

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

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

These people were also present; Brittany Hughes, from the Law Firm of Whitbeck Benedict & Smith, LLP; Bookkeeper/ Budget Officer Michael Strenka; Code Enforcement Officer Albert Gasparini; Fran McCusker; Barbara Trembacz and Tim Mercer.

The following bills were audited by the Board:

Escrow Account: Abstract #14, voucher #408, for \$809.05.

General Account: Abstract #14, vouchers #409 through #432 inclusive for \$130,586.99.

Highway Account: Abstract #14, vouchers #148 through #156 inclusive for \$8,746.78.

Resident Tim Mercer of 131 Farm to Market Road, in the Village of Athens, approached the Board with regard to their fireworks permit. (He lives on the Village/Town Line.) He asked the Board members if they could amend the permit to read, that the neighbors should be notified, especially in cases of livestock, horses or other excitable animals, so they can be removed from the area for that period, while the fireworks are being set off. Mr. Mercer filled out a complaint with the Code Enforcement Officer. Supervisor Butler will speak with Attorney.

Bookkeeper/ Budget Officer Michael Strenka presented and reviewed the Supervisor's monthly report with the Board. He spoke of lowering the fund balances from 10 to 15 years ago. Mr. Strenka stated that he was pleased that the National Bank of Coxsackie has accepted the bid on the bond purchase at 2.61 % for 15 years.

Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow arrived at this time. (7:25 p.m.)

Mr. Strenka read the resolution wording for the Board to approve the Bond Resolution.

**On the motion of Councilman Anthony Paluch** seconded by Councilwoman Mary H, Brandow the following **RESOLUTION #2017-44** was offered and adopted:

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board of the Town of Athens has approved six competitive bids for construction additions to the highway garage project, and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board has approved the project not to exceed \$1,600,000.00 and the funding coming from a bond borrowing not to exceed \$800,000.00 and a transfer from the general fund – townwide of \$800,000.00, and

**WHEREAS**, it is the intention of the Town Board to recognize such approved transactions for budget purposes;

**NOW, therefore be it resolved**, that the Town Board of the Town of Athens hereby authorizes increasing General Fund Appropriated Fund Balance A-599 by \$800,000.00 and increasing General Fund Appropriations Line Item A9950.9 Transfer to Capital Projects Fund by \$800,000.00; and increasing Capital Projects Fund Estimated Revenues H-5031 Interfund Transfers by \$800,000.00 and Appropriations Code H-5031.2 Highway Garage Building by \$800,000.00.

This resolution was duly adopted as follows: Ayes-4 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch) Noes-0 Absent-1(Surrano) Abstentions-0

**Councilman Michael Ragaini made a motion** seconded by Councilman Anthony Paluch *to accept the Supervisor's Monthly Report as presented*. Ayes-4 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch) Noes-0 Absent-1(Surrano) Abstentions-0

**Code Enforcement Officer Albert Gasparini** reported that he issued 4 building permits; made 2 building inspections; issued 2 Demolition permits; issued one letter of violation for 781 Green Lake for Property Maintenance Code and did 2 Title searches.

Mr. Gasparini also reported that at the Dollar General Store location, they are planning for asbestos removal and demolition permit of existing house on the property. Looking at a December 1<sup>st</sup> completion date. Once the demolition is complete and the archeological dig is complete, construction is to start, about the first week or so of September.

Discussion followed on Heavy Haulers and their over fill.

The Air B & B at 51 Thorpe Road- Mr. Gasparini will have to send a formal letter to them.

Supervisor Butler reported that he received information from DEC RE: Lead Agency for the Van Valkenburg- Buck-Sanddu Shale Quarry. He has given it to Attorney Benedict to look at.

Supervisor Butler is still looking into the Route 9W Garage and the number of unlicensed cars that can be legally kept on the property.

**The Assessor's Report** showed one small claim and one Article 7 for 2017.

Assessor McBride reminded the Board that Board of Review member Lynn Brunner's Term expires September 30, 2017.

She also said that the Board of Assessment and Review has expressed their concerns of going to training every year as required by the Town. Athens is the only Town that requires yearly training in Greene County. Only Newly appointed members are required to go to training by the State.

Appraisal Consultant, Bob Hilbert has submitted a recommendation of services for the Budget of 2018. This Office will also submit informal requests for the next workshop meeting.

The Office will be closed August 7-11, 2017.

**Councilman Michael Ragaini** made a motion seconded by Councilman Anthony Paluch *to approve the minutes of July 5, 2017 as corrected*. Ayes-4 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch) Noes-0 Absent-1(Surrano) Abstentions-0

**Councilman Michael Ragaini** made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow *to approve the minutes of July 17, 2017 as read*. Ayes-4 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch) Noes-0 Absent-1(Surrano) Abstentions-0

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

The Revised site plan review current & proposed to be read for the next meeting.

**Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow** made a motion seconded by Councilman Anthony Paluch *to authorize Highway Superintendent John J. Farrell to sell the 1988 Ford 555B Backhoe/Loader on Auctions International for the price of \$13,800.00*. Ayes-4 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch) Noes-0 Absent-1(Surrano) Abstentions-0

**Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr.** made a motion seconded by Councilman Anthony Paluch to *go into Executive Session for a current Court Case.* Ayes-4 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch) Noes-0 Absent-1(Surrano) Abstentions-0 Time: 8:25 p.m.

**Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr.** made a motion seconded by Councilman Michael Ragaini to *adjourn the Executive Session and reconvene the regular meeting.* Ayes-4 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch) Noes-0 Absent-1(Surrano) Abstentions-0 Time: 8:54 p.m.

As there was no further business to come before the meeting a motion to adjourn was made by **Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr.** seconded by Councilman Michael Ragaini. Ayes-4 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch) Noes-0 Absent-1(Surrano) Abstentions-0 Time: 8:55 p.m.