

REGULAR MEETING – ATHENS TOWN BOARD – October 20, 2014

The regular meeting of the Athens Town Board was called to order on October 20, 2014 at 7:01 pm by Supervisor Joseph B. Iraci with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

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

These people were also present: Attorney Virginia Benedict; Bookkeeper/ Budget Officer Michael Strenka; Roger Albright; Chris Pfister; and Melanie Lekocevic.

The following bills were audited by the Board and ordered paid;  
General Abstract #20, vouchers #481 through # 502 inclusive for \$33,745.38.  
Highway Abstract #20, vouchers #218 through #227 inclusive for \$16,093.83.

Councilwoman April Paluch made a motion seconded by Councilman Robert F. Butler, Jr. *to open the public hearing to override the tax levy*. Carried. Ayes-5 (Iraci; Butler; Paluch; Brandow; Ragaini) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Supervisor Iraci read the following Public Hearing Notice as it appeared in the Official Newspaper.

\* Please take notice that the Town Board of the Town of Athens, Greene County, will hold a public hearing for the purpose of receiving public comment concerning the Town's proposed local law to "Override the Tax Levy Limit for Fiscal Years 2015". The hearing will be held on October 20, 2014, at 7 p.m. at the Athens Town Hall, 2 First Street, Town of Athens, Greene County, New York.

Supervisory Iraci explained that this override resolution was a good thing to have in place in case of emergency. This resolution may be rescinded if it is not needed. The Public Hearing remains open.

Councilwoman April Paluch made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow *to open the regular meeting*. (7:03 p.m.) Carried; Ayes-5 (Iraci; Butler; Paluch; Brandow; Ragaini) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Roger Albright asked if there is a law stating you have to ask to be put on the agenda.

He was informed that the law requires that the meeting be open. A courtesy the Board allows persons to address the Board on agenda items

Mr. Albright then stated that he felt there were some discrepancies in the tax assessments on his brother's shale banks. Some discussion followed. Mr. Albright is to work with the Acting Assessor, Carol McBride.

Acting Assessor Carol McBride presented paperwork to the Board explaining a new option for the Seniors Citizen Exemption, and Persons with Disabilities and Limited Incomes.

Mrs. McBride explained the "sliding" scale would increase so that it would deduct medical bills. Discussion followed.

Mrs. McBride informed the Board that the Town of Catskill, Greenville, and Prattsville are a few of the Towns that do it. She recommends doing adopting it for 2015.

Supervisor Joseph B. Iraci polled the Board on their interest in this new option for the Senior Citizen Exemption and the Persons with Disabilities and Limited income and the results are: 3 noes and 2 yes. Ayes-2(Paluch; Brandow) Noes-3(Iraci; Butler; Ragaini)

Supervisor Joseph B. Iraci made a motion seconded by Councilman Robert F. Butler, Jr. *not to have the Attorney Benedict draw up a resolution for the new option*. Carried: Ayes-3(Iraci; Butler; Ragaini) Noes-0 (Paluch; Brandow) Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Supervisor Iraci reported that Assessor Laura Chase's Leave, 12 week limit is up soon and she is requesting to continue the leave for another 12 weeks so that she may remain on the Town's medical plan.

Councilman Michael Ragaini made a motion seconded by Councilman Robert F. Butler, Jr. *to extend Assessor Laura Chase's Leave of Absence for an additional 12 weeks*. Carried; Ayes-5 (Iraci; Butler; Paluch; Brandow; Ragaini) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

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Councilman Robert F. Butler, Jr. made a motion seconded by Councilwoman April Paluch to *approve the minutes of October 6, 2014 as read*. Carried. Ayes-5 (Iraci; Butler; Paluch; Brandow; Ragaini) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Supervisor Iraci suggested that the Board reaffirm the Town's Procurement Policy (located in Code Book). He also stated that there is a discrepancy between the Code Book and the resolution made in January. The Law will supersede the resolution.

Supervisor Joseph B. Iraci made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow to *reaffirm the Procurement Policy in the Code Book*. Ayes-5 (Iraci; Butler; Paluch; Brandow; Ragaini) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Board members were reminded by Councilman Butler of the Joint Clean Up Day on Saturday October 25, 2014.

Supervisor Iraci informed the Board that *the Bicentennial Committee* has had their first meeting. There is \$2,000 seed money in budget for this committee. The next meeting will be October 29, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

On the motion of Councilman Michael Ragaini seconded by Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow the following **RESOLUTION #2014-48** to *make the following budget transfers was adopted*. Ayes-5 (Iraci; Butler; Paluch; Brandow; Ragaini) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

<u>Decrease</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Amount</u>
A 1010.4 Board Consultant	A 1010.4 Board Accountants	3,500
A 1010.4 Board Inspections	A 1010.4 Board Advertising	150
A 1010.4 Board Telephone	A1010.4 Board Office Supplies	100
A 1330.4 Health Insurance	A 1330.4 Tax Collector Postage	450
A 1355.4 Assessor ReVal Con.	A1355.4 Assessor Office Equipment	200
A 1410.4 Clerk Service Cont.	A 1410.4 Clerk Equipment Main.	200
A9060.8 Health Insurance	A 1919.4 Town Insurance	400

On the motion of Councilwoman April Paluch seconded by Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow *the following RESOLUTION #2014-49 to adopt the Tentative Budget for 2015 as the Preliminary Budget for 2015, and that a Public Hearing be scheduled for November 6, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. was adopted*. Ayes-5 (Iraci; Butler; Paluch; Brandow; Ragaini) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Bookkeeper/ Budget Officer Michael Strenka informed the Board that regarding the letter from the Retirement System, He has prepared time records and the required forms for everyone except one person.

The Board discussed the reserves for Buildings, Equipment and a Tax Stabilization Reserve. The Board will make specific decisions on Fund Balances for equipment Restricted Reserves and other recommendations.

Mr. Iraci spoke about changing Auditing Firms, to one that will do a more Comprehensive review of our financial procedures.

Councilman Michael Ragaini and Councilman Robert F. Butler, Jr. are on the Building Committee.

Councilwoman April Paluch will get proposed numbers from Greene Emergency Medical Services.

As there was no further business to come before the meeting a motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Michael Ragaini seconded by Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow and carried. Ayes-5 (Iraci; Butler; Paluch; Brandow; Ragaini) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.