

## REGULAR MEETING-ATHENS TOWN BOARD-JUNE 4, 2018

The regular meeting of the Athens Town Board was called to order by Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. on Monday, June 4, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. A moment of silence was given on the passing of Bob Brunner, who served the community in many capacities.

The following people were present: Supervisor Butler; Councilman Michael Ragaini, Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow; Councilman Anthony Paluch; Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr. and Deputy Town Clerk Gail Stacey.

The following people were also present: Attorney Virginia Benedict; Bookkeeper Michael Strenka; Assessor Carol McBride; Barbara Trembacz; Theresa Cardinale; Fran McCusker; Patrick Doyle; Gene Paluch; Janet Paluch; Michael Campbell; Sean McGrath; Kim Rose; Jeff Rose; Tessa Partridge and videographer Larry Styles.

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

**GENERAL ABSTRACT # 10**, vouchers #200 through #238 inclusive for **\$41,540.20**.

**HIGHWAY ABSTRACT #9**, vouchers #94 through #109 inclusive for **\$128,544.15**.

**Assessor Carol McBride** presented her report to the Board. Assessor's Office will be closed June 6, 25, 26 and 29, 2018. There is a meeting scheduled for Tuesday, June 5, 2018 at the CA MS library for the pending case with Sleepy Hollow. Grievance Day, Revaluation, Final Roll, Solar, Assessor Certification, and Exemption for STAR were discussed. Supervisor Butler asked if she could contact someone in Coxsackie to see what their Equalization Rates are.

**Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr.** read the Code Enforcement Monthly Report.

**Bookkeeper Michael Strenka** presented the Supervisor's Report for May to the Board. Not much of a change from April to May except a \$45,000 deficit in the General A Fund which had already been planned for. Budget Transfers that will be coming out of the health insurance line include \$5,000 for the town clerk/tax collector audit, monies for Gail Stacey working more hours in the absence of Linda Stacey, highway electric during the cold weather months during the garage build and Medicare. The NYS Audit was also discussed. Responding letter has been sent and corrective measures are being taken; final audit coming with full Board attending.

Councilman Richard M. Surrano made a motion to accept the Supervisor's Report for May, seconded by Councilman Michael Ragaini.

Ayes-5(Butler;Ragaini;Brandow;Paluch;Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

**Resolution 2018-27**-Budget Transfers-transfers monies out of the Health Insurance Line to cover audit, highway electric, Gail Stacey extra hours money, and Medicare.

Councilman Michael Ragaini made a motion to accept the Resolution, seconded by Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow.

Ayes-5(Butler;Ragaini;Brandow;Paluch;Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

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**Kim Rose and Tessa Partridge** (Saving Greene: Citizens for Sensible Solar) addressed the Board in regards to the proposed Solar projects. A Petition was handed out opposing large scale solar farms in Coxsackie and neighboring communities. In viewing the maps, it is evident that solar farms will be taking most of the available land thus possibly causing tourism to decrease therefore, hurting local businesses. Discussion followed.

**Town Clerk's Report** for May was reviewed by the Board.

Councilman Anthony Paluch made a motion to accept the report, seconded by Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow.

Ayes-5(Butler;Ragaini;Brandow;Paluch;Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

**May 7, 2018 Minutes** were reviewed by the Board.

Councilman Anthony Paluch made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Councilman Richard M. Surrano.

Ayes-5(Butler;Ragaini;Brandow;Paluch;Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

**Letter from Annik LaFarge** was discussed. It's a complaint letter in regards to obtaining public records on Shakespeare on the Hudson. Supervisor Butler will have Attorney Virginia Benedict and Code Enforcer Albert Gasparini look into the matter.

**Supervisor Butler** read a letter from the NYS Department of Transportation pertaining to funding for alternative forms of transportation.

**Supervisor Butler** presented the Preliminary Scoping Statement from Hecate Energy Greene LLC.

**Supervisor Butler** briefly went over a letter from the NYS Department of Taxation and Finance. Town of Athens Equalization Rates, no change (100%).

### **Other Town Business:**

-Councilman Michael Ragaini requested a copy of the zoning laws/maps.

-Mr. Multari addressed the Board in regards to his property and the zoning issues.

-Supervisor Butler stated that they are looking into changing some of the zoned properties in the area.

With no further business to come before the Board, Councilman Anthony Paluch made a motion to go into Executive Session, seconded by Councilman Richard M. Surrano.(8:00 p.m.)

**Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr.** made a motion to adjourn Executive Session, seconded by Councilman Michael Ragaini.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m. with a motion made by Councilman Richard M. Surrano and seconded by Councilman Anthony Paluch.

