

REGULAR MEETING – ATHENS TOWN BOARD – November 5, 2015

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

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

These people were also present: Attorney Virginia Benedict; Deputy Clerk Cathy Lyden; Bookkeeper Michael Strenka and Code Enforcement Officer George Holsopple.

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

General Abstract #21, vouchers #492 to #518 inclusive for \$34,726.84.

Highway Abstract #20, vouchers #212 to #222 inclusive for \$10,010.87.

Supervisor Iraci read the Notice of Public Hearing on the Proposed Preliminary Budget for 2016, as it appeared in the Official Newspaper. He the open the floor to the public for questions. Bookkeeper Strenka had prepared a comparison of appropriations versus taxes percentages for 2015 and 2016 for the Town, Fire Protection Districts and Library District, which Supervisor Iraci also read. It showed the following:

	2015	2016	% of change
Town: App:	1,747,729	1,738,576	.5% √
Taxes:	651,583	651,583	-0-%
Fire &: App:	478,491	493,757	3.2%^
Library: Taxes	300,101	306,553	2.2%^
Total: App:	2,226,220	2,232,333	.3%^
Taxes:	951,684	958,136	.7% ^

The collected Town taxes are the same as in 2014 & 2015.

Councilman Robert F. Butler, Jr. made a motion seconded by Councilman Anthony Paluch to close the public hearing on the preliminary budget and convene the regular meeting. All in Favor. Ayes-4(Iraci; Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Ragaini) Abstentions-0

Discussion followed on budget.

Highway Superintendent John J. Farrell reported that the sand and salt is all mixed. They helped mix the sand and salt for the Village. Have been doing tree work along the roads. They have been doing Grad all work on Flats Ext.

The bucket truck had to have an electric valve replaced at a cast of \$500.00. He had to order new rear tires for truck #6. They helped the Village do a concrete pad at the water plant. Needed filters for servicing all equipment- he got three quotes – Napa was the cheapest.

Code Enforcement Officer George Holsopple reported on the following:

1. That Pine View Apartments had worked out their extermination violation.
2. An Athens resident had been given 3 weeks to clean up, and they did so it was dismissed by court.

3. Dresser Properties on Quarry Road: Mr. Holsopple stated that the road to reach the house is too narrow to get an emergency vehicle down it. (This house is currently being rented out.) Discussion followed.

Attorney Virginia Benedict informed him that you can't protect people from themselves. Mr. Holsopple can only issue tickets for code or property violations.

4. #583 Rudolph way (of Potic Mt. Road) a wood frame building has been built without any permits. (No septic permit or building Permit, and no well test or electric, it is currently using a generator.)

Attorney Virginia Benedict advised Code Enforcement Officer Holsopple to issue Violation Notices.

Code Enforcement Officer George Holsopple informed the Board that Owen Lipstein has applied for a Fireworks Permit for December 10, 2015. The Fireworks will be shot off by Young Fire Works.

Mr. Holsopple informed the Board that they had passed Resolution 2014-33 entitled Fill Permits. The Fee for a fill permit was listed as \$25.00 for a resident. Discussion followed.

After reviewing the Supervisor's Financial Report a motion to accept the same was made by Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow and seconded by Councilman Robert F. Butler, Jr. and carried. Ayes-4(Iraci; Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Ragaini) Abstentions-0

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

Councilman Robert F. Butler, Jr. made a motion seconded by Councilman Anthony Paluch to approve the minutes of October 15, 2015 as read. Ayes-4(Iraci; Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Ragaini) Abstentions-0

Supervisor Joseph Iraci informed the Board that North East Treaters are in the process of providing a new topographical map regarding their zoning change.

Councilman Robert F. Butler, Jr. reported that he had taken a conference call with Peter Markou, Rene Van Schaack, Paul Goldman and Kate Farrell regarding Athens Gen.

