

REGULAR MEETING – ATHENS TOWN BOARD – November 17, 2014

A regular meeting of the Athens Town Board was called to order on November 17, 2014 at 7:00 pm by Supervisor Joseph B. Iraci with the Allegiance to the Flag 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.)

The following people were also present: Attorney Virginia Benedict; Michael Strenka; Joyce Restko; Charles Restko; David LaVoie; and Melanie Lekocevic.

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

General Abstract #22, vouchers #531 through #554 inclusive for \$60,900.24.

Highway Abstract #22, vouchers #242 through #256 inclusive for \$46,077.60.

Supervisor Iraci asked the Board if they had any changes to make to the Preliminary Budget for 2015. As there were no changes he asked for a vote to approve the Budget as is.

On the motion of Councilwoman April Paluch seconded by Councilman Michael Ragaini the following **RESOLUTION #2014-50** *to adopt the Preliminary Budget for 2015 with no changes as the Budget for 2015, was adopted.* Ayes-5(Iraci; Butler; Paluch; Brandow; Ragaini) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Dave LaVoie and Bookkeeper Michael Strenka talked about Retirees Medical Insurance. December 10th is the deadline to make any changes in coverage. Blue Shield's rate has increased 38%. Mr. LaVoie handed out a 2015 benefit summary with 4 different options and the rates for retirees. Discussion followed.

Active Employees insurance has increased 11.9 %. We will need a workshop.

Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow will make phone calls to the seniors and retirees so they can come and talk to Dave LaVoie. (They are looking at next Monday or Tuesday.)

The new shelter contract has been received from Columbia-Greene Humane Society. The amount of the contract is the same as last year at \$305.00 for each dog brought in.

Councilwoman April Paluch made a motion seconded by Councilman Robert F. Butler, Jr. *authorizing the Supervisor to sign the Columbia – Greene Humane Society Shelter contracts for 2015, and return one to Hudson for their records.* Carried. Ayes-5(Iraci; Butler; Paluch; Brandow; Ragaini) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

The Town Board received a letter inviting them to attend and speak at Trever Baldwin's Eagle Court of Honor, on December 20, 2014, at the Athens Fire House, at 2:00 p.m.

On the motion of Supervisor Joseph B. Iraci seconded by Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow the following **RESOLUTION #2014-51** *to write a resolution for Trever Baldwin on receiving the Eagle Scout Award was adopted.* Ayes-5(Iraci; Butler; Paluch; Brandow; Ragaini) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Supervisor Iraci shared information forwarded from the Village, outlining the cost of testing for Air Quality Samples.

Supervisor Joseph B. Iraci advised the Board that he was looking for a Board Member to attend the negotiations with him, of the Union for the Highway Department.

Board Member Assignments from Last meeting with additions:

Liaison to ZBA	Supervisor Iraci
Liaison to Finance & Reserve	Councilwoman Brandow & Councilwoman Paluch (Bookkeeper Strenka)
Negotiations- (Union)	Supervisor Iraci & Councilman Butler
Liaison to Planning Board	Councilman Ragaini
Insurance	Bookkeeper Strenka; Supervisor Iraci: Councilwoman Brandow

Supervisor Iraci informed the Board that the IDA Lawyers and the US Gen Lawyers have come to an agreement that the new lot and warehouse will not change the PILOT AGREEMENT. Supervisor Joseph Iraci stated that the Town will make no endorsement nor accept any liabilities for their project as there is no Clerk of the Works or Town oversight. The “new” lot and warehouse will be assessed separately from the Pilot Agreement at their full value.

The minutes of November 6, 2014 were reviewed by the Board.

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

Supervisor Joseph B. Iraci made a motion seconded by Councilman Michael Ragaini *to close the Public Hearing to override the tax levy.* Ayes-5(Iraci; Butler; Paluch; Brandow; Ragaini) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

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

Meeting Adjourned at 8:14 p.m.