

REGULAR MEETING – ATHENS TOWN BOARD – September 8, 2015

A regular meeting of the Athens Town Board was called to order on September 8, 2015 at 7:00 pm by Supervisor Joseph B. Iraci, with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of reflection.

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

These people were also present: Bookkeeper Michael Strenka; Phyllis Dinkelacker; Joe and Diane Capobianco; Legislators Eugene Hatton; Kevin Lennon and Bill Lawrence; Aiden O'Connor, Jr.; and Ron Rouse.

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

General Abstract #17, vouchers #394 through #425 inclusive for \$37,128.82.

Highway Abstract #16, vouchers #161 through #167 inclusive for \$7,164.42.

Joseph and Diane Capobianco approached the Board regarding a Noise Ordinance or Noise Pollution Control Law. He had copies of Noise Ordinances from the Towns of Greenville, Catskill and Hunter. Mr. Capobianco went on to say that he had an issue with Loud music being played and called the Sheriff's Office, who came and checked out the problem, however since the Town of Athens doesn't have a "noise" law, they couldn't do anything.

Mr. Capobianco went on to explain that the decibel level of the music was too high. He pointed out that the Town of Hunter set hours and decibel levels in their law.

Mr. Capobianco also had a dog complaint, where he notified the Dog Control Officer who he said never got back to him.

Supervisor Iraci stated that a lot of the sound issues are coming from short term rentals: Gatherings both commercial as well as private.

Bookkeeper Michael Strenka presented the Supervisor's financial report for Board review.

Councilman Michael Ragaini made a motion seconded by Councilman Anthony Paluch *to accept the Supervisor's financial report as presented*. Carried: Ayes-4 (Iraci; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Butler) Abstentions-0

Supervisor Iraci informed everyone that the Board intended to freeze the amount of taxes that taxpayers' will pay in Town taxes in 2016.

Mr. Robert Hilbert, from Appraisal Consultants will be at the meeting of September 21, 2015.

Highway Superintendent John J. Farrell reported that the highway crew will replace 2 small culverts this week, from 4'' to 10'', to help homes alleviate storm water problems.

Mr. Farrell reported that he had notified the company that micro paved Buttermilk Falls Road last year, that he was unhappy with it, so they came and looked at it, and repaved 2,500 feet at their cost for the Town.

Highway Superintendent Farrell requested a change to the Road Agreement: The CHIPS Project, the Schoharie Turnpike Box Culvert at the reservoir, instead of being concrete he wants to change it to Aluminum. The Grant finally came through; however they need to be out of the Stream by September 30, 2015.

He wishes to order the structure and store it until April 1<sup>st</sup>. The work won't be completed by the end of this year. It will be an open Project.

Mr. Farrell requested permission to haul four (4) loads of stone to the West Athens Fire House.

Highway Superintendent Farrell informed the Board that the Highway crew had taken aerial training, in Hoosick Falls.

He informed the Board that they have an opportunity to purchase a 2003 International Bucket Truck, from Hoosick Falls. It has a 40 foot reach, with 98,000 miles on it and has been checked out by Ben Funk. The Town has been borrowing the County's bucket truck. He currently has \$19,650 left in his machinery budget.

EMS Council. Aiden O'Connor spoke to the Board about the 2016 County Wide Ambulance Plan. He spoke of the quality improvements of a County wide System, as well as the financial improvements of a County –Wide System. He compared the costs of a County-Wide system to a Multiple Agency System. Capital Costs of \$1 Million dollars. There would be one-time start-up costs for 14 ambulances, defibrillators, etc. Options: (1) applied for a State grant (2) Bank Loan (3) Per capita assessment (cost offset by sale of items).

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

Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow made a motion to accept the Town Clerk's report as presented seconded by Councilman Michael Ragaini. Carried; Ayes-4 (Iraci; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Butler) Abstentions-0

Supervisor Iraci told the Board that Carol Pfister requested that the Town to take the Victorian Stroll over. It was suggested to invite her to a meeting.

