

REGULAR MEETING – ATHENS TOWN BOARD – February 1, 2016

A regular meeting of the Athens Town Board was called to order on February 1, 2016 at 7:00 pm by Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The following people were present: Supervisor Butler; Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow; Councilman Michael Ragaini; Councilman Anthony Paluch; Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr.; Highway Superintendent John J. Farrell and Town Clerk Linda M. Stacey.

The following people were also present: Attorney Virginia Benedict; Attorney Corinne Smith; Bookkeeper Michael Strenka; Code Enforcement Officer George Holsopple; Joseph Iraci; John Brock and Greg Christy of North East Treathers.

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

General Abstract #3, vouchers #37 through #67 inclusive for \$16,835.89.

Highway Abstract #3, vouchers #13 through #27 inclusive for \$7,402.13.

Highway Superintendent John J. Farrell reported on the various projects done by the Highway Department since the last meeting: There were two snow events. Washed the trucks.

The tree work was finished on Flats Road Ext. and started on Flats Road.

The bearing shaft on chipper was replaced 3 weeks ago. He has been getting prices on a new chipper, as it may be a better investment to purchase a new one. We have had the current one since 1985 or 86. We borrowed one from the County.

The trucks were NYS inspected. Roads were checked. Used the grad all in the Town of Catskill for 2 days.

He serviced the loader and the tractor 5085m. They cleared trees around building and started digging out the hill.

Met with Biggs RE: garage, electric site issues.

Supervisor Butler told the Board that Doug Clark was going to develop the site.

Bookkeeper Michael Strenka informed the Board that the Town had received the \$75,440 check from the Town of Catskill Landfill money.

The Town also received \$21,400 for NYS Intervenor Funds from the AC Transmission Funds.

Bookkeeper Strenka informed the Board that he was currently busy doing quarterly reports, and getting the books ready for the accountants.

He also reported that his software has been updated. He will be trained on the new software.

(It is QuickBooks 2013 with new data.)

Councilwoman Brandow asked why there were no vouchers for AARP and United Health Care. She was informed that the money gets wired out as a journal entry, as he previously had the authority to do this.

Mr. Strenka advised the Board that the MVP insurance forms must be turned in by Friday February 5th.

Code Enforcement Officer George Holsopple reported that the Attorney wrote a letter to the Bank regarding the building on Gypsy Point Road, and then he heard from the manager. 3 violations were sent out on November 15, 2015: one for the front porch and stairs; one for the side porch and stairs; and one for weed and growth.

Attorney Benedict suggested that it is possible that the Bank has taken over.

Mr. Holsopple reported that Hudson River Bulk was low on money. They have one thing left to do.

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There will be a public hearing on Dollar General. Signage will be a problem. No permits have been issued. A Special Use Permit will be needed due to being so close to the highway.

Greg Christy of North East Treaters asked where the Town was on the project.

Attorney Virginia Benedict informed him that she is waiting for the proposed amended map from Don Meltz.

At the next meeting the Board will be presented with the proposed local law.

She is looking for guidance from the Engineer on March 27th.

Greene County Planning Board should have the proposed local law by March 7th and they have 30 days to comment. April 4th will be the Town Board meeting. The meeting of April 18th will be the public hearing. Full EAF is needed. The Board needs to review the comprehensive plan.

Goal #1 – Economic Development it is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan of 2007.

Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr. made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow that ***economic development is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan of 2007.*** Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. made a motion seconded by Councilman Michael Ragaini that ***the Town declares itself as Lead Agency for the proposed local law for the change in zoning.*** Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

The Town Board reviewed the Town Clerk's Report.

Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow made a motion seconded by Councilman Anthony Paluch ***to accept the Town Clerk's Report as presented.*** Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Supervisor Butler reported that he met with Trustee Lasher regarding the Town's Lease. They both agreed on 0% increase for 2016. The lease will be \$28,604, for the next 2 years.

Supervisor Butler's proposal is to remove a home from South Franklin Street. The Town will demolish it and then get the money back in taxes. The County needs to be notified. The Village will need to assign demolition rights to the Town.

Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr. made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow ***authorizing the Supervisor to sign the Lease Agreement with the Village at 0% increase, and the Village to give the Town something in writing for demolition of the house on South Franklin Street.*** Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. made a motion seconded by Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr. to ***approve the minutes of January 18, 2016 as corrected.*** Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Supervisor Butler informed the Board that the Capital Bicycle Racing Club will be in Athens for April 9th and April 16th.

There was a discussion on the Building Committee. Councilman Michael Ragaini; Anthony Paluch and Richard M. Surrano, Jr. will do a Fair Cost Analysis.

Ribbon Cutting was held at Field Goods (Old GT Britts bld.) Deputy Supervisor Joseph Iraci attended on behalf of the Town.

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Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. made a motion seconded by Councilman Anthony Paluch to go into Executive Session to discuss Medical Insurance Buyout for an employee. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0 Time 8:25 pm

Councilman Anthony Paluch made a motion seconded by Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. to come out of Executive Session and reconvene the regular meeting. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0 Time: 8:59 pm

As there was no further business to come before the meeting a motion to adjourn was made by Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. seconded by Councilman Michael Ragaini. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Meeting Adjourn at 9:00 pm.