can only be recycled if free of food waste and residue from food (think cheese from pizza).
- ⊗ **Polystyrene (Styrofoam)**
Although Styrofoam is recyclable, it requires highly specialized equipment that single stream recycling facilities are not equipped with. Some restaurants (such as Chick-fil-A) accept their own Styrofoam cups for recycling.
- ⊗ **Paper Coffee Cups**
Although often thought of as a better alternative to Styrofoam, paper cups pose issues to recycling as well due to the plastic coating applied to prevent leaking. Your best bet is to bring your own mug!
- ⊗ **Shredded Paper**
Shredding paper reduces its size so dramatically that it ends up mixed with the residue or glass at recycling facilities. Because the machines sort broken glass and other debris by size, the shredded paper often gets destroyed or disposed of because it ends up in the wrong place. Once it is mixed with glass or residue, it cannot be recovered for recycling.
- ⊗ **Pizza Boxes**
This is one of the most common recycling mistakes. Although they are made of cardboard, the grease from the pizza contaminated the raw material. You can tear off the untarnished parts and recycle them though!
- ⊗ **Wet Paper**
Paper that has gotten wet can make recycling difficult or impossible. Take care to cover your recyclables to keep them safe from the elements. Wet paper should be discarded with the trash.
- ⊗ **Milk & Juice Cartons**
These are often coated with a thin layer of wax but can still be recycled by many (but not all) communities. Best bet is to check with the local municipality, hauler or recycler to see if these can be recycled.
- ⊗ **Baby Diapers**
The plastic from them cannot be salvaged. Plus it's just plain gross!
- ⊗ **Aerosol Cans**
While these are made of metal, because of the chemicals used to pressurize the cans, they are classified as household hazardous waste and should be discarded as such – not with recyclables or with the garbage.
- ⊗ **Ceramics & Pottery**
This includes things like coffee mugs and old flower pots. Look into donating items like this if they are in alright shape, someone else may be able to reuse them!
- ⊗ **Paint, Pesticides, Automotive Fluids, Diesel Fuel, Gasoline, Kerosene & Car Batteries**
They cannot be accepted and should be disposed of at a hazardous waste disposal facility.
- ⊗ **Automotive Parts & Scrap Metals**
These are too large and cumbersome for recycling equipment and could cause injury.

