

REGULAR MEETING – ATHENS TOWN BOARD – August 5, 2013

The regular meeting of the Athens Town Board was called to order by Deputy Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. on August 5, 2013, at 7:00 pm 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. (Supervisor Lee Palmateer and Highway Superintendent John J. Farrell were absent.)

These people were also present: Attorney Virginia Benedict; Bookkeeper Annie Stapleton; Assessor Laura Chase; Code Enforcement Officer George Holsopple; Residents, Ron and Holly Greco and reporter Melanie Lekocevic.

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

General Abstract #15, vouchers #359 through #387 inclusive for \$16,597.43.

Highway Abstract #14, vouchers #121 through #133 inclusive for \$95,548.75.

Ron & Holly Greco of 966 Schoharie Turnpike handed out pictures to the Board of a water problem they are having due to a neighbor's putting in drainage pipe in the wrong area. Mr. Di Stefano had come before the Board two years ago regarding the water he was getting and wanted the Town to do something about it. He took a backhoe, put in drainage pipes, and it is now coming onto Mr. Greco's property, garage, as well as washing away his septic leach field.

Deputy Supervisor Butler said that he would meet with the Highway Superintendent to see what can be done.

Assessor Laura Chase informed the Board that one small claim has been received.

She also informed them that the School taxes were \$25.66 per thousand last year and they will be \$17 and change this year-so they are going down.

Bookkeeper Annie Stapleton asked for another 24 hours for Lesley Hallenbeck to finish doing the inventory, for the records management in the Bookkeeper's Office at a cost of \$300.00.

Deputy Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Phyllis Dinkelacker *to approve expenditure not to exceed \$300.00 for Lesley to finish the inventory in the bookkeeper's office.* Motion carried. Ayes-4(Butler; Paluch Dinkelacker; Van Hoesen) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Palmateer) Abstentions-0

Bookkeeper Annie Stapleton urged the Board to outsource the human resources and the bookkeeping, separately. Discussion followed.

Code Enforcement Officer George Holsopple informed the Board that Ron Greco had submitted a written complaint. He has a total of 5 complaints from surrounding neighbors.

Mr. Holsopple stated that he had issued a Certificate of Compliance to Gary Dugan.

Regarding the Francis Saunders property: Someone will clean up the property.

Attorney Virginia Benedict handed out zoning amendment adoption procedures to the Board.

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

Councilwoman April Paluch made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Phyllis Dinkelacker *to approve the minutes of July 15, 3013, as read.* Motion carried. Ayes-4(Butler; Paluch Dinkelacker; Van Hoesen) Noes-0 Absent-1(Palmateer) Abstentions-0

Councilwoman Phyllis Dinkelacker made a motion seconded by Councilwoman April Paluch *to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of July 24, 2013, as read.* Motion carried. Ayes-4 (Butler; Paluch Dinkelacker; Van Hoesen) Noes-0 Absent-1(Palmateer) Abstentions-0

**Correspondence was received from:**

State of New York: for reaching 100% Equalization Rate

Planning Board minutes of 7/25/2013 were received for review.

NYS Dept. of Public Service: Information Re: Application of West Point Partners, LLC for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public need pursuant to Article VII for Authority to Construct and Operate a 345 kV Transmission Line known as the West Point Project.

Dan King sent copies of slides, from his presentation at the Emergency Management Meeting held in Cairo on Tuesday July 30, 2013. He also included the Code Red Community Flyer.

The Hazard Mitigation Plan Update is due to be in place by September 1, 2014.

Councilwoman Dinkelacker informed the Board that it was suggested that we make copies of the Code Red Flyers and send them out with the tax bills. She also stated that we will also have to make a resolution to get on board.

A written report was received from Grant writer Bill Roehr. He reported that under the Hazard Mitigation – Grant Program, he has submitted letters of interest on behalf of the Town for the following projects: Schoharie Turnpike culvert replacement; Automated generator for Town Garage; Inter-operable radios and associated equipment.

The Final Report for the Records Grant has been submitted. He stated that this is the best records inventory project that he has ever seen undertaken. He stated that the workers did a fantastic job.

Councilwoman Dinkelacker reminded everyone that Movie Night will be August 10, 2013 at the Athens pool. The movie will be “*Hotel Transylvania*”.

Deputy Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. made a motion seconded by Councilwoman April Paluch *to temporarily appoint/rehire former Bookkeeper/Budget Officer Mary H. Brandow to fill until we hire someone to replace current Bookkeeper/ Budget Officer Annie Stapleton who has handed in her resignation.* Ayes-2 (Butler; Paluch) Noes-2 (Dinkelacker; Van Hoesen) Absent-1 (Palmateer) Abstentions-0 Discussion followed. This motion did not pass.

A Special Meeting was scheduled for August 14, 2013, at 6:00pm.

Deputy Supervisor Butler informed the Board that he had met with a member of the Village Board to review the Village Lease Agreement. They had wanted to raise it by 7½% but he told them the highest he would go was 1%. It is currently \$28,000 for the rooms, and \$3642.43 for the cleaning services.

Mr. Butler will check with Greene County Solid Waste regarding the October, Fall Clean up.

As there was no further business to come before the meeting a motion to adjourn was made by Councilwoman Phyllis Dinkelacker seconded by Councilwoman April Paluch. Motion carried. Ayes-4 (Butler; Paluch Dinkelacker; Van Hoesen) Noes-0 Absent-1(Palmateer) Abstentions-0

Meeting Adjourned at 8:45 P.M.