

The regular meeting of the Athens Town Board was called to order on February 3, 2020 at 7:05 p.m. by Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The following people were present: Supervisor Butler; Councilman Michael Ragaini; Councilman Anthony Paluch; Councilwoman Shannon Spinner and Town Clerk Linda M. Stacey. (Councilwoman Brandow and Highway Superintendent Farrell were absent.)

These people were also present: Attorney Virginia Benedict; Bookkeeper/ Budget Officer Don Pierro; Assessor Carol McBride; Code Enforcement Officer Albert Gasparini; Theresa Cardinale; Fran McCusker; Peggy Pieruzzi; Claudia & Ken Kuder; Donald McBride; Barbara Trembacz and Robert Brunner.

The following vouchers were audited by the Town Board and ordered paid:

General Abstract #3, vouchers #40 through #69 inclusive for **\$21,365.99**.

Highway Abstract #3, vouchers #13 through #31 inclusive for **\$64,740.59**.

Bookkeeper/Budget Officer Donald Pierro reviewed the Supervisor's Report with the Board.

Bookkeeper Pierro informed the Board that the CD Investment was reduced to \$750,000.00, a decrease of \$100,000.00, and would be invested for an additional month, making it 7 months, and 68 points.

Mr. Pierro spoke about getting a postage machine, similar to "Pitney Bowes", where everyone would have their own code for postage use. (This would be charged to their own account. This would work, except for certified mail.)

He spoke about taking in credit cards and a check reader.

Mr. Pierro informed the Board that you can purchase a tablet for \$35.00.

Mr. Pierro informed the Board that the Accounting Firm of Pattison, Koskey, Howe & Bucci has merged with a company called UHY.

Councilman Michael Ragaini made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Shannon Spinner to **approve the Supervisor's Report as presented**. Ayes-4 (Butler; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Brandow) Abstentions-0

Code Enforcement Officer Albert Gasparini reported that there were 6 building permits to date.

He has done 10 building inspections and issued 2 Certificates of Compliance.

He researched 7 Certificate of Occupancy Search requests.

He received one (1) complaint of rubbish at 390 Leeds Athens Road: the neighbors are working on it.

Violations:

1320 Schoharie Turnpike- Property Maintenance Code: Court date is scheduled for 2/3/2020.

390 Leeds Athens Road- Property Maintenance- Owner has three weeks to get it cleaned up.

Other Items:

- 1.** **Jason Gabriel** is the new property manager for Short Term Rental Property, for Shakespeare on the Hudson, (216 Route 385.) Discussion followed.
- 2.** **Lek Nazi** still talking about using property for a gun range.
- 3.** Request for home based business to sell Sporting goods (Green Lake Rd).
- 4.** Change of use for old Schmidt garage to turn it into a restaurant.
- 5.** Jacqueline Murray Esq. inquiring for a small solar farm on Potic Mt. Rd.

Assessor Carol McBride informed the Board that all Exemption Applications are due by taxable status date March 1st.

Greene County Legislature has increased the sliding scale for aged and Disabled Exemptions by \$500 making the sliding scale \$29,000 to \$37,399.99.

Mrs. McBride informed the Board that Data Collectors, which have been approved by the Board will be meeting with her on Wed. Feb 5th for a brief orientation. (All board members are invited.)

Assessor McBride stated that the Data Collection Project will start on February 12th.

Discussion followed on the tablet.

Employee Handbook:

Councilman Michael Ragaini made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Shannon Spinner to approve and adopt the Employee Handbook. Ayes-3(Butler; Ragaini; Spinner) Noes-1(Paluch) Absent-1(Brandow) Abstentions-0

Councilman Michael Ragaini made a motion seconded by Councilman Anthony Paluch to approve the minutes of January 20, 2020 as read. Ayes-4 (Butler; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-1(Brandow) Abstentions-0

Councilman Anthony Paluch made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Shannon Spinner to accept and approve the Town Clerk's Report. Ayes-4 (Butler; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-1(Brandow) Abstentions-0

Supervisor Butler informed the Board that he met with the Village Mayor regarding the building.

Discussion followed on hourly employees attending Board meetings and then working the next day.

Councilman Michael Ragaini made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Shannon Spinner that if the four (4) hourly employees (Code Enforcer; Assessor; Bookkeeper or Deputy Clerk) attend a Board meeting for one or two hours, they adjust their starting time (one or two hours) the next day accordingly. Ayes-4 (Butler; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-1(Brandow) Abstentions-0

The Village has put in for a Grant for the Comprehensive Plan. Joint meeting of the Village & Town will be held March 5th for the Joint Comprehensive Plan.

Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue, seconded by Councilman Michael Ragaini. Ayes-4 (Butler; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-1(Brandow) Abstentions-0 Time- 8:35 p.m.

Councilman Michael Ragaini made a motion seconded by Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. to adjourn the Executive Session and reconvene the regular meeting. Ayes-4 (Butler; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-1(Brandow) Abstentions-0 Time- 8:59 p.m.

As there was no further business to come before the meeting a **motion to adjourn** was made by **Councilwoman Shannon Spinner** seconded by Councilman Michael Ragaini. Ayes-4 (Butler; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-1(Brandow) Abstentions-0

Meeting Adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

