

REGULAR MEETING – ATHENS TOWN BOARD – August 5, 2019

The regular meeting of the Athens Town Board was called to order on August 5, 2019 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; 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 follow people were also present: Attorney Virginia Benedict; Bookkeeper/ Budget Officer Donald Pierro; Assessor Carol McBride; Code Enforcement Officer Albert Gasparini; Gary and JoAnn South; Theresa Cardinale; Fran McCusker; Barbara Trembacz; Michael Campbell and John Severance.

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

**General Abstract #14**, vouchers #279 through #303 inclusive for **\$25,734.08**.

**Highway Abstract #14**, vouchers #130 through #139 inclusive for **\$16,315.77**.

Also

**General Abstract #15**, vouchers #304 through #317 inclusive for **\$23,607.06**.

**Highway Abstract #15**, vouchers #140 through #151 inclusive for **\$15,406.39**.

**John Severance of 91 Farm to Market Road**, Athens came before the Board to discuss Section 180 of the Town Codes; sections 9 & 10 permitted and prohibited uses, regarding a race track that has been built on lot 217 Farm to Market Road. Mr. Severance felt that this should be prohibited as it was not being used as a residential use. He felt this was a violation.

Supervisor Butler informed him it was not being used as a business. There is no noise ordinance. Mr. Severance stated this was not the issue.

Attorney Benedict stated that there is no violation.

Discussion followed.

It was suggested that Mr. Severance speak to the owner of the property and see what he has in mind for the future.

**Gary South of Potic Mountain Road** came before the Board regarding high speed internet connection. He explained that cablevision ended just about ½ mile from his house. The cable company told him it would cost 8 to 10 thousand to continue the line. He asked when the current franchise expires. He would like the line extended for himself & his neighbors.

**Attorney Virginia Benedict** stated she would take a look at her records to see what she has written.

**Supervisor Butler** reminder Board members that the next meeting would be held on August 19, 2019 at 7pm at the Athens Volunteer Fire House and that Flint Mine Solar would be there.

**Assessor Carol McBride reported** that two parcels for small claims review were received in the office.

Property owners that receive letters from NYS Taxation and Finance should complete the form and send it along with any documentation required.

Board of Assessment and review meeting will be held August 9, 2019, to review petitions of the Assessor. Next meeting for corrections is to be held in October.

2019 School Roll files are due by the end of the week to process School taxes.

Greene County Assessor's Association is looking into developing an RFP for a County Wide Data Collector.

**Supervisor Butler introduced** the new *Bookkeeper/Budget Officer Donald A. Pierro* to the Board members and those present.

**Mr. Pierro presented a proposal** of more memory (ram) for his computer for \$519.47 from ITS, (Intelligent Technology Solutions) plus a battery backup. He also handed out the Supervisor Report for July.

**Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr.** made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow to update the Bookkeeper's computer system with more memory at the cost of \$519.47 from ITS. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

**Highway Superintendent John J. Farrell** reported that the highway crew had been helping the Towns of Catskill and Coxsackie with their roads.

The highway crew has been busy cleaning up downed trees and limbs in the roads from all the storms.

**Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr.** made a motion seconded by Councilman Anthony Paluch that Highway Superintendent Farrell be authorized to get the salt shed roof painted. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

**Highway Superintendent Farrell** informed the Board that the tables and benches have been removed from Greene County Park and stored at the Town garage.

Discussion followed.

**Code Enforcement Officer Albert Gasparini** reported that he had issued 8 building permits, and did 8 building inspections.

He issued one certificate of Occupancy, one certificate of Compliance, one Demolition Permit; there were two Certificate of Occupancy Search requests.

One Complaint at 217 Farm to Market Road. An area cleared for using off road motorcycles. There was one Septic Permit.

Short Term Rental Violation; Expired Rental Certificate for 216 Route 385, Athens.

Note: Worked with property manager Audrey Lent in bringing Owen Lipstein's short term rental house at 216 Route 385 in compliance. Short Term Rental issued and open Building Permits have been satisfied to be closed.

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

The Board reviewed the Town Clerk's Report.

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

**Councilman Anthony Paluch** made a motion seconded by Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr. **to approve the minutes of July 1, 2019 as read.** Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

A letter was received from Sharon Paluch, who owns property on 9W near the proposed Flint Mine Solar property sites, wanting to add her property to the list of sites.

REGULAR MEETING – ATHENS TOWN BOARD – August 5, 2019

Town Planning Board minutes of June 27, 2019 were received by Board members for review.

A letter was received from the Athens Cultural Center regarding an upcoming meeting to be held on Wednesday, August 21 at 3:00PM at the Cultural Center, 24, Second Street. Athens, NY, to discuss some new ideas for this year's Athens Victorian Stroll. This event is scheduled for December 14, 2019.

At this time Attorney Benedict and the Town Board went over the Town Handbook.

Discussion followed on Assessor's position.

**Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr.** made a motion seconded by Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. to make the appointment of Assessor be for two days a week and a hire a qualified Assessor's Clerk to work with the Assessor and the Code Enforcement Officer. Ayes- 2(Butler; Surrano) Noes-(Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch) Absent-0 Abstentions-0

**Councilman Anthony Paluch** made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow to reappoint Carol J. McBride as Assessor. Ayes-3 (Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch) Noes-2(Butler; Surrano) Absent-0 Abstentions-0

As there was no further business to come before the meeting a motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Michael Ragaini seconded by Councilman Anthony Paluch. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.