

The regular meeting of the Athens Town Board was called to order by Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. on February 20, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The following people were present: Supervisor Butler; Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow; Councilman Michael Ragaini; Councilman Anthony Paluch; Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr; Highway Superintendent John J. Farrell and Town Clerk Linda M. Stacey.

These people were also present: Attorney Virginia Benedict; Kurt Andernach; Andrea Smallwood; Theresa Cardinale; Barbara Trembasz; Fran McCusker; George Baker; Andy Gauzza; Silas Basham; Carol Metz; J. Donahue; Laurel Mann; Ken Gifford; Liz & Jeff Levin; Audrey Lent; Todd & Amy Munn; Patricia Meyers; and Ralph Vendriesco.

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

**General Abstract #4**, vouchers #76 through #89 inclusive for **\$10,894.27**.

**Highway Abstract #4**, vouchers #28 through #40 inclusive for **\$8,975.00**.

**Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr.** read the Notice of Public Hearing for a Local Law Creating Chapter #147 of the Code of the Town of Athens To Regulate Short-Term Residential Rentals, as it appeared in the Official Newspaper.

**A motion to open the public hearing** for the “Short-Term” Residential Rentals, was made by Councilman Michael Ragaini, seconded by Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Many questions were asked by residents of Sleepy Hollow.

Si Basham of SH asked if this local law was curtailing short term rentals.

Attorney Benedict answered that it does not abolish rentals. It pertains to 8 days or fewer rentals and will only affect properties in the Town.

Andrea Smallwood, of 89 Second Street, asked questions regarding boundaries. She also stated that enforcement of this law sounded like a conflict.

Supervisor Butler stated that a conflict already exists.

Ken McGifford of the Sleepy Hollow Board stated that Sleepy Hollow currently has a Moratorium for short-term renters. Other questions were asked as well.

Supervisor Butler informed everyone that the public hearing would not be closed tonight; it would be on the agenda for the next meeting. Those who were attending for the hearing, left at this time. (7:40 p.m. the regular meeting convened.)

**Highway Superintendent John J. Farrell** presented the final information on the excavator to the Board.

He informed them that \$84,000.00 in the rollover balance, and April funding from CHIPS, would be used to purchase this machine.

A Bobcat E50T4 Compact Excavator and a 52” grading bucket from Robert H. Finke’s, for \$59,694.14. Also a 7 ton Cross Country Tilt deck trailer will be purchased, (with gravity tilt) including a 16’ tilt deck and a 4’ stationary deck: model 7HD2opt-s for \$6,555.00. He also presented two other quotes for the trailer. (Excavator is on State Contract.)

**Mr. Farrell reported** that he had met with the Mayor and the Village Highway Crew. He and 1 or 2 other men will help the Village dig a pool and leach field, but he needs to know when it is going to be done so he can fit it into his schedule.

**On the motion of Councilman Anthony Paluch** seconded by Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow the following **RESOLUTION #2017-17** was adopted as follows: to authorize the Highway Superintendent to purchase an E50 T4 Bobcat Compact Excavator with a 52” bucket from Robert H. Finke & Sons for \$59,694.14, and a 7 ton “Cross Country” tilt deck Trailer, including a 16’ tilt deck and 4’ stationary deck, Model #7HD20PT-s; heavy tongue jack; LED Lights and 7 prong RV electrical plug for \$6,555.00. (Also from Finke’s) was adopted: Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Discussion of Acting Code Enforcement Officer’s salary. Also adding 8 extra hours for the Assessor’s Clerk.

**Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr.** made a motion seconded by Councilman Michael Ragaini to make the rate of compensation for the Acting Code Enforcement Officer \$17.00 per hour. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

**Councilman Anthony Paluch** made a motion seconded by Councilman Michael Ragaini to approve the minutes of February 6, 2017 as read. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

**Supervisor Butler** reported that the highway building would be at “bid” stage in two weeks.

The date for the Solar Law has to be reset, as the law has to go to the County Planning Board. After we receive the County’s comments we can set the public hearing.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.