

The regular meeting of the Athens Town Board was called to order on October 15, 2018 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 Butler; Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow; Councilman Anthony Paluch; Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr.; Highway Superintendent John J. Farrell and Town Clerk Linda M. Stacey. (Councilman Michael Ragaini was absent.)

These people were also present; Attorney Virginia Brandow; Bookkeeper/Budget Officer Michael Strenka; Assessor Carol McBride; Dominick Multari; Domenica Multari; Luciano Agovino; Ronald Townley; Lynn Brunner; Josh Hodor; Laura Bomyea; Theresa Cardinale; Fran McCusker; Janet & Gene Paluch; Chris and Nancy Salierno; Mary Lou and Lloyd Zimmerman; Jackie Dunn; Mary DiStefano; Patrick Doyle and Mary K. Garvey.

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

General Abstract #18, vouchers #364 through #383 inclusive for \$20,015.50.

Highway Abstract #17, vouchers #195 through #208 inclusive for \$17,396.52.

Dave LaVoie, President of Benefits, of Frank Reis, Inc. spoke on Medicare Insurance Coverages offered for Retirees of the Town. Mr. LaVoie informed the Board that Blue Shield & AARP coverage can go anywhere. Blue Shield has gone from \$519 to \$539 a person. The Town is willing to pay \$500 for the insurance if the employee will pay the \$39 a month, this would be a savings for the Town. Part B is reimbursed (under Medicare) so there is no change. Discussion followed.

Supervisor Butler asked the Board Members and then the public if they had any questions.

Mary H. Brandow said since she is unable to speak as a Board member, as a Town resident and current retiree I have been asked to speak on behalf of the current retirees who are in their mid-70's, 80's and 90's and are unable to drive at night to be here. A few years ago, Candy from AARP went over medication costs under this plan with each retiree. She stated she could only speak about her medication concerns, her cancer medication and some COPD medications weren't covered, or were very expensive compared to our current plan. These retirees live on a fixed income and many of them are unable to go out and get a job to help pay for those additional costs. It would be a hardship, and that is why they didn't switch. Candy from AARP is currently meeting with retirees again. Councilman Anthony Paluch and I have said we would give our salary back to help offset the retiree. Supervisor Butler said the Town cannot accept donations. I would ask the Town Board to have compassion and consider grandfathering this group of retirees. Discussion followed.

Dave LaVoie stated that there is Anti-Harassment Training available from the State; you need to make a resolution.

Highway Superintendent John J. Farrell recommended a resolution for Schoharie Turnpike. Beginning from the Town of Athens line and travels .40 of a mile to Town of Cocksackie line. It is owned by the Town of Athens, and is maintained by the Town of Athens; therefore the Town is legally responsible for it. The State has this inventoried wrong and we need to fix it by resolution.

On the motion of Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow seconded by Councilman Anthony Paluch the following **RESOLUTION #2018-36** *stating that the Town of Athens acknowledges that Schoharie Turnpike is a public road open to the traveling public. It begins at the Town of Athens Line and travels .40 of a mile to the Town of Coxsackie Town line. It owned by the Town of Athens, and is maintained by the Town of Athens. Therefore the Town of Athens is legally responsible for* it was adopted: Ayes-4 (Butler; Brandow; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Ragaini) Abstentions-0

Highway Superintendent Farrell asked for permission to surplus and sell the following items on Auctions International:

1) Shindaiwa T242X weed trimmer; 2) Shindaiwa T2330X weed Trimmer; 3) Husqvarna 61 chain saw brake handle is broken. (Comes with spare bar and chain.) 4) Stihl 029 Chainsaw; 5) Stihl 029 chainsaw 6) Homelite Textron XL2 chainsaw with all manuals 7) Wooded table-7feet x 3 feet 3 inches 8) CST/ Berger Laser Mark LMH series/ LD-400-Dector. Transit Head works but dector doesn't work. 9) Briggs & Stratton Intek 9.0 OHV Remote Start. Engine came off of a sander/spreader. 10) Yard Machine/ Briggs & Stratton Engine cam of a push mower 6.0 HP.

Councilman Anthony Paluch made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow *authorizing the Highway Superintendent to Surplus and sell the following items on Auctions International:* 1) Shindaiwa T242X weed trimmer; 2) Shindaiwa T2330X weed Trimmer; 3) Husqvarna 61 chain saw brake handle is broken. (Comes with spare bar and chain.) 4) Stihl 029 Chainsaw; 5) Stihl 029 chainsaw 6) Homelite Textron XL2 chainsaw with all manuals 7) Wooded table-7feet x 3 feet 3 inches 8) CST/ Berger Laser Mark LMH series/ LD-400-Dector. Transit Head works but dector doesn't work. 9) Briggs & Stratton Intek 9.0 OHV Remote Start. Engine came off of a sander/spreader. 10) Yard Machine/ Briggs & Stratton Engine cam of a push mower 6.0 HP. Ayes-4 (Butler; Brandow; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Ragaini) Abstentions-0

Highway Superintendent Farrell said that he had applied for a Grant from the Community Foundation for painting the salt and sand shed.

Mr. Farrell reported that DEC came down from Stamford to see the County's Green Lake Park. DEC hadn't seen the finished park since we used the last of the bicentennial money on it. They complained that the park was not in ADA Compliance as none of the picnic/tables were wheel chair accessible.

Assessor Carol McBride spoke about the amended assessment plan.

Discussion then followed. Mrs. McBride explained the process for data collecting. She explained that she would like to begin in the Village first.

Mary Lou & Lloyd Zimmerman owners of Black horse Farms came before the Board for change of zoning to commercial. They have retained 3 acres, but have sold the rest of the land for Solar Energy. Mrs. Zimmerman said the solar people are looking to expand, including the properties of Giovani Sicioliano, Dominick & Domenica Multari on Route 9W. (These people were also present.)

Resident Mary DiStefano reported that we had made it through the year, with the new law the holes that are still in it. There is really nothing to protect her. Need time for extra people to leave. Nothing has changed.

The Board members reviewed the minutes of October 1, 2018.

Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr. made a motion seconded by Councilman Anthony Paluch *to approve the minutes of October 1, 2018 as read.* Ayes-4 (Butler; Brandow; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Ragaini) Abstentions-0

Patrick Doyle of Flint Mine Solar gave handouts to the Board members. He then showed them on the large map, where on the west side of Route 9W they were looking to put solar. He stated they would come back on November 5th to make a presentation.

On the motion of Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr. seconded by Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow the following **RESOLUTION #2018-37 to adopt the New York State Sexual Harassment Policy was adopted.** Ayes-4 (Butler; Brandow; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Ragaini) Abstentions-0

The Town Clerk was directed to make out **Oaths of Office** out for the following newly appointed members of the **Athens Community Benefit Advisory Board**. **Three year terms** each from **January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2020** for **Joshua Lipsman; Karen Boeri and Jane Wais.**

One year term Oaths of Office were made out for **Nancy Clark and Phyllis Dinkelacker**, from **January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018**, as newly appointed members of the **Athens Community Benefit Advisory Board.**

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 Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow. Ayes-4 (Butler; Brandow; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Ragaini) Abstentions-0

Meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.