

REGULAR MEETING – ATHENS TOWN BOARD--July 20, 2015

The regular meeting of the Athens Town Board was called to order by Supervisor Joseph B. Iraci with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and a moment of silence on July 20, 2015, at 7:00 p.m.

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

These people were also present; Attorney Virginia Benedict; Michael Pirrone; Al Ramm; Attorney Jeffrey Baker of Young & Sommer; and Gregory Christy of North East Treaters.

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

General Abstract #14, vouchers #344 through #361 inclusive for \$14,401.20.

Highway Abstract #13, voucher #134 for \$6,068.04.

Councilman Robert F. Butler, Jr. made a motion seconded by Councilman Michael Ragaini *to approve the minutes of July 6, 2015 as read*. Ayes-4 (Iraci; Butler; Ragaini; Paluch) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Brandow) Abstentions-0

Attorney Jeffrey Baker and Manger of North East Treaters Greg Christy presented a proposal for North East Treaters. They have purchased 24 acres of land abutting their current property going east & north. They are proposing zoning change on 19 of these acres, leaving the balance zoning rural residential. They are doing a 6 million dollar renovation.

Mr. Iraci informed them that a change in zoning would require a public hearing.

Attorney Virginia Benedict added that there was no “spot zoning” allowed. You will have to make a finding for the SEQRA. This needs to be sent to the County and they meet on the third week of each month. Supervisor Iraci said that he would contact the zoning Board Secretary.

Mr. Christy informed the Board that demolition of the former office building begins on August 3; they would like to move as quickly as possible.

Mrs. Benedict explained the steps of making zoning changes including map changes; the 30 day comment period; site plan & review of same; SEQRA; map and public hearing.

Michael Pirrone introduced, Al Ramm from N. Vernon Street, as the new President of the Athens Senior Club.

Councilman Robert F. Butler, Jr. and Councilman Michael Ragaini lead a discussion on the building committee.

Attorney Virginia Benedict’s Firm will prepare and outline the steps needed to support a request for a zoning change.

Code Enforcement Officer George Holsopple spoke about the Property Maintenance Code and property formerly owned by Fox on Green Lake Road. (Now owned by a bank.) Attorney Benedict will send a letter to the new owner regarding the property maintenance.

Mr. Gil owner of property at Hidden Drive apparently is operating a Bed & Breakfast.

Owen Lipstein (purchased the former Dr. Karim’s property and property adjacent to it on the south side in Catskill) connected two properties to make a “Wedding Venue”. There have been several instances of mass gatherings and some noise complaints.

Discussion followed.

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Supervisor Iraci Projects:

Corner Stone Telephone and North Shore performance reviews are underway.

Supervisor Iraci handed 2016 budget schedules. Meetings will be held on Wednesday nights at 7:00 pm in the Town Clerk's office.

Supervisor Iraci reported on the recent findings of NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets' annual inspection of the Dog Control Officer Sherry Vieta's reports and her equipment. The Inspector, Miss Holmes, found that our Dog Control Officer's equipment was outdated and ineffective. She suggested purchasing new equipment so that the annual report would show that Athens Dog Control Officer was in satisfactory compliance.

The notice put in the paper for members for the Board of Review received two replies: George Greiner and Andy Gauzza;

Clerk to the Assessor: received two replies: Pietrina Ragaini and Roger Pegorsch;

Planning Board: received one: Robert Wager;

Community Foundation-Advisory Bd. Received one- Nora Adelman

Councilman Michael Ragaini made a motion seconded by Councilman Robert F. Butler, Jr. to appoint Rosemary Blois as a member of the Town Planning Board. (She is currently an alternate). Carried. Ayes-4 (Iraci; Butler; Ragaini; Paluch) Noes-0 Absent-1(Brandow) Abstentions-0

Councilman Anthony Paluch made a motion seconded by Councilman Michael Ragaini to appoint Robert W. Wager, III. as an Alternate to the Town Planning Board. Carried. Ayes-4 (Iraci; Butler; Ragaini; Paluch) Noes-0 Absent-1(Brandow) Abstentions-0

Supervisor called a recess at 8:50pm to 8:58pm.

Councilman Anthony Paluch made a motion seconded by Supervisor Joseph B. Iraci to appoint Pietrina Ragaini as Clerk to the Assessor. Carried. Ayes-3 (Iraci; Butler; Paluch) Noes-0 Absent-1(Brandow) Abstention-1(Ragaini)

August 3 is the next Board meeting. Board meets with Elayne Gold, negotiator, at 5:30.

Councilman Anthony Paluch asked about a reduced speed limit at 9W and Leeds Athens Road due to all the accidents that have been there. Discussion followed.

As there was no further business to come before the meeting, a motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Michael Ragaini seconded by Supervisor Joseph B. Iraci. Carried. Ayes-4 (Iraci; Butler; Ragaini; Paluch) Noes-0 Absent-1(Brandow) Abstentions-0

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm.