

REGULAR MEETING -- ATHENS TOWN BOARD – March 17, 2014

The regular meeting of the Athens Town Board was called to order, by Supervisor Joseph Iraci at 7:00 p.m. on March 17, 2014 with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

The following people were present: Supervisor Joseph Iraci; Councilman Robert F. Butler, Jr.; Councilwoman April Paluch; Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow and Town Clerk Linda M. Stacey. (Councilman Michael Ragaini and Highway Superintendent John J. Farrell were absent.)

These people were also present: Bookkeeper Michael Strenka; Attorney Virginia Benedict; Code Enforcement Officer George Holsopple; Andy Gauzza; Larry Styles; M. Pirrone and Reporter Melanie Lekocevic.

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

General Abstract #6, vouchers #119 through #153 inclusive for \$35,570.76.

Highway Abstract #6, vouchers #57 through #70 inclusive for \$7873.49.

Code Enforcement Officer George Holsopple handed out his code fee schedule to Board members for their review. Questions were asked.

Building permit renewal costs were listed as 10 to 25 % of the original permit cost.

Board discussion followed.

Supervisor Joseph Iraci made a motion seconded by Councilwoman April Paluch *that building permit renewals would be based on the percentage of work still needed to be done*. Ayes-4 (Iraci; Butler; Paluch; Brandow) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Ragaini) Abstentions-0

Code Enforcement Officer Holsopple spoke about a Fire Works Permit he received from Sleepy Hollow Lake. He explained about the application, all that was required, who had to sign off on it etc. The Fire Works Permit for Sleepy Hollow is for July 5, 2014.

Discussion of fill permit fees followed.

Supervisor Iraci reported that the Contract for Ambulance fees (due to billing issues) is not complete. Supervisor Iraci, Bookkeeper Strenka to meet with Catskill Ambulance Officials Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday at 1:00 p.m.

Councilwoman April Paluch made a motion seconded by Councilman Robert F. Butler, Jr. *to approve the minutes of March 3, 2014 as read*. Ayes-4 (Iraci; Butler; Paluch; Brandow) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Ragaini) Abstentions-0

Supervisor Iraci announced that the appropriate product postings were done. These are required by the labor department. The Town Board received two (2) reports. Required training is in the works.

Supervisor Joseph Iraci handed out a packet of Draft Town Board Policies for Town Board Review. The list of Policies is as follows:

Workplace Safety; Incident / Accident Report; Sexual/ Harassment Policy; Equal Opportunity Non-discrimination Policy; Whistleblower Protection.

The Board went over the each policy one at a time and made changes where they felt they were needed.

Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow made a motion seconded by Councilwoman April Paluch *to approve the Draft Workplace Safety Policy as presented*. (Carried) Ayes-4 (Iraci; Butler; Paluch; Brandow) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Ragaini) Abstentions-0

Supervisor Joseph Iraci made a motion seconded by Councilwoman April Paluch *to approve the Draft Incident / Accident Report Policy as presented.* (Carried) Ayes-4 (Iraci; Butler; Paluch; Brandow) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Ragaini) Abstentions-0

Councilman Robert F. Butler, Jr. made a motion seconded by Supervisor Joseph Iraci *to approve the Draft Sexual/Harassment Policy as presented.* (Carried) Ayes-4 (Iraci; Butler; Paluch; Brandow) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Ragaini) Abstentions-0

Councilman Robert F. Butler, Jr. made a motion seconded by Supervisor Joseph Iraci *to approve the Draft Equal Opportunity Non-discrimination Policy adding: current or future laws, after paragraph one.* (Carried) Ayes-4 (Iraci; Butler; Paluch; Brandow) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Ragaini) Abstentions-0

Councilman Robert F. Butler, Jr. made a motion seconded by Councilwoman April Paluch *to approve the Draft Whistleblower Protection Policy as presented.* (Carried) Ayes-4 (Iraci; Butler; Paluch; Brandow) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Ragaini) Abstentions-0

Councilwoman April Paluch made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow *to approve above listing of draft policies on their first vote, and that they are presented to the Board for positive votes at two consecutive meeting.* (Carried) Ayes-4 (Iraci; Butler; Paluch; Brandow) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Ragaini) Abstentions-0

Memorandum received from Assessor Laura Chase regarding, NYS Real Property Tax law allows municipalities to adopt a resolution to accept a Senior Citizen or Disability exemption renewal application after taxable status date (march 1) thru Grievance Day (Last Tuesday of May) in the case of a “Hardship”. After Board discussion this was tabled until the next meeting.

The Town has received \$40,000 from the Public Service Commission. The Town has also filed papers for an additional \$140,000 towards further professional study.

Supervisor Iraci and Mayor Pfister are meeting with the PSC on Thursday in Albany.

Board talked about members needed for Zoning Board of Appeals and Planning Board.

Councilman Butler announced that he is looking at April 26, 2014 as Town and Village Clean-up Day, but was waiting to hear from the County.

Councilwoman April Paluch made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow *to go into Executive Session to discuss negotiations.* (Carried) Ayes-4 (Iraci; Butler; Paluch; Brandow) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Ragaini) Abstentions-0 Time : 8:15p.m. (Town Clerk and Attorney were invited to attend.)

Councilwoman April Paluch made a motion seconded by Supervisor Joseph Iraci *to come out of Executive Session and reconvene the regular meeting.* (Carried) Ayes-4 (Iraci; Butler; Paluch; Brandow) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Ragaini) Abstentions-0 Time: 8:37p.m.

Supervisor Suggested to the Board to discuss having only one meeting a month.

Councilwoman April Paluch made a motion to adjourn seconded to Supervisor Joseph Iraci . (Carried) Ayes-4 (Iraci; Butler; Paluch; Brandow) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Ragaini) Abstentions-0 Time: 8:50 p.m.

