

ATHENS TOWN BOARD – REGULAR MEETING – February 5, 2018

The regular meeting of the Athens Town Board was called to order at 7:00 pm on February 5, 2018 by Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. 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.

The following people were also present: Attorney Virginia Benedict; Bookkeeper/Budget Officer Michael Strenka; Assessor Carol McBride; Code Enforcement Officer Albert Gasparini; Larry Styles; Barbara Trembacz; Fran McCusker; Reporter Daniel Zuckerman; Jacqueline Goddeau; Patrick Doyle- Flint Mine Solar; Mr. and Mrs. Mizell and Attorney Greg Johnson of NYMIR.

The following bills were audited by the Board:

**General Abstract #3**, vouchers #41 through #75 inclusive for **\$371,092.71**.

**Highway Abstract #3**, vouchers #21 through #26 inclusive for **\$13,097.37**.

**Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr.** made a motion seconded by Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr. *to go into Executive Session to discuss possible litigation*. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Absentions-0 (7:02 p.m.)

**Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr.** made a motion seconded by Councilman Michael Ragaini *to adjourn the Executive Session and reconvene the regular meeting*. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0 (7:22 p.m.)

**Assessor Carol McBride** reported that there are two Certioraris pending: Zabel vs the Town and Sleepy Hollow vs the Town.

Mrs. McBride reported that Exemption renewals have been on-going as Taxable Status date is March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Assessor McBride asked for authorization to have Bob Hilbert of Appraisal Consultants, continue his “update” services to the Town.

The new Assessments for 2018 will be made by the Tentative Roll date of May 1, 2018.

Grievance Day will be May 22, 2018 from 3 to 5 and 6 to 8 pm.

**Code Enforcement Officer Albert Gasparini** reported he has heard from Albert Salvino, and Albert will board up the Budget Inn when he gets home from vacation.

Mr. Gasparini also reported that he had 2 building permits; 5 building permit inquiries, 4 of which were on 164 Gypsy Point Road

One septic permit was issued; three title searches were done;

Orders to Remedy: Budget Inn & suites- windows and doors are to be boarded up. 358 Flats Road Extension- this house was “red tagged” in 2013. David Frueh Contracting is in process with the bank owner to remove the house by demolition.

Dollar General Store- Primax Corporation advised Code Enforcement Officer of April 1st or April 15th proposed Construction startup date.

**Highway Superintendent John J. Farrell** informed the Board of what the highway crew had been doing.

He advised the Board that he would like to surplus the old backup generator and old safe.

He would like to use Auctions International.

**On the motion of Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr.** seconded by Councilman Michael Ragaini the following **RESOLUTION #2018-16**, was offered and adopted:

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Athens Highway Department seeks to purchase a new 2018 or newer 19,500 GVW crew cab and chassis and a steel 9’ utility body with a front tunnel Compartment: and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Athens, with the assistance of the Town Attorney, has prepared an invitation for Bids, including specifications for minimum requirements for the cab and chassis and utility body.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT**

**RESOLVED**, that the attached Notice to Bidders be published in the official newspaper of the Town of Athens and the bid package be made available to prospective bidders at the Town Clerk’s Office and posted on the New York State Contract Reporter website by Town Attorney. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0  
The proposed Resolution having been approved by a majority of the Board, the same was declared duly adopted by the Athens Town Board.

**Highway Superintendent Farrell** informed the Board that the Highway garage is 80% done. He has moved into his new office area. The tentative completion date is March 2. They are waiting on their new generator.

**Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr.** informed the Board that he had received the Intermunicipal Agreement between the Town of Coxsackie, Town of Athens and Coxsackie Athens School District, all respondents in a tax certiorari matter involving the Association of Property Owners of Sleepy Hollow Lake, Inc. property for the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 years. This agreement allows the Towns of Coxsackie and Athens, and the C-A School District jointly defend the certiorari proceeding involving The Association of Property Owners of Sleepy Hollow Lake, Inc. and employ the firm of E. Stewart Jones, Hacker and Murphy LLP to defend the same, and both Town and School District share the legal costs .

**Councilman Richard M. Surrano made a motion** seconded by Councilman Michael Ragaini *authorizing the Supervisor to sign the Intermunicipal Agreement between the Towns of Athens, Coxsackie and the Coxsackie Athens School District as stated above.* Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

**Councilman Michael Ragaini** made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow *to accept the Town Clerk’s Report as presented.* Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

The Board discussed the employees MVP Health Insurance, and the different plans available. Supervisor Butler recommended the Bronze Plan as it was almost the same coverage and deductibles as the previous plan.

**Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr.** made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow *to go with the Supervisor’s recommendation of the Bronze Plan from MVP for the employees’ health insurance for 2018.* Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

**Supervisor Butler advised** the Board that he had received a letter from the Capital Bicycle Racing Club regarding the Trooper David Brinkerhoff Memorial Race to be held on April 7<sup>th</sup> and April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Mr. Butler to send letter of endorsement.

Highway Superintendent Farrell has been talking with Audrey of the Estuary Program regarding culverts.

**West Athens Lime Street Fire Commissioners** wrote to the Board regarding tax exemption paperwork, for purchasing items for the District without using taxpayer's money. Attorney Benedict will look into this.

**Supervisor Butler** handed out a conceptual design from the engineers for the Town offices. Board discussed the plans as presented.

Mr. Butler stated that the Howard Hall Road and Route 385 intersection, has been looked at and they are waiting on the design, and speed reduction, for this 1 + ½ miles of road.

**Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow** made a motion seconded by Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr. *to approve the minutes of 1/15/2018, as read.* Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

**Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow** made a motion seconded by Councilman Richard M/ Surrano, Jr. *authorizing the Highway Superintendent to put the old PTO Generator on surplus, and selling it on Auctions International.* Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

**Resident Jacqueline Goddeau** spoke about an extension built onto the Foundry. Jeffery Mizell, owner of the Foundry, was also present. Discussion followed.

**Patrick Doyle of Hudson Energy Development** spoke on solar.

**Attorney Virginia Benedict** handed out copies of proposed local law #1 for 2018: *A Local Law Amending Chapter 159 of the Code of The Town of Athens entitled "Taxation" in its Entirety.* Board members are to review it for the next meeting.

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

Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.