

REGULAR MEETING – ATHENS TOWN BOARD – October 5, 2015

The regular meeting of the Athens Town Board was called to order on October 5, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor Joseph B. Iraci with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and a moment of reflection.

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

These people were also present: Attorney Virginia Benedict; Bookkeeper/Budget Officer Michael Strenka; Interim Assessor Carol McBride; Code Enforcement Officer George Holsopple; Patrica McLoughlin and Greg Christy of North East Treaters.

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

General Abstract #19, vouchers #457 through #475 inclusive for \$27,488.68.

Highway Abstract #18, vouchers #190 through #193 inclusive for \$914.31.

Attorney Virginia Benedict advised the Board and Greg Christy of North East Treaters that she and Corrine Smith were going to DEC tomorrow and they would find out what more is needed for the SEQRA review. They will also find out what is required for the deed restrictions.

Mr. Christy asked about setting up an escrow account.

The minutes of September 21, 2015 were approved as read on the motion Councilman Robert F. Butler, Jr seconded by Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow and carried. Ayes-4(Iraci; Butler; Brandow; Ragaini) Noes-0 Absent-1(Paluch) Abstention-0

Councilman Robert F. Butler, Jr. made a motion seconded by Councilman Michael Ragaini to appoint the following people to the Athens Community Foundation Advisory Board to fill the three vacant seats, for a term of three years each: Ron Puhalski; Monty Jordan and Karen Boeri. This was carried. Ayes-4(Iraci; Butler; Brandow; Ragaini) Noes-0 Absent-1(Paluch) Abstention-0

The Supervisor's Financial Report was reviewed by the Board.

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

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

Councilman Robert F. Butler, Jr. made a motion seconded by Supervisor Joseph B. Iraci to accept the Town Clerk's Report as presented. Ayes-4(Iraci; Butler; Brandow; Ragaini) Noes-0 Absent-1(Paluch) Abstention-0

Supervisor Iraci informed the Board that we could have a contract for ambulance service from the Town of Catskill for 2016 (1 yr) at a flat rate- \$89,000, based on \$222.50 per person x 400 calls. The rates are going up to \$300 per person so it would be \$300 x 400 calls= \$120,000.

OR

a two year contract: Year 1 \$88,000 (\$220) \$250 x 400 calls=-\$100,000  
Year 2 \$91,000 (227.50) \$250 x400 calls= \$100,000

Code Enforcement Officer George Holsopple reported that the blasting was done on Farm to Market Road. There were no problems. The job has been completed.

270 Green Lake Road is running into problems putting in their replacement septic system. They have hit rock.

He and the Interim Assessor went to Athens Gen and checked out the new building which is 40'x 40' in size.

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Board members received their copies of the Tentative Budget for 2016.

Councilman Michael Ragaini made a motion seconded by Supervisor Joseph B Iraci to accept the Tentative Budget for 2016. Carried. Ayes-4 (Iraci; Butler; Brandow; Ragaini) Noes-0 Absent-1(Paluch) Abstention-0

Supervisor Iraci advised the Board that the Town website which is maintained by North Shore, has been turned off. He stated that he would talk the Matthew Turcotte to see why this has been done.

Councilman Michael Ragaini made a motion seconded by Councilman Robert F. Butler, Jr. *to hire the firm of Ryan Briggs & Associates to Design and Engineer a package for the Town Garage additions, so it can be put out to bid*, was carried. Ayes-4(Iraci; Butler; Brandow; Ragaini) Noes-0 Absent-1(Paluch) Abstention-0

On the motion of Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow seconded by Councilman Robert F. Butler, Jr. the following **RESOLUTION #2015-30** *authorizing the Town Court to apply for a Grant through the Justice Court Assistance Program, so they can purchase a ScanSnap Document Scanner, allowing them to scan all documents associated with Traffic Violations, Small Claims, Evictions, and Criminal Files into their computers*, was adopted. Ayes-4(Iraci; Butler; Brandow; Ragaini) Noes-0 Absent-1(Paluch) Abstention-0

Interim Assessor Carol McBride reported that two parcels had reduced assessments. There were also two parcels that were taken to small claims- for reduced assessment. She has registered for a class for April of 2016. The battery has come for her laptop.

Carol reported that 137 enhanced star renewals have been mailed out. Participants will need income tax documentation from 2014 when returning applications. The income limit for this year is \$84,550. Enhanced Star IVP Participants will receive postcards next month verified by Taxation and Finance regarding their enrollment. The remaining renewals for exemptions will be sent by the end of December. All exemptions a due by Taxable Status Date, March 1, 2016.

Assessor McBride and Bob Hilbert will be editing and analyzing sales for the preliminary market study with ORPTS to establish 2016 Equalization rates.

Supervisor Joseph B. Iraci made a motion seconded by Councilman Robert F. Butler, Jr. *to approve the Interim Assessor's Report as presented*. Ayes-4(Iraci; Butler; Brandow; Ragaini) Noes-0 Absent-1(Paluch) Abstention-0

Councilman Robert F. Butler, Jr. made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow *to go into Executive Session to discuss labor negotiations and a personnel issue*, Assessor Carol McBride was invited to stay. Ayes-4(Iraci; Butler; Brandow; Ragaini) Noes-0 Absent-1(Paluch) Abstention-0 Time: 7:50 p.m.

Councilman Michael Ragaini made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow *to come out of Executive Session and reconvene the regular session*. Carried. Ayes-4(Iraci; Butler; Brandow; Ragaini) Noes-0 Absent-1(Paluch) Abstention-0 Time: 8:50 p.m.

As there was no further business to come before the meeting a motion to adjourn as made by Councilman Robert F. Butler, Jr. Seconded by Councilman Michael Ragaini and carried. Ayes-4(Iraci; Butler; Brandow; Ragaini) Noes-0 Absent-1(Paluch) Abstention-0 Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.