

REGULAR MEETING – ATHENS TOWN BOARD – July 6, 2021

The regular meeting of the Athens Town Board was called to order at 7:00 pm on July 6, 2021 at the Village Volunteer Fire House on Third Street, by Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The following people were present: Supervisor Butler; Councilmember Mary H. Brandow; Councilmember Michael Ragaini; Councilmember Anthony Paluch; Councilmember Shannon Spinner and Town Clerk Linda M. Stacey.

These people were also present: Bookkeeper/ Budget Officer Don Pierro; Michael Pirrone; Barbara Trembacz; Theresa Cardinale; Fran McCusker and Robert Brunner.

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

General Abstract #13, vouchers # 282 through #317 inclusive for \$35,065.04.

Highway Abstract #13, vouchers #105 for \$5331.72.

Trust & Custodian- Freepoint Solar: Abstract #2, voucher #2 for \$65.00.

Councilmember Anthony Paluch made a motion seconded by Councilmember Shannon Spinner to approve the minutes of June 7, 2021 as read. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Councilmember Shannon Spinner made a motion seconded by Councilmember Michael Ragaini to approve the minutes of June 21, 2021 as read. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

On the motion of Councilmember Michael Ragaini seconded by Councilmember Mary H. Brandow the following RESOLUTION #2021-40 to Hire Laurence Farbstein for Systematic Evaluation for Providing Real Property Assessment and Taxation Consultant Services as follows:

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Athens hereby determines that it is in the public interest and purpose to procure Contracted Consulting Services for the upcoming Systematic Review of Property Classes within the Town of Athens; and to make corrections within such classes which will drive corrections to the Equalization Rate beginning June 2022 through June 2023. The Town received two proposals from firms in the Albany area and tentatively agreed on Mr. Farbstein. Additionally there may be additional representation needed in the event any Certiorari's or Small Claims complaints arise as the result of this process. The funds for these additional items will be on a different Budget Line as estimated during the applicable Budget Process.

WHEREAS, in order to meet such financial requirements the Town Board shall authorize the funding in the 2022 and 2023 Budgets which will be confirmed by the Budget Officer at a public meeting of the Town Board to be determined, and

WHEREAS, the current funds to meet this obligation are duly held at the National Bank of Coxsackie, Athens, New York, and said funds are currently un-restricted funds and will be available within the respective Annual Budgets, and

WHEREAS, the amount for these contracted services were quoted at a price of \$30,000.00 for the basic advisory & statistical analysis for 2022 and an additional \$30,000.00 for the 2023 Budget year and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED that the Town Board hereby authorizes the hiring of Laurence P. Farbstein, President, IUVC, Inc., and it is further

RESOLVED that the foregoing resolution shall become effective this 6th day of July in the year 2021.

Adopted as follows: Ayes-4 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Spinner) Noes-1 (Paluch) Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Bookkeeper/Budget Officer Don Pierro went over the Employee Handbook that he and Attorney McHugh had revised, with underlines and cross outs that were made for any changes. The revised handbook will be discussed and voted on at the July 19th meeting. (Everyone received a copy of the handbook so they can review it.)

Supervisor Butler reported that he received a letter from the Court requesting a new HP Laser Jet Pro M428fdw monochrome Laser Multifunction Printer with duplexing. The new copier will cost \$450.00. The old copier's drum is dying.

Councilmember Shannon Spinner made a motion seconded by Councilmember Mary H. Brandow that the Court be authorized to purchase the copier listed above to replace the old one. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

The IDA yearly report showed that the true-up for the Town is \$00.

Bookkeeper Don Pierro reported that we had another candidate submit an application for Data Collector, for the Assessor's Office. Her name is Jeanine Thompson. She met with Assessor Dawn DeRose and Bookkeeper Pierro, last Thursday.

Councilmember Mary H. Brandow made a motion seconded by Councilmember Michael Ragaini to hire Jeanine Thompson as the new data collector to work with Robert Brunner to finish up collecting the data for the Town. Ayes-5(Brunner; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Supervisor Butler advised the Board that he had received an e-mail from Supervisor Dale Finch for Catskill with regard to the Catskill; Athens; Leeds Fire Protection Contract.

Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. made a motion seconded by Councilmember Shannon Spinner to go into Executive Session to discuss salaries. Ayes-5(Brunner; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0 Time: 7:31pm

Councilmember Anthony Paluch made a motion seconded by Councilmember Shannon Spinner to come out of Executive Session and reconvene the regular meeting. Ayes-5(Brunner; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Abstentions-0 7:37 pm

The Town Board decided to stay at \$17.00 per hour for the date collectors. discussion followed.

As there was no further business to come before the meeting, a motion to adjourn was made by Councilmember Michael Ragaini seconded by Councilmember Mary H. Brandow. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstent-0

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.