Mr. Iraci also informed the Board that Dollar General is working with our planning board and plans to come to Athens.

Supervisor Iraci stated that the following people are interested in being on the Athens Community Foundation Advisory Board: Nora Adelman; Monty Jordan; Mike Pirrone; Nancy Clark; Jane Wais; Ron Puhalski and Karen Boeri.

Mr. Iraci informed the Board that the Village –Town Cooperative Sharing Committee will be setting dates to begin their planning strategy.

Councilman Anthony Paluch made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow *to approve the minutes of August 17, 2015* as read. Carried. Ayes-4 (Iraci; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Butler) Abstentions-0

Supervisor Iraci informed the Board that the former Health Officer for the Consolidated Health District is no longer practicing in our area. He has spoken to Dr. Steve Hassett of Coxsackie EmUrgent Care of Coxsackie and Dr. Robert Schneider of Catskill Urgent Care to see if they would be interested in being the Town's Health Officer. They both showed interest in the position. Mr. Iraci's recommendation was Dr. Schneider.

Councilman Michael Ragaini made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow *to appoint Dr. Robert Schneider of Catskill Urgent Care to the position of Health Officer for the Consolidated Health District*. Carried; Ayes-4 (Iraci; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Butler) Abstentions-0

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Employee Benefit Standards were discussed. Full time –receives full time benefits, holidays, vacation and sick days. 30hours receives ¾ benefits (holidays, vacation and sick days.) 20 hours or more receive ½ benefits (holidays, vacations and sick days). The Town currently has two employees that this affects. Both of them are at 25 hours.

Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow made a motion seconded by Councilman Anthony Paluch *to adopt the above benefit standards for these two employees.* Carried: Ayes-4 (Iraci; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Butler) Abstentions-0

**Procurement Policy:** Supervisor Iraci is developing a new form to comply with our local law.

**Bicentennial Committee:** This is moving along nicely, thanks to Chairman Lynn Brunner's extra efforts to overcome some difficulties.

On the motion of Councilman Michael Ragaini seconded by Councilman Anthony Paluch the following **RESOLUTION #2015-27** to *order the box culvert for Schoharie Turnpike at the reservoir, out of 2015's CHIPS money and store it until April of 2016 when it can be put into place, was adopted.* Ayes-4 (Iraci; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Butler) Abstentions-0

Councilman Michael Ragaini made a motion seconded by Councilman Anthony Paluch *to allow the Town truck to haul 4 loads of stone to West Athens Lime Street Fire Company.* Carried. Ayes-4 (Iraci; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Butler) Abstentions-0

On the motion of Supervisor Joseph B. Iraci seconded by Councilman Anthony Paluch the following **RESOLUTION #2015-28** to *authorize the purchase of the bucket truck, at a cost of \$14,965.00, to come out of the DA 5130.2 Machinery budget line item which has \$19,650 left.* was adopted and carried. Ayes-4 (Iraci; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Butler) Abstentions-0

Councilman Anthony Paluch made a motion seconded by Supervisor Joseph B. Iraci to go *into Executive Session to discuss labor negotiations.* carried; Ayes-4 (Iraci; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Butler) Abstentions-0 (Time- 9:30 pm)

Councilman Ragaini left at this time.

Supervisor Joseph B. Iraci made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow *to come out of Executive Session and reconvene the regular meeting.* Ayes-4 (Iraci; Brandow; Paluch) Noes-0 Absent-2 (Butler; Ragaini) Abstentions-0 (Time: 9:35 pm)

As there was no further business to come before the meeting a motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Anthony Paluch seconded by Supervisor Joseph B. Iraci and carried. Ayes-3 (Iraci; Brandow; Paluch) Noes-0 Absent-2 (Butler; Ragaini) Abstentions-0

Meeting adjourned at 9:38 P.M.

