

ATHENS TOWN BOARD – REGULAR MEETING – March 5, 2018

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

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

These people were also present: Attorney Virginia Benedict; Bookkeeper/ Budget Officer Michael Strenka; Assessor Carol McBride; Code Enforcement Officer Albert Gasparini; James H. Robinson, Jr.; Marcia Puorro; Larry Styles; Vincenzina Carl and Fran McCusker.

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

General Abstract #5, vouchers #91 through #109 inclusive for **\$37,099.13**.

Highway Abstract #5, vouchers #38 through 47 inclusive for **\$17,412.31**.

Capital Project H, Abstract #4, vouchers #8 through #9 inclusive for **\$95,076.00**.

Assessor Carol McBride reported that the Zabel v the Town of Athens certiorari has been settled: the value has been reduced to \$300,000.

She informed the Board that Grievance Day is May 22, 2018. It will be held in the Town Clerk's office. (3-5 & 6-8)

Attorney Virginia Benedict stated that a new Plan has to be submitted to State by June 1st.

Discussion followed.

Public Hearing to be held March 19th on "Taxation" Local Law.

Assessor Training scheduled for March 23rd at Columbia Greene Community College. One is also scheduled for Cornell in July.

Change of Assessment Notices will be sent after the roll has been printed. (Tentative roll date is May 1st.) Final Roll is July 1st.

Coded Enforcement Officer Albert Gasparini gave his report for February. He received 4 inquiries for building permits. He issued 1 building permit. Issued 4 Certificates of Occupancy. *Violations- Order to remedy: Property Maintenance- Budget Inn & Suites and main house*, Contractor Albert Slavino, Jr. boarded up windows and doors.

358 Flats Road Extension, David Frueh Contracting, LLC to *remove house by demolition in March*. **536 Green Lake Resort**, trash left on property has been removed.

12 Dawn Drive, 3 unregistered vehicles. Owners to comply. After dark chainsaw cutting being done.

A Building Permit has been issued through Granger Construction Co. Inc., for the Dollar General Store, to begin drilling for water well.

Financial Officer Michael Strenka presented the Supervisor's Report to the Board.

He maximized revenues and minimized expenditures.

Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr. made a motion seconded by Councilman Anthony Paluch *to accept the Supervisor's Report for December 2017 as presented*. Ayes-3 (Butler; Paluch Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-2 (Brandow; Ragaini) Abstentions-0

Marcia Puorro came before the Board to present the **Annual Justice Report**.

She handed out summaries of the works taken in for the year by each Judge, the totals together and the amount turned over to the State. The Court is no longer paying for the Court Program Fee. They are issuing Electronic Orders of Protection.

She explained that the State has asked our Court to help train other Towns, in our Court, during working hours.

On the motion of Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. seconded by Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr. the following **RESOLUTION #2018-19, to accept the Town Court's Annual Report as presented was adopted.** (Court Clerk Marcia Puorro had the Board Sign a sheet of paper stating that they had audited the same.) Ayes-3(Butler; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-2 (Brandow; Ragaini) Abstentions-0)

Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr. made a motion seconded by Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. to accept the monthly report of the Town Clerk as presented. Ayes-3(Butler; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-2 (Brandow; Ragaini) Abstentions-0)

Councilman Anthony Paluch made a motion seconded by Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr. to approve the minutes of February 19, 2018 as read. Ayes-3(Butler; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-2 (Brandow; Ragaini) Abstentions-0)

Letter received from David Baker of 8648 US Route 9W, Athens, NY, regarding a speed limit reduction on Route 9W. Also he mentioned other areas he felt were unsafe for drivers in the Town. Discussion followed.

Two contracts were received from Pattison, Koskey, Howe & Bucci, CPA's, P. C., one for Town Clerk and one for Tax Collector for the periods of January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017.

Councilman Anthony Paluch made a motion seconded by Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr. authorizing the Supervisor to sign the contract of Pattison, Koskey, Howe, & Bucci for auditing the Town Clerk's financial books; receipts; ledgers etc. for the January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017 year. Ayes-3(Butler; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-2 (Brandow; Ragaini) Abstentions-0)

Councilman Anthony Paluch made a motion seconded by Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr. authorizing the Supervisor to sign the contract of Pattison, Koskey, Howe, & Bucci for auditing the Tax Collector's financial books; receipts; ledgers etc. for the January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017 year. Ayes-3(Butler; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-2 (Brandow; Ragaini) Abstentions-0)

The Board reviewed the proposed local law No. 1, Amending Chapter #159 "Taxation".

Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. made a motion to go in to Executive Session to discuss a personal issue seconded by Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Sr. Ayes-3 (Butler; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-2 (Brandow; Ragaini) Abstentions-0) Time: 8:20 p.m.

Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. made a motion to adjourn Executive Session and reconvene the regular meeting seconded by Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr. Ayes-3 (Butler; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-2 (Brandow; Ragaini) Abstentions-0) Time: 8:24 p.m.

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 Councilman Anthony Paluch. Ayes-3 (Butler; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-2 (Brandow; Ragaini) Abstentions-0)

Meeting Adjourned at: 8:25p.m.