

REGULAR MEETING – ATHENS TOWN BOARD – November 7, 2013

The regular meeting of the Athens Town Board was called to order by Deputy Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr., on November 7, 2013, at 7:00pm with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. The following people were present; Councilwoman April Paluch; Councilwoman Phyllis Dinkelacker; Councilman Steven Van Hoesen and Town Clerk Linda M. Stacey.

These people were also present; Bookkeeper Mary H. Brandow; Attorney Virginia Benedict; Assessor Laura Chase; Code Enforcement Officer George Holsopple; Village Trustee Herman Reinhold; Chris Beachler; Larry Styles; John Duchessi Grant Writer, of TGW Consulting; Joe Iraci; Carol Pfister and Andrea Smallwood.

The following bills were audited by the Board and ordered paid:

General Abstract #21, vouchers #515 through ##536 inclusive for \$10,045.48.

Highway Abstract #20, vouchers #183 through #199 inclusive for \$10,854.59.

Deputy Supervisor Butler read the Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed Local Law #2 to override the 2% Tax Levy Limit for the Fiscal year 2014, as it appeared in the Official Newspaper.

A question was asked regarding the Town's "reserves", and why the Town can't use these.

Mr. Butler explained that these reserves were set aside for particular projects, and could only be used for those purposes. Discussion followed.

Deputy Supervisor Butler closed the first public hearing at 7:30 pm.

Deputy Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. read the Notice of the Preliminary Budget for 2014 as it appeared in the Official Newspaper.

Mr. Butler informed the public that it was based on 1.5%

The main complaint: The budget was not made available to the public.

Public Hearing closed at 7:35 pm.

Attorney Virginia Benedict read the resolution regarding the 2% Local Law Over Ride for the Tax Cap and asked for a roll call Vote:

On the motion of Deputy Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. seconded by Councilman Steven Van Hoesen the above **RESOLUTION #2013-36** was adopted: Ayes-2 (Butler; Van Hoesen) Noes-2 (Paluch; Dinkelacker) Absent-(Palmateer) Abstentions-0

**THIS MOTION WAS NOT CARRIED.**

On the motion of Deputy Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. seconded by Councilman Steven

Van Hoesen the following **RESOLUTION #2013-37** to adopt the 2014 Preliminary Budget as the 2014 budget. Ayes-2 (Butler; Van Hoesen) Noes-2(Paluch, Dinkelacker)

Absent-1(Palmateer) Abstentions-0 **THIS MOTION WAS NOT CARRIED.**

On the motion of Deputy Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr., seconded by Councilman Steven Van Hoesen the following **RESOLUTION #2013-38** was adopted: to re-advertize the Public Hearing for Proposed Local Law #2 (To over ride the tax levy limit for Fiscal year 2014; to 11/18/13 at 7:00 p.m. Ayes-4 (Butler; Paluch; Dinkelacker; Van Hoesen) Noes-0 Absent-1(Palmateer)Abstentions-0

On the motion of Steven Van Hoesen seconded by Deputy Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. the following **RESOLUTION #2013-39** making the 2014 tentative budget the Preliminary Budget for 2014, with a public Hearing date of November 18, 2013 at 7:00p.m. was adopted.

Ayes-4(Butler; Paluch; Dinkelacker; Van Hoesen) Noes-0 Absent-1(Palmateer)

Abstentions-0

Assessor Laura Chase told Board members that Exemptions are going out.

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Deputy Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Phyllis Dinkelacker to go into *Executive Session for possible litigation*. Ayes-4( Butler; Paluch; Dinkelacker; Van Hoesen) Noes-0 Absent-1(Palmateer) Abstentions-0  
Time 7: 50 p.m.

Councilwoman Phyllis Dinkelacker made a motion seconded by Councilwoman April Paluch to *adjourn the Executive Session and reconvene the regular meeting*. Ayes-4 (Butler; Paluch; Dinkelacker; Van Hoesen) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Palmateer) Abstentions-0 Time 7:55p.m.

Councilwoman Phyllis Dinkelacker made a motion seconded by Councilwoman April Paluch *authorizing Assessor Laura Chase to settle with the Court Case*. Ayes-3 (Paluch; Dinkelacker; Van Hoesen) Noes-1(Butler) Absent-1 (Palmateer) Abstentions-0

Code Enforcement Officer George Holsopple spoke about the property of Richard Kline who lives at 358 Flats Road Ext. He informed the Board that this property has been condemned, as uninhabitable. He also states that unsanitary conditions exist. His recommendation for the correction of such building condition is for it to be demolished. He was told by Attorney Benedict that he would need to issue a Search Warrant.

Deputy Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. made a motion seconded by Councilwoman April Paluch *to approve the Town Clerk's Report as presented*. Ayes-4(Butler; Paluch; Dinkelacker; Van Hoesen) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Palmateer) Abstentions-0

Councilwoman Phyllis Dinkelacker made a motion seconded by Councilman Steven Van Hoesen *to approve the minutes of October 21, 2013 as read*. Ayes-4(Butler; Paluch; Dinkelacker; Van Hoesen) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Palmateer) Abstentions-0

Councilwoman April Paluch suggested that the Board look at Robert Wagner , who recently submitted a letter of interest, for the Planning Board.

Deputy Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Phyllis Dinkelacker *to sign the 'Shelter' Agreement between Columbia-Greene Humane Society and the Town of Athens for January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014*. Ayes-4(Butler; Paluch; Dinkelacker; Van Hoesen) Noes-0 Absent-1(Palmateer) Abstentions-0

Grant Writer John Duchessi went over Grants and Project Reports to date. Hazardous Mitigation Grant Program- Submitted applications for: 1. Enlargement of Schoharie Turnpike Culvert. 2. Interoperable radios. 3. Back-up generator for Highway Garage. AFG Grants: will be working with West Athens Lime Street. He also mentioned possibilities for CH/ Fortis funding- excellent Main Street Program available for the Village.

The Planning Board minutes October 24, 2013 were reviewed by the Board for information.

Village Trustee Herman Reinhold came before the Board to speak about "Code Red" He encouraged all Board to join and to help get the word out. This system's goal is to send critical communication, from evacuation notices to missing child alerts, as well as information during emergencies.

Deputy Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Phyllis Dinkelacker *to sign a purchase order for a new server to protect the Town Computers, which will be paid for out of the 2014 budget*. Ayes-4 (Butler; Paluch; Dinkelacker; Van Hoesen) Noes-0 Absent-1(Palmateer) Abstentions-0

As there was no further business to come before the meeting a motion to adjourn was made by Councilwoman Phyllis Dinkelacker and seconded by Councilwoman April Paluch. Ayes-4 (Butler; Paluch; Dinkelacker; Van Hoesen) Noes-0 Absent-1(Palmateer) Abstentions-0 Meeting Adjourned 8:35 p.m.