

## REGULAR MEETING-ATHENS TOWN BOARD-MAY 6, 2019

The regular meeting of the Athens Town Board was called to order on May 6, 2019 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 Michael Ragaini; Councilman Anthony Paluch; Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr.; Highway Superintendent John J. Farrell and Deputy Town Clerk Gail Stacey.

The following people were also present: Attorney Virginia Benedict, Bookkeeper Michael Strenka; Assessor Carol McBride; Code Enforcement Officer Albert Gasparini; Cheryl Alberti; Janet Paluch; Gene Paluch; Michael Campbell; Sean McGrath; Rudolph Geiger; Fran McCusker and Marla Butler.

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

**General Abstract #9**, vouchers #180 through #207 inclusive for **\$35,539.17**.

**Highway Abstract #9**, vouchers #96 through #102 inclusive for **\$9,081.99**.

**Code Enforcement Officer Albert Gasparini** presented his monthly report to the Board in which he had 2 Building Permits, 8 inspections, 1 Certificate of Occupancy, 1 Certificate of Compliance, 1 Demo Permit, 2 Certificate of Occupancy searches, and 2 Complaints. Mr. Gasparini has also requested that the Board hire Xpert Lawns & Landscaping to clean up the Verizon property on Rt. 385 that has a property maintenance violation. Also states that he is working on 2016/2017 report for NYS Building and Codes. He is working with property manager for Owen Lipstein to make property compliant for a short term rental consideration. Attorney Virginia Benedict advised Mr. Gasparini that Athens Gen does not have setbacks to repair water line and put in a switchbox and pole on Rt. 385 because they will be moving it on the property. There are still issues with Primax (Dollar General) in regards to the grass.

**Assessor Carol McBride** presented her monthly report to the Board in which she states the Sleepy Hollow litigation date of argument has been scheduled for Friday, May 31, 2019 at 9:30 a.m. The 2019 Field Review has been completed. The 2019 Tentative Roll has been completed and she will be sitting with the roll and hours for doing so are as follows: May 6 and May 13 from 9:00-1:00; May 8 from 12:00-2:00 and 5:00-7:00; May 18 from 9:00-1:00 to meet with property owners informally. Grievance Day will take place on Tuesday, May 28, 2019 from 3:00-5:00 and 6:00-8:00 p.m. All BOAR Members have attended training. Final Roll for 2019 is July 1, 2019. Carol also requested to purchase a small copy machine for her office for \$225.90 from Amazon.

**Highway Superintendent John J. Farrell** presented his report to the Board in which he states that they have been doing some clean up on Gypsy Point Rd and changing pipes on Mud Lane and Flats Rd, still have 4 more to do then onto Thorpe Rd. They have been working with Catskill doing milling on Five Mile Woods Rd. There will be blacktop patching when weather permits. Depending on County bids, the CHPS Sealing Project is tentatively scheduled for July in which there will be stoning only. There was a rollover balance of \$5000.00 from the Extreme Weather Fund which will be spent down, additional funding is looking skeptical. In regards to the salt shed, if grant funding is available, maybe just the roof will be done. Village may be moving approximately 60 tons of salt out to the Highway Building. Hydrant out by the Highway Garage came into question and it is operational. Mowing should hopefully be starting soon.

**Bookkeeper Michael Strenka** presented the Supervisor's Monthly Report to the Board. There are two budget adjustments that need to be made. Councilman Anthony Paluch had a question in regards to one of the adjustments.

**Rudolph Geiger** came before the board in regards to 12 Dawn Drive which he inherited from his father. He would like the property rezoned to commercial for a storage business he would like to have on the property. The property is located in a residentially zoned Hamlet. Supervisor Butler advised Mr. Geiger to write up a site plan and to also look on the Town website at our codes to see if it will fall within the permitted use of that zone. He could then submit the site plan and special use permit application to the Planning Board.

**Town Clerks Report** was reviewed by the Board. Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr. made a motion to accept the Town Clerks Report, seconded by Councilman Michael Ragaini. Ayes-5 (Butler; Ragaini; Brandow; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

**Minutes of April 15, 2019** were reviewed by the Board. Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr. made a comment on a passage from the report in regards to Christine Douglas from Real Property. Stated she did not really answer any questions.

