

REGULAR MEETING – ATHENS TOWN BOARD – November 16, 2015

The regular meeting of the Athens Town Board was called to order on November 16, 2015, by Supervisor Joseph B. Iraci at 7:00 p.m. 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; Councilman Anthony Paluch and Town Clerk Linda M. Stacey.

These People were also present: Attorney Virginia Benedict; Bookkeeper/Budget Officer Michael Strenka; Councilman Elect Rick Surrano; Coxsackie-Athens CSD Superintendent of Schools, Randall Squier; Assistant Superintendent of School Services, Leslie Copleston; and members of the Board of Education Mike Petramale, Carol Ann Luccio, Barton Wallace and Seph Garland.

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

General Abstract #22, vouchers #519 through #542 inclusive for \$31,747.56.

Highway Abstract #21, vouchers #223 through #233 inclusive for \$5,139.89.

Mr. Randall Squier, Coxsackie-Athens CSD Superintendent of Schools informed the Board that CACSD residents will decide on a \$17.9 million referendum on December 15. If approved by the community, the project will address the following:

- Safety and security upgrades at all schools.
- Classroom improvements for instructional programs.
- Renovations to the field and track for school and community use.

Under safety and security he highlighted the installation of cameras inside and outside of all school buildings; replacing all interior door hardware with intruder lock sets; replace fire alarm, building access, PA and phone systems; reconfigure the Athens and Coxsackie bus loops and parking lots; Connect the Coxsackie MS/HS and ES alarm Systems.

Under Classroom improvements they plan to reconfigure HS classrooms to make more efficient, effective use of existing space; renovate auditorium, art rooms, band and choral rooms, tech rooms and library; Cluster classes by program to allow for more flexible, learning; Upgrade tech classrooms to replicate the space students see in college workplace; replace auditorium and MS gym sound systems; replace and expand auditorium lighting; create an outdoor middle school recess space.

Track & field improvements: Renovations and expansion is planned for the 26-year-old asphalt track with new resilient surfacing; Install a multi-purpose synthetic turf field with lights and press box for school and community use.

Financial information: With voter approval. About 90% of the project would be eligible for state building aid. The estimated annual average tax increase for homeowners with a home valued at \$100,000 (1 \$0.33 increase per \$1,000 of assessed value) \$33/year. If approved, the project would begin in 2016 and be completed in 2018. The projected tax impact would begin in the 2018-2019 school year.

Public hearings will be held on December 2 at Edward J. Arthur Elementary or on December 3 at Coxsackie Elementary, both beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Vote- Dec. 15, 1 to 9 p.m. at Coxsackie and Edward J. Arthur elementary Schools.

Discussion followed:

Board members reviewed the minutes of November 5, 2015.

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

On the motion of Supervisor Joseph B. Iraci seconded by Councilman Robert F. Butler, Jr. the following **RESOLUTION #2015-34** *to make changes to the 2016 preliminary budget and adopt it as the 2016 Town Budget.* Ayes-5 (Iraci; Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

North East Treaters: They are getting a new topographical map made.

Supervisor Iraci still is waiting to hear from the Association of Towns in regards to information on rentals, noise and mass gatherings and any laws.

He is also checking into the Consolidated Health law.

Supervisor Iraci showed copies of a sample purchase order for Town use, to the Board members.

Building Committee: Councilman Butler informed the Board that a survey of the Town Garage needs to be done. However they are moving forward.

Supervisor Iraci advised the Board that we might have bills that have to be paid before the next meeting as it is three (3) weeks from tonight, on December 7th.

Board members were reminded of the Association of Towns Annual Training in Albany on January 13-15th, 2016.

Columbia-Greene Shelter Agreement for 2016 has been received. It is \$35 per dog for the first ten days of housing.

Councilman Robert F. Butler, Jr. made a motion seconded by Councilman Michael Ragaini *authorizing the Supervisor to sign the Columbia-Greene Humane Society Shelter Agreement for 2016.* Ayes-5 (Iraci; Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Councilman Paluch stated that he would like to revisit zoning. Councilmen Paluch & Ragaini to be on this committee.

Councilwoman Brandow asked about the Village –Town Cooperation Committee. Supervisor Iraci informed her that they haven't had a second meeting yet.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.