

The regular meeting of the Athens Town Board was called to order on March 20, 2017 at 7:03 p.m. by Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, at the E.J. Arthur Elementary School at 51 Third Street, Athens, New York.

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; Bookkeeper/Budget Officer Michael Strenka; Assessor Carol McBride; Temporary Code Enforcement Officer Albert Gasparini; Frederick Dedrick; Fran McCusker; Renee' Meryman; Silas Basham; Hal Brodie; Kyle Magri; John P. Farrell, Jr.; Donna Monroe; Ralph Vendriesco and Roger C. Albright.

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

General Abstract #5, vouchers #90 through #136 inclusive for \$79,538.74.

Highway Abstract#5, vouchers #41 through 61 inclusive for \$29,545.99.

First order of business was the continuation of the public hearing of the Town's proposed Short Term Rental Law.

Councilman Richard M. Surrano Jr. made a motion seconded by Councilman Michael Ragaini *to open the public hearing on the proposed local law for short term rentals*. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Roger Albright, who owns property on Schoharie Turnpike, asked if there were any written complaints and if anybody has seen them? The reply was yes.

Supervisor Butler explained that this law is for rentals of 1 to 8 days long. (It depends on the number of bedrooms for the number of people who can be there.) This gives the Town a course of action..

Donna Monroe of Sleepy Hollow stated that their law was more restrictive.

Si Basham of Sleepy Hollow stated that they (Sleepy Hollow) had passed a 30 day Moratorium. Discussion followed on Sleepy Hollow Rentals.

The Board was asked if there would be a fee when the paper work was filled out.

Answer was yes.

Renee' Meryman a new Village resident, asked how many incidents have there been.

Discussion Followed.

Residential property becomes commercial when it begins making money.

We are not banning or eliminating anything. We are only monitoring it.

Councilman Richard M. Surrano made a motion seconded by Councilman Michael Ragaini *to close the public hearing on short term rentals and reconvene the regular meeting*. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Department Heads Followed:

Assessor Carol McBride reported that all Exemptions and Renewals were due March 1, 2017, except for Agricultural Exemptions which were extended to April 1st.

She reported that Informal Hearings were currently in progress at the firehouse, and the Appraisal team is meeting with property owners who have scheduled appointments regarding the changes made to assessments in the Town and the Village.

She reported that Field Review is in progress until the second week of April. Change of assessment notices will be sent the week of May 1st. as the tentative roll is printed.

Final tax roll is due July 1st.

Assessor McBride is planning on attending Cornell in July.

The Board of Assessment Review Training is scheduled for Wed. April 26, 2017 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Greene County Office Building

Grievance Day is scheduled for May 23, 2017. Hours are from 1:00-5:00 p.m. and 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Albert Gasparini, temporary Code Enforcement Officer, reported that they are still dumping at the old quarry. He will find out what equipment is being used. There is a new owner. Not sure if the mining permit is the original one, or a new one. Discussion followed. (Poor signage. Four 18 wheelers blocking the road with no flaggers. Should he get a fill permit? He is bringing in an average of about four loads a day.) This has been going on for about 3 weeks now.

Highway Superintendent John J. Farrell advised the Board that he would like to purchase a new 4x4 snow plow at a projected cost of \$230,000. He said he had spoken with the Bookkeeper and it was possible to reduce the unappropriated fund balance. If the Board wants, he will come back with more figures.

Supervisor Butler stated that he could see no problem moving forward.

The tables for Green Lake Park will be installed when the weather is better.

Mr. Farrell also reported that there have been 4 snow events; they highway crew serviced unit #8, Old #5 and serviced the chipper. They spent 12 days cutting wood along Vosenkill Road. Washed and greased snowplows between snow events checked all Town Roads. Sweeper is ready to start as soon as the weather breaks.

Highway Superintendent Farrell went to Albany for Highway Lobby Day for CHIPS Funding. They had one breakdown during the last snow storm, #8 burned up a relay. They had 4 trucks in the Village hauling snow for 3 days.

Bookkeeper/Budget Officer Michael Strenka reviewed the December monthly Supervisor's Report with the Board. He also went over the end of the Year Fund Balances:

Mr. Strenka went over the Annual Financial Report that was submitted on time, with "notes" included.

The notes were provided by the Accountants

Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr. made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Mary H.

Brandow *to approve the Supervisor's Financial Report for the month of December 2016.* Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Councilman Michael Ragaini made a motion seconded by Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr. *to approve the Supervisor's Financial for the month of January 2017.* Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow made a motion to approve the Supervisor's Financial Report for the month of February 2017. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Hal Brodie Chairman of the Town Planning Board spoke to the Town Board regarding having large scale Solar in RU areas as well as industrial areas. He was advised that there would be public hearings on this law.

Councilman Anthony Paluch made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow to accept and approve the Town Clerks' Report for February. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Councilman Anthony Paluch made a motion seconded by Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr. to approve the minutes of February 20, 2017 as read. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Copies of a letter were given to Board members from Nolan Pazin, President of Mount Hope Cemetery, listing the annual income and the expenditures for one year.

Councilman Paluch made a motion to give \$1,000.00 to Mount Hope Cemetery to help with expenditures.

Supervisor Butler explained to the Board that there may be a chance that we can give them what is left over in 2015's Bicentennial Fund after the tables are installed in the Park. There should still be about \$2,000 left.

April 2, 2017 the Board will review building plans for the garage addition.

Supervisor Butler reminded the Board that Code Enforcement Officer George Holsopple's Medical Leave of Absence will expire after April 10, 2017. Do we want to grant another 10 weeks or move forward? We need something in writing from Mr. Holsopple's Dr. prior to the 17th of April.

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

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

