

REGULAR MEETING – ATHENS TOWN BOARD – July 6, 2015

The regular meeting of the Athens Town Board was called to order at 7: 00 p.m. on July 6, 2015 by Supervisor Joseph B. Iraci with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and a moment of silence.

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

These people were also present: Attorney Virginia Benedict; Bookkeeper Michael Strenka; Interim Assessor Carol McBride; Code Enforcement Officer George Holsopple; Lynn Brunner; Anthony Paluch and Melanie Lekocevic.

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

General Abstract #13, vouchers #301 through #343 inclusive for \$38,086.67.

Highway Abstract #12, vouchers #119 through #133 inclusive for \$5,226.23.

Assessor Carol McBride and Attorney Virginia Benedict explained 3 parcels from 2014 Article 7 pending closure.

Parcel 103.00-1-2, assessment 450,300, settlement 423,200

Parcel 86.00-1-19 assessment 51,000, settlement 27,000

Parcel 103. 00-1-7 assessment, 37,200, settlement 33,200

Mrs. McBride reported that the final roll has been completed and Notice Published of the same for July 1, 2015. The Board of Assessment and Review will meet in August pending any corrections made to the Final Roll.

The Grand Total parcel Count is 3062. (Town-1057 + Village 1105)

Total Town Assessment is 1,798.989,950. (Town 1,593.693,534 + Village 205,296,416)

The Board of Assessment and Review is looking for two additional members, to make the Board a five Person Board.

Tax Cap Refund: The Tax Credit will be based on a sliding scale and will not be a cash refund but a “tax credit”.

Assessor Carol McBride has completed one component for basic certification “Assessor Orientation” and she has also signed up for ORPTS online Training “Fundamentals of Assessment Administration”, which is scheduled to begin July 31, 2015. The exam will take place in Albany County on August 5, 2015. Then one more course is needed for this year on ethics which will be offered in Ithaca on July 17, 2015.

Supervisor Joseph B. Iraci made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Mary H, Brandow to appoint Anthony Paluch as Councilman to fill the seat left vacant by the passing of former Councilwoman April Paluch, for the remainder of 2015. Ayes-3 (Iraci; Brandow; Ragaini) Noes-0 Absent-1(Butler) Abstentions-0

Bookkeeper/Budget Officer Michael Strenka went over the monthly Financial Statement of the Supervisor.

Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow made a motion seconded by Councilman Michael Ragaini to accept the Supervisor’s Financial Statement as presented. Ayes -4 (Iraci; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Butler) Abstentions-0

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Bicentennial Chairperson Lynn J. Brunner informed the Board that there would be a parade on September 26, 2015, at 1:00 p.m. followed by a picnic at the Athens Volunteer Fire House on Third Street. In October a dinner dance will be held.

Code Enforcement Officer George Holsopple reported that an Abstract Company had paid the taxes for Budget Inn, and it has been sold. (It is located on Rt. 9W.)

The Gypsy Point House is assessed for 83,000; the taxes were paid by SLS. George would like to find out who the owner is, so the house can be taken down.

535 Green Lake Road is assessed for 40,000; is going into default

North East Treaters has purchased a Demolition permit to knock down the old offices and building on the property. They have taken out a NEW building permit to improve the facility.

Owen Lipstein is making Dr. Karim's property off Rte. 385, and is making it into a wedding venue, without a certificate of occupancy.

Councilman Ragaini talked about the Unsafe Building Law.

Attorney Virginia Benedict explained what other Towns have done. Discussion followed.

Mr. Iraci informed the Board that there will be a meeting on July 8, 2015, at 8:30 am with Attorney Benedict, Supervisor Iraci and Code Enforcement Officer George Holsopple.

Councilman Robert F. Butler, Jr. arrived at this time: 7:30 P.m.

Board reviewed the minutes of 6/15/2015.

Councilman Michael Ragaini made a motion seconded by Councilman Robert F. Butler, Jr. to approve the minutes of June 15, 2015 approve as read. Ayes-5 (Iraci; Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

The Town Clerk's Report was reviewed by the Board.

Councilman Michael Ragaini made a motion seconded by Mary H, Brandow, to approve the Town Clerk's Report as presented. Ayes-5 (Iraci; Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Supervisor Joseph B. Iraci made a motion seconded by Councilman Michael Ragaini to accept the Attorney's recommended Appraisals on the three Campbell properties. Ayes-5 (Iraci; Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Supervisor Joseph B. Iraci made a motion seconded by Councilman Robert F, Butler, Jr. to accept the accept the Letter of resignation of Laura L. Chase, who served as Sole Assessor for the Town of Athens, for the last ten years, with regret. Ayes-5 (Iraci; Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Supervisor Iraci told the Council people to think about they wanted to do about the telephone and website services. We currently have Corner Stone Telephone Service Contract and North Shore as our website service.

The Greene County Tri Y has asked the Town of Athens for support at their Annual Event which will be held in September 2015.

Councilman Robert F. Butler, Jr. seconded by Supervisor Joseph B. Iraci a motion that a letter of support be written and be sent to the Greene County Tri Y was made expressing the Towns Support. Ayes-5 (Iraci; Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

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Supervisor Iraci reported that applications are still being collected for the positions of Community Foundation Advisory Board member; a Member of the Board of the Assessment and Review, and Clerk to the Assessor.

CSX Railroad is looking to put a second mainline of 7.8 miles in length from Catskill to Cossackie.

Mr. Iraci has been reviewing Local Law #52-9 RE: the Submission of Purchase Requests which was adopted 3/9/1996.

Mr. Iraci then spoke about Elayne Gold, of the Law Firm of Roemer, Wallens, Gold & Mineaux.

Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow made a motion seconded by Councilman Michael Ragaini to *hire the firm of Roemer, Wallens, Gold & Mineaux for the purpose of representing the Town's interests in connection with Teamster Negotiations 2015.* Ayes-5 (Iraci; Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

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

Meeting was adjourned at 9:25 pm.