

REGULAR MEETING – ATHENS TOWN BOARD – December 21, 2015

A regular meeting of the Athens Town Board was called to order on December 21, 2015 by Supervisor Joseph B. Iraci, at 7:05 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance 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. (Highway Superintendent John J. Farrell was absent.)

These people were also present: Attorney Virginia Benedict; Bookkeeper/Budget Officer Michael Strenka; Dave LaVoie; Barbara Iraci; Jerry Townley and North East Treaters Plant Manager John Brock.

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

General Abstract #24, vouchers #563 through #590 inclusive for \$27,109.32.

Highway Abstract #23, vouchers #254 through #263 inclusive for \$4,914.99.

Supervisor Iraci congratulated John Brock of North East Treaters on his promotion to Plant Manager. Mr. Brock called Mr. Christy so he could listen on speaker phone to what was said by Attorney Benedict and the Board regarding the next steps in the rebuilding and rezoning of North East Treaters.

Attorney Virginia Benedict explained that she had asked for a topographical map so the board could see if a buffer was needed for private residences. This would be a Board decision.

Attorney Benedict will complete the forms. She may need the help of the Town Engineers for the SEQRA process. Then if there is a proposed local law, a public hearing would be needed. The plans would need to be sent to the Town Planning Board and the County Planning Board for their comments. The person, who did the original zoning map, will need to be contacted to do a draft of that area. There are about 7 steps w/dates.

Dave LaVoie came before the Board with health insurance information for the Town's retired seniors/ retirees. There are two (2) choices: Blue shield and MVP for the North Albany area. (Does not cover the Ulster County area.)

Mr. LaVoie recommended staying with Blue Shield. There are 2 PPO programs and 1 HMO program.

Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow *made a motion seconded by Councilman Anthony Paluch to pay \$469.00 for the Blue Shield PPO program and maintain the insurance as it is. Carried.*  
Ayes-3(Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch) Noes-2(Iraci; Butler) Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Supervisor Joseph Iraci received a phone call today from DEC regarding SEQRA Lead Agency. He was thanked for his letter and opinion.

DEC and the NYS Thruway will be Co- Lead Agency. DEC will deal with environmental issues and the NYS Thruway will handle Traffic issues, for the Pilgrim Pipeline, which will be built along the Thruway North to South.

Laws: Short Term renters law-possible to go out on the internet and put your house out there for rent, without regard to obey zoning rules.

Noise: Recommended a law that states decibels to measure sound.

Mass Gatherings- Permits should be required.

Personnel: Planning Board/ Zoning Board of Appeals Secretary, Marlin Henry has resigned, as she has taken a full time position, out of the area. Need to advertise for these positions.

Catskill Landfill: The Village of Catskill chose to wait until the New Village Board takes office In March of 2016. The other Towns and Village all made Resolutions to split the Landfill money in the same proportions as originally contributed. (All 6 needed to agree in order to have the money dispersed.)

On the motion of Councilman Michael Ragaini seconded by Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow the following **RESOLUTION #2015-37** *to make the following Budget Amendments was adopted:*

<u>Decrease</u>		<u>Increase</u>	
A1010.4 Town Board Consultant	2,000.00	A1010.4 Town Board Personnel	2,000.00
A1010.4 Town Board Consultant	550.00	A1010.4 Town Board Software	550.00
A1010.4 Town Board Fuel Oil	400.00	A 1010.4 Town Board Generator	400.00
A1110.4 Justice Seminars	100.00	A1110.4 Justice Internet	100.00
A1410.4 Town Clerk Postage	150.00	A1410.4 Town Clerk Seminars	150.00
A1990.4 Contingency	7,000.00	A 1420.4Attorney –Other Legal	7,000.00
A9060.8 Medical Reimb.	600.00	A9060.8 Medical Retiree	600.00
B1990.4 Contingency	2,000.00	B 8010.4 Zoning Attorney	2,000.00
DA 5130.2 Equipment	4,500.00	DA5142.1 Snow Removal Pers.	4,500.00
DA 9060.8 Ins. Opt Out	4,500.00	DA5142.1 Snow Removal Pers.	4,500.00
DA 5142.4 Tires	200.00	DA9040.8 Workers Comp.	200.00
DB 1990.4 Contingency	2,100.00	DB 5110.1 Ge. Repairs pers.	2,100.00
DB5110.4 Diesel Gas	200.00	DB 9040.8 Workers Comp.	200.00
DB 5110.4 Tires	100.00	DB5110.4 Uniforms	100.00

The above resolution was adopted as follows: Ayes- 5 ((Iraci; Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Arts Alive a branch of Greene County on the Arts sent a letter requesting donations.

On the motion of Supervisor Joseph B. Iraci seconded by Councilman Robert F. Butler, Jr. the following **RESOLUTION #2015-38** was adopted:

**WHEREAS**, the Code of the Town of Athens Chapter 159, Article II expressly authorizes the Town Board to change the maximum income limits for Senior Citizen and Disabled Tax Exemptions;

Now, **THEREFORE, BE IT**

**RESOLVED**, that the Town of Athens changes the maximum income limits for Senior Citizens and Disabled Tax Exemptions to be set at \$24,500.00 with full sliding scale for the 2016 assessment. (The same as 2015)

Maximum Income Limit	\$24,500.00	50%
\$24,501.00	\$25,499.99	45%
\$25,500.00	\$26,499.99	40%
\$26,500.00	\$27,499.99	35%
\$27,500.00	\$28,399.99	30%
\$28,400.00	\$29,299.99	25%
\$29,300.00	\$30,199.99	20%
\$30,200.00	\$31,099.99	15%
\$31,100.00	\$31,999.99	10%
\$32,000.00	\$32,899.99	5%

The above resolution was adopted as follows: Ayes- 5 ((Iraci; Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Supervisor Iraci announced that we have a fixed rate contract with Catskill Ambulance, and we have received our signed copy back.

We should renew our contract with Corner Stone Telephone.

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Councilman Michael Ragaini made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow *to go into Executive Session to discuss Labor Negotiations and Personnel.* Ayes- 5 ((Iraci; Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0 Time: 8:15pm

Councilman Michael Ragaini made a motion seconded by Councilman Robert F. Butler, Jr. *to Adjourn the Executive Session and reconvene the regular meeting.* Ayes- 5 ((Iraci; Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0 Time: 9:10pm

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm