

ATHENS TOWN BOARD – REGULAR MEETING – January 15, 2018

The regular meeting of the Athens Town Board was called to order on January 15, 2018 at 7:02 pm by Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. with 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; Bookkeeper/Budget Officer Michael Strenka; Assessor Carol McBride; Code Enforcement Officer Albert Gasparini; Fran McCusker; Barbara Trembacz and Larry Styles.

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

General Abstract #2, vouchers #19 through #40 inclusive for **\$17,953.04**.

Highway Abstract #2, vouchers #3 through #20 inclusive for **\$28,201.61**.

Capital Projects H Abstract #2, vouchers #2 through #4 inclusive for **\$219,912.18**.

Assessor Carol McBride reported that she has been getting address updates for tax bills that have been returned.

Public Utility letters are ready to be sent out.

Exemption documentation is being returned by those who have the exemptions, so they can keep them.

Taxable status date for all exemptions is March 1, 2018.

Greene County Legislature has increased the Sliding Scale for Aged and Disabled exemptions for 2018. She asked the Board to approve the income limit to follow the County. **The sliding scale is \$27,500.00 - \$35,899.99.**

She also advised the Board that the County has amended the Cold War Veterans Exemption by removing the 10 year limitation on it.

Letter of January 2, 2018 from Appraisal Consultants for continued support of the 2018 roll at \$2500.

Field review is beginning and will end in April. She will be coming into the office in the morning after data collecting.

Code Enforcement Officer Albert Gasparini gave his monthly report for December 2017; He issued 1 Building Permit; Did 4 Building Inspections; A Title Search; 2 Fire Calls; 1 Violation; Sent an Order to Remedy- Budget Inn, Suites and main house at 9071 Route 9W. The letter was sent by Certified Mail and regular mail on December 21, 2017. Certificate of Compliance was issued and a Certificate of Occupancy.

He did three (3) Junkyard Inspections:

Richard A., Lance R. & Scott Fischer- have no cars or tires

John & Robert O'Connell (B&B Garage) have 75 + cars and 75 tires

Junk cars to J & B Car Crushing in Coxsackie; Junk Tires to Casings Inc. In Catskill.

John O. Rexford & Son- 5 cars and 27 tires

Mr. Gasparini advised the Board that all 3 junkyards have been maintained and recommended that they be approved for renewal.

Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr. made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow *to renew the Junkyard Permits of Richard A, Lance R, & Scott Fischer; Robert & John O'Connell as B&B Garage; and John O. Rexford & Son.* Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

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Code Enforcement Officer Gasparini gave his Annual Report for 2017:

46 - Building Permits were issued- fees collected	\$18,656.00
2 – Septic Permits	90.00
2 – Demolition Permits	90.00
7 - Certificates of Occupancy	280.00
8 – Certificate of Compliance	240.00
33 –Title Search Requests	1,320.00
3 - Short Term Rental Certificates	300.00
1 – Fireworks Permit	100.00

Total amount of fees collected \$31,076.00.

Building Permits valued at \$2,147,923.84.

Supervisor Butler informed the Board that Hudson River Bulk, on Route 9W, extended their **fill permit**. They extended the fill much further than they should have, on to someone else's property. The excess fill is a violation. Discussion followed.

Mr. Gasparini stated that Albert Salvino will board up the windows of **Budget Inn**. He will take pictures first. We will have to let the County know what is going on, and that this is not a demolition at this time.

Highway Superintendent John J. Farrell reported that the radio has been installed in truck #8. Two of the highway crew spent a day removing snow in the Village. They assisted the Village with a water problem.

Mr. Farrell told the Board he wanted to replace the **utility truck**. He turned in written bid specs for review, and stated that they were written so everyone could bid on it.

After reviewing the Town Clerk's Report, a **motion was made by Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr.** seconded by Councilman Anthony Paluch to *accept the Town Clerk's Report as presented*. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. and Bookkeeper Mike Strenka talked about employee's health insurance. It will still be MVP, with a deductible.

Councilman Anthony Paluch made a motion seconded by Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr. *to approve the minutes of December 18, 2017*. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr. made a motion seconded by Councilman Michael Ragaini *to approve and accept the minutes of January 2, 2018*. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Councilman Michael Ragaini made a motion seconded by Councilman Anthony Paluch to *appoint Michael Pirrone to the vacant seat on the Zoning Board of Appeals for a five (5) year term beginning January 16, 2018 to December 31, 2022*. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Attorney Virginia Benedict went over the old determination with the Board, regarding what can be done on the Foundry property.

On the motion of Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow seconded by Councilman Michael Ragaini the following **RESOLUTION #2018-15** was adopted: *That the Town adopts the \$1,000 maximum income limit increase for the 2018 Assessment Roll for the Senior Citizen and Disabled Tax Exemptions from \$26,500 to \$27,500 in accordance with the County as follows:*

<u>Maximum Income Limits</u>	<u>Exemption Percentage</u>
\$27,500.00	50%
\$27,500.01 to \$28,499.99	45%
\$28,500.00 to \$29,499.99	40%
\$29,500.00 to \$30,499.99	35%
\$30,500.00 to \$31,399.99	30%
\$31,400.00 to \$32,299.99	25%
\$32,300.00 to \$33,199.99	20%
\$33,200.00 to \$34,099.99	15%
\$34,100.00 to \$34,999.99	10%
\$35,000.00 To \$35,899.99	5%

This resolution was adopted. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

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 8:10 p.m.