

REGULAR MEETING – ATHENS TOWN BOARD – September 2, 2014

The regular meeting of the Athens Town Board was called to order, on September 2, 2014, at 7:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence by Supervisor Joseph Iraci.

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

These people were also present: Attorney Virginia Benedict; Bookkeeper Michael Strenka; Code Enforcement Officer George Holsopple and Larry Styles.

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

General Abstract #17, vouchers #395 through #413 inclusive for **\$36,120.39**.

Highway Abstract #17, vouchers #172 through ##178 inclusive for **\$71,351.18**.

Bookkeeper Michael Strenka informed the Board that it was time for employees that had to turn in time sheets for the retirement system to get them in, to him. The Retirement System wants to update or check their records.

Code Enforcement Officer George Holsopple reported that Mr. Davies went to court and was given 30 days to clean up his property. His next Court day is September 18, 2014. He says that he is no longer the owner however the bank has not foreclosed yet.

Property at 357 Rte. 385 has been cleaned up; the trailer at 143 Gypsy Pt. Road will be removed.

Supervisor Iraci gave Assessor Laura Chase's Report: School total files have been completed for the school tax bills, which will be mailed out the week of September 1st.

Address updates will be ongoing from tax bills. The office will be preparing the annual mailing for the Enhanced Star recipient Exemption Renewals.

One (1) Small Claims and six (6) Article 7 cases are pending court action.

Upgrade to V4 has been scheduled for Friday, September 5, 2014 at 11:00 a.m. between the State Liaison and ITS.

Supervisor Iraci informed the Board of Assessor Laura Chase's health issue and read her letter request for leave of absence.

Supervisor Joseph Iraci stated we will appoint Carol McBride as the Temporary Assessor to fill the position. She will take a temporary leave of absence for her job in Hudson, Rate of pay will be the same as she is currently receiving in Hudson, including prorated benefits.

On the motion of Councilwoman April Paluch seconded by Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow the following **RESOLUTION #2014-43** was adopted: to grant Assessor Laura Chase's Leave of Absence due to health reasons, as per provisions of the Employee Handbook. Ayes-3 (Iraci; Paluch; Brandow) Noes-0 Absent-2 (Butler; Ragaini) Abstentions-0

Mr. Iraci informed the Board that he had the opportunity to meet Bob Hilbert of Appraisal Consultants, who did our ReVal, to determine updating procedures and costs.

Councilwoman April Paluch made a motion seconded by Supervisor Joseph Iraci to approve the minutes of August 18, 2014 as read. Ayes-3 (Iraci; Paluch; Brandow) Noes-0 Absent-2 (Butler; Ragaini) Abstentions-0

Resolution #254-14 from Greene County Legislature approving reimbursement to Community Colleges was received.

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A letter received also, from the County, stating that there would be a delay in their taking 100% responsibility for the payment of reimbursements to Community Colleges, due to budgetary constraints.

Board Members were reminded of the Testimonial Dinner for Marilyn and John P Farrell. Jr. on September 20th, at Pegasus Restaurant.

Supervisor Iraci informed the Board that the new photo copier would be delivered this month on a four (4) year lease basis.

Supervisor Iraci spoke about the ambulance contact. He is not finished with negotiating with Catskill.

Received correspondence from NYS Dept. of Public Service. They are asking for help in raising awareness of the Lifeline Discount Telephone Service Program and encouraging eligible consumers to enroll. Lifeline Discount Telephone Service is a program designed to make basic telephone service more affordable for income-eligible consumers.

Supervisor Joseph Iraci informed everyone that the budget committee was working hard on the budget.

On the motion of Councilwoman April Paluch seconded by Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow the following **RESOLUTION #2014-44 to Engage the Services of Appraisal Consultants as our representatives to their study of the assessment rolls and other factors and report their findings to the Assessor and the Town Board. was adopted.** Ayes-3 (Iraci; Paluch; Brandow) Noes-0 Absent-2(Butler; Ragaini) Abstentions-0

As there was no further business to come before the Board, a motion to adjourn was made by Councilwoman April Paluch seconded by Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow. Ayes-3 (Iraci; Paluch; Brandow) Noes-0 Absent-2(Butler; Ragaini) Abstentions-0
Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.