

REGULAR MEETING – ATHENS TOWN BOARD – March 18, 2019

The regular meeting of the Athens Town Board was called to order on March 18, 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.

These people were also present: Attorney Virginia Benedict; Assessor Carol McBride; Michael Pirrone; Barbara Trembacz; and Laura Bomyea Attorney of Young and Sommers.

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

General Abstract #6, vouchers #109 through #138 inclusive for **\$18,120.30**.

Highway Abstract #6, vouchers #59 through #75 inclusive for **\$13,454.93**.

Notice of Public Hearing was read by Supervisor Butler, regarding proposed Local Law No. 1 for 2019, amending the Code of the Town of Athens to prohibit trucks, tractors, and tractor-trailer combinations having a gross weight in excess of 25 tons on Leeds Athens Road between 9W and Forest Hills Avenue. (The way it appeared in the official newspaper.)

Supervisor opened the floor to questions.

Highway Superintendent Farrell stated that this will help reduce dangerous situations.

As there were no other comments or questions **Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow made a motion** to close the public hearing seconded by Councilman Michael Ragaini. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Assessor Carol McBride went over methods of Reappraisal:

1. *REAPPRAISAL ASSESSMENT*-(parcel by parcel using 3 approaches to value (for 2021 roll) A systematic analysis is done on all parcels in the Town and is parcel specific reviewing individual inventory at least one time every six years.

2. *NON REAPPRAISAL REASSESSMENT*- (Using trending applied to areas needing adjustments based on a systematic analysis for the whole Town) Trending is not considered a reassessment but the goal is to keep the Equalization rate @ 100%. The Department of Taxation and Finance shares analysis of the aggregate movement from one year to another. Towns must state their intention to maintain a level of assessing @ 100% “Our Town is not a Reassessment for 2019”.

Assessor McBride stated that the market value has increased primarily in the Village.

Our equalization rate will fall this year from those sales that were observed from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018 to 91%.

Assessor McBride stated that she is not planning to increase the values with a 2% factor as originally planned.

Discussion followed on DBTL Realty Corp discontinued their case.

Supervisor Butler asked Mrs. McBride to get the total assessed values for the Towns of Cossackie; Cairo and New Baltimore for a project he is working on.

Supervisor Butler announced that the Board forgot to vote on the Town Court’s Annual Report at the March 4th meeting.

On the motion of Councilman Anthony Paluch seconded by Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow the following **RESOLUTION #2019-20** to accept the *Annual Report of the Town of Athens Court for 2018 as presented was adopted*. 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 minutes of March 4, 2019 as read.* Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Letter received from, Gail Lasher, President of the Athens Street Festival Committee, requesting the Town Board for their sponsorship for the 45th annual festival to be held July 13, 2019. Discussion followed. The Board decided to be a gold sponsor, as they had already budgeted for it.

Supervisor Butler informed the Board that had received information requesting attendance at an information session regarding changes to processing of Assessment Rolls, Tax Rolls, and Tax Bills, from Greene County Real Property Tax Service, Director Ray Ward. The County will be taking over the printing of these items. The Vendor that the County has used for a long time has changed hands and this year there were too many errors.

Town Clerk Stacey advised the Board that Deputy Clerk Gail Stacey would go to the morning session from 9 to 11:30 am, and she would attend the afternoon session from 1 to 3:30 pm. Both sessions are being held at the Greene County EMS Training Center in Cairo, on April 2nd.

Discussion followed on medical insurance buyout.

Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr. made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow that for the 2019 year the buyouts remain the same, however an amendment should be made for the year 2020 that all part time employees are eligible for a buyout of \$1500 only, and all full time employees are eligible for a buyout of \$3000. (Section 709 in the Employee Handbook.) Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

On the motion of Councilman Michael Ragaini seconded by Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow the following **RESOLUTION #2019-21** was adopted:

WHEREAS, Local Law No. 1 of 2019, providing for a local law prohibiting trucks in excess of 25 tons from Leeds Athens Road between 9W and Forest Hills Avenue, was laid on the desks of the members of the Town Board for at least 10 days; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing on said local law was duly noticed and held on March 18, 2019.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Board of the Town of Athens that **Local Law No. 1 of 2019 is hereby adopted**; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Highway Superintendent is hereby authorized and directed to obtain and install signs in accordance with the local law.

Upon the question of the adoption of this Resolution, the following Board members voted **“Aye” in favor of the Resolution: Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano**
The following Board members voted “No” in opposition to the Resolution: None

The proposed Resolution having been approved by a majority of the Board, the same was **declared duly adopted by the Athens Town Board.**

Attorney Laura Bomyea of Young Sommer was here to answer any questions the Board might have of Flint Mine Solar.

The following appointments were made:

Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow made a motion seconded by Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr. to **appoint Silas Basham** of Sleepy Hollow Lake *to the Board of Assessment and Review from March 18, 2019 to September 30, 2024, to fill the vacancy.* Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Councilman Anthony Paluch made a motion seconded by Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. to **appoint Hal Brodie to the Planning Board as a member for a term of 7 years: March 18, 2019 to December 31, 2025.** Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr. made a motion seconded by Councilman Michael Ragaini *to appoint Gerald Bunting and Kevin Forbes to the Planning Board as Alternates from March 18, 2019 to December 31, 2019.* Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Councilman Michael Ragaini made a motion seconded by Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. *to appoint the following people to the Zoning Board of Appeals for the following terms:*

Jim Morabito March 18, 2019 to December 31, 2024

Christian Pfister March 18, 2019 to December 31, 2023

Kevin Park March 18, 2019 to December 31, 2021

Helen Ihde March 18, 2019 to December 31, 2020

Ayes-4 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Surrano) Noes-1(Paluch) Absent-0 Abstentions-0

(Mike Pirrone is a member whose term expires December 31, 2022.)

Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr. made a motion seconded by Councilman Michael Ragaini *to appoint the following two Alternates to the Zoning Board of Appeals* from March 18, 2019 to December 31, 2019: **Eric Nelson and Scott Leggio.** Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

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

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.