Talen Energy is the new owner of US Gen. Talen Energy is an independent power producer founded in 2015. It was formed when the competitive power generation business of Corporation was spun off and immediately combined with competitive generation businesses owned by private equity firm Riverstone Holdings. Following these transactions, PPL shareholders owned 65% of Talen's common stock and affiliates of Riverstone owned 35%. As a condition for FERC approval Talen agreed to divest approximately 1,300 megawatts of generating assets in the PJM Interconnection Region to mitigate FERC's competitiveness concerns.

There is no new mortgage tax, current mortgage of \$750 million still in place.

New York State will make money on a transfer tax only.

Assets are to be transferred.

Remain with the 2/7 and 5/7 power payments made to Athens & IDA.

There is now a Guarantee in place by Talen for the remaining years on the PILOT.

PG &E went bankrupt the Lenders took over.

Supervisor Joseph B. Iraci spoke to the Board about the Ambulance Contract. He reminded them that it was a flat rate for the first time. He asked for a motion authorizing him to sign and return a copy of the Contract to Catskill.

Councilman Robert F. Butler, Jr. made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow authorizing the supervisor to sign the contract with Catskill Ambulance and return it. Ayes-4(Iraci; Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Ragaini) Abstentions-0

Supervisor Iraci spoke about putting only enough money in the budget for 2 Councilpersons to go to training in January on the 13th through the 15th, 2016. He has since reconsidered and recommends that all the Board should be encouraged to attend. Need to check with Rick Surrano and Mike Ragaini.

Mr. Iraci handed out copies of new purchase orders for the Board to review and consider.

Councilman Anthony Paluch made a motion seconded by Councilman Robert F. Butler, Jr. to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue and Labor Negotiations. Ayes-4(Iraci; Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Ragaini) Abstentions-0 (Deputy Clerk Cathy Lyden and Bookkeeper Michael Strenka were invited in.) Time: 8:30 pm

Councilman Robert F. Butler, Jr. made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow to come out of Executive Session and reconvene the regular meeting. Ayes-4(Iraci; Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Ragaini) Abstentions-0 Time: 8:50 pm

On the motion of Supervisor Joseph B. Iraci seconded by Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow the following **RESOLUTION #2015-33**, was adopted:

TOWN BOARD

TOWN OF ATHENS

Resolution No. 33 of the Year 2015

Dated: November 5, 2015

WHEREAS, the town board has determined that it would be beneficial to the Town to clarify the payment of medical insurance premiums for employees working less than forty hours per week; and

WHEREAS, the town board further determined that it would be beneficial to the Town to clarify how the proportion of the payment to be made should be determined; and

WHEREAS, the town board has further determined that it should clarify the payments made to date and how the salary of the Deputy Clerk is to be set;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Athens shall pay proportionately for medical insurance premiums for employees working a minimum of thirty hours per week averaged monthly at one-hundred twenty hours and that this is in conformance with the Employee Handbook; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Athens in determining how much of the medical insurance premium shall be paid for said employees shall base same upon the benefit being fully paid at forty hours per week, and shall pay the proportionate share based upon the ratio of hours worked; and be it further

REGULAR MEETING – ATHENS TOWN BOARD – November 5, 2015

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Athens set the Deputy Clerk's salary at \$15.15 per hour as of the date of this Resolution with reviews to occur taking into account the duties relative to the pay grade as set forth in the Employee Handbook; and

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Athens ratifies all payments made to date relative to medical insurance premiums, time earned and hourly rates relative to the Deputy Clerk as of the date hereof such that neither has any further obligation to the other regarding same.

Upon the question of the adoption of this Resolution, the following Board members voted Aye in favor of the Resolution:

Supervisor Iraci, Councilman Butler, Councilwoman Brandow, Councilman Paluch.

The following Board member voted No in opposition of the Resolution: none

Councilman Ragaini was absent.

The proposed Resolution having been approved by a majority of the Board, the same was declared duly adopted by the Athens Town Board.

Dated: November 5, 2015

Linda M. Stacey

Linda M. Stacey, Town Clerk

Athens Town Board

As there was no further business to come before the meeting a motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Anthony Paluch and seconded by Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow. Ayes-4 (Iraci; Butler; Brandow Paluch) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Ragaini Abstentions-0

Meeting adjourned at 9:03 pm