

REGULAR MEETING – ATHENS TOWN BOARD – AUGUST 6, 2018

The regular meeting of the Athens Town Board was called to order by Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. on Monday, August 6, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. 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; Assessor Carol McBride; Bookkeeper/Budget Officer Michael Strenka; Code Enforcement Officer Albert Gasparini; Dr. Charles Sturges; Patrick Doyle and Videographer Larry Styles.

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

**General Abstract #13**, vouchers #274 through #309 inclusive for **\$33,790.98**.

**Highway Abstract #12**, vouchers #128 through #153 inclusive for **\$44,793.04**.

**Capital Project H- Abstract #8**, voucher #20 for **\$6,140.63**.

**Dr. Sturges came before the Board** to explain his complaint about a German shepherd that is always coming after him when he rides his bike past 539 Route 385. He can't ride his bike this way for safety reasons. The dog comes out in the road after him, and stops cars. Neighbors had to help get the dog back home. He needs to take an alternate route. However he feels he shouldn't have to, and that this animal is going to cause someone some serious damage.

**Supervisor Butler** advised Dr. Sturges that this would have to go before the Judge at some point.

**Attorney Virginia Benedict** arrived at this time. (7:05 p.m.)

**Attorney Benedict** informed Mr. Sturges that he could file a complaint with the Court, and file one with Sherry (Dog Control) as well. He was advised that Sherry should call him before the of Tuesday.

**Code Enforcement Officer Albert Gasparini** gave his July Report. He had no building permits in July. He had 5 building permit inquiries and 6 building permit inspections.

There was 1 Certificate of occupancy of Dollar General which opened on July 15, 2018.

There were 4 change of property use, 2 of these were solar related.

There were 6 requests for Certificates of Occupancy/building violation search.

4 Complaints. 1 violation- Hudson River Bulk 9564 US 9W Athens, NY

1 Complaint for 605 Green Lake Road- Green Lake Resort & Conference Center-Possible change of use by owners; it was found that there was No change of use.

3 complaints filed for 854 Leeds Athens Road. Clearing of property and regrading of property. Steve Shepherd, DOT, Rebecca Mitchell, DEC- Division of Waters Permits, Jami June, DEC Mining Permits are investigating for any violations and monitoring work on property. Owner was redeveloping right of way road during work on the land and caused neighbor to lose access to their property by vehicle during work. Owner is still finishing up grading right of way road for neighbor.

**Assessor Carol McBride** informed the Board that George Heller needs to be replaced on the Board of Review and Frances McCusker's term expires September 30, 2018.

*Discussion followed* on the Article 7 for DBTL (owners) tax ID # 122.11-1-4.

Assessor McBride feels that another appraisal does not have to be done; however, Supervisor Butler feels that a new one should be done as we are looking for a different type of appraisal.

**Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr.** made a motion seconded by Councilman Michael Ragaini to move forward with a new appraisal on the DBTL property. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

**New Enhanced Star Renewals:** Beginning with the 2019-2020 School year, Taxation and Finance will annually renew applicants to determine eligibility of Enhanced Star recipients. A cover letter to go out in October to applicants.

**Assessor McBride and the Board** discussed the State Reappraisal Project. Mrs. McBride informed the Board that Bob Hilbert doesn't do data collection. The Town would need to hire a data collector.

We need an amended plan. If we want to get reimbursed from the State we need to stay on the Plan, and stay at 100%.

**Highway Superintendent John J. Farrell** reported that the culvert upgrades were finished on roads to be oil & stoned.

The motor paving of Sandy Plains Road is finished. It took 2.5 days. 4 cars got oil on them because of wet stone.

All T & L (True & Level) is done on roads to be oil and stoned, that will take place the week of week of August 20<sup>th</sup>.

Truck #8 went back to the factory for warranty work.

They have been out mowing with both mowers. Mowed at the lake for the Village once.

One man took excavator into Village and dug water service that was leaking.

They ditched Park Ave. which will be getting paved this week. Tires were ordered for truck #2 (rear tires); 3 fronts; #6 Front and tractor 5085m front.

3 street signs were replaced, that went missing: Fox Lane; Church Street and Gypsy Point Road.

The Athens Community Grant from 2016 has been completed.

John checked the roads 4 times with all the rain, and called the highway crew out over the weekend due to some pipes being plugged and a few trees that had come down.

Mr. Farrell is considering removing Vosenkill Road from the Highway Agreement and is currently working on his budget for 2019, so it can be handed in on Thursday.

**Bookkeeper/ Budget Officer Michael Strenka** went over the Supervisor's Report for July.

**Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr.** made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow to accept the Supervisor's Report as presented. Ayes- 5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Bookkeeper Strenka presented a resolution to the Board to transfer money.

**On the motion of Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr.** seconded by Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow the following **RESOLUTION #2018-29** was adopted as follows:

WHEREAS, the Town of Athens Highway Superintendent submitted a grant request to the The Athens Foundation for new radios for the Highway Department trucks, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Athens received a check for \$18,000.00 during December 2016 to purchase the radios, and

WHEREAS, it is the intention of the Town Board of the Town of Athens to recognize the revenue received and the budget line item to allow purchase of the radios;

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Athens hereby authorizes increasing Highway Fund Appropriated Fund Balance DA-599 by \$18,000.00 and increasing Highway Fund Machinery Equipment line item DA 5130.2 by \$18,000.00 to purchase the radios.

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

**Councilman Michael Ragaini** made a motion seconded by Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr. to approve the Town Clerk's Report for the month of July as presented. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

The Board members reviewed the minutes of July 2, 2018 meeting.

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

**Zoning:** Councilmen Ragaini and Paluch asked to see an old zoning map before the next meeting for the Route 9W area.

Copy of letter (from NYS DOT) sent to resident David Baker who lives at 8648 US Route 9W, Athens, was received. He had requested a speed limit reduction, which was investigated and found not warranted at this time.

**Greene Land Trust- 480 Route 385-** will be holding an outdoor Blue Grass- Country Music Concert, at Willow's Point, on Saturday September 29, 2018 from 2 to 6 PM.

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

Meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.