**With nothing further, Councilman Michael Ragaini** made a motion to accept the minutes, of April 15, 2019 seconded by Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr. Ayes-5 (Butler; Ragaini Brandow; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

**Town Clerks Year End Cash Book Report** was reviewed by the Board. **Councilman Anthony Paluch** made a motion to accept the report, seconded by Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr. Ayes-5 (Butler; Ragaini; Brandow; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

**NYS Board on Electric Generation Siting and The Environment** denied Greene Land Trust access to data from Flint Mine Solar.

**Honor –A- Vet Memorial Service** is scheduled for Saturday, May 18, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. at the Historic Catskill Point Warehouse.

**County Rt. 49** between Schoharie Turnpike and the Town of Coxsackie town line will be 45 miles per hour.

**The Athens American Legion Memorial Day Parade** on May 27, 2019 will start at 9:00 a.m. Line Up remains the same as previous years.

**Greene County Solid Waste Hazardous Waste Collection Day** will be on June 8, 2019 at the Greene County Highway Department located at 67 Scott Lane from 7:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

**Letters from The Local Waterfront Revitalization Program and The Brownfield Opportunity Area Program** in regards to application requests.

**Planning Board Minutes** from February 28, 2019 and April 25, 2019 were submitted.

**Michael Campbell** came in front of the Board with concerns about the hill under the power lines on Quarry Rd. shifting from a statement given to him from an engineer and the safety issues with all the cars that go in and out. States that situation is not safe for firetrucks and police really don't have access and states that he cannot block the road off due to legalities.

**Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow** made a motion for **Resolution #2019-23**, seconded by Councilman Michael Ragaini which states as follows:

**Whereas**, the Town of Athens has received a check from New York State awarding a grant of \$600.00 from the Justice Court Assistance Program (JCAP), and

**Whereas**, this transaction has not yet been recognized in the 2019 Town of Athens Budget, and

**Whereas**, the intention of the Town Board to recognize the awarding of the grant as revenues and impending expenditures to be budgeted for in the 2019 budget;

**Now, Therefore**, be it resolved, that the Town Board of the Town of Athens hereby authorizes increasing General Fund Estimated Revenue Code A 3021 Court Facilities by \$600 and increasing General Fund Appropriations line Item A 1110.4 Town Justice Grant supplies by \$600.

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

**Councilman Michael Ragaini** made a motion for **Resolution # 2019-24**, seconded by Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr. which states as follows:

**Whereas**, the Town of Athens has entered into a contract with Ryan Biggs engineering firm and architects totaling \$13,800, and

**Whereas**, these services have been directly associated with the evaluation of the structural soundness of the Town Hall building as well as plans detailing the rooms layout of the new town hall, and

**Whereas**, this transaction has not yet been recognized in the 2019 Town of Athens Budget, and

**Whereas**, it is the intention of the Town Board to recognize the necessary expenditures regarding the feasibility study;

**Now, Therefore**, be it resolved, that the Town Board of the Town of Athens hereby authorizes increasing General Fund Appropriated Fund Balance A-599 by \$13,800 and increasing General Fund Appropriations Line Item A 1620.4 Building and Grounds by \$13, 800. Ayes-4 (Butler; Ragaini; Brandow; Surrano) Noes-1 (Paluch) Absent-0 Abstentions-0

**Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr.** made a motion, seconded by Councilman Anthony Paluch, to go forward with Xpert Lawns & Landscaping to clear the Verizon property on Rt. 385. Ayes-5 (Butler; Ragaini; Brandow; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

After a brief discussion, the Board approved the Assessors request for the purchase of a copy machine for her office.

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

**Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr.** made a motion, seconded by Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr., to go into Executive Session. 8:00 p.m. Ayes-5 (Butler; Ragaini; Brandow; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

**Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr.** made a motion, seconded by Councilman Michael Ragaini, to exit Executive Session. Ayes-5 (Butler; Ragaini; Brandow; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

**Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr.** made a motion, seconded by Councilman Michael Ragaini, **to lower the Town Clerks starting salary to \$42,500, starting January 1, 2020.** Ayes-3 (Butler; Ragaini; Surrano) Noes-2 (Brandow; Paluch) Absent-0 Abstentions-0

**Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow** made a motion, seconded by Councilman Richard M. Surrano, to adjourn. Ayes-5 (Butler; Ragaini; Brandow; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Meeting was adjourned at 8:56 p.m.