

A meeting of the Athens Town Board was held via Zoom on Tuesday February 16, 2021, at 7:00 P. M. with Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. presiding.

The following people attended: Supervisor Butler; Councilmember Mary H. Brandow; Councilmember Michael Ragaini; Councilmember /Shannon Spinner; Town Clerk Linda M. Stacey; Bookkeeper/Budget Officer Don Pierro and Albert Gasparini. (Councilmember Paluch was absent.)

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

**General Abstract #3**, vouchers #35 through #62 inclusive for **\$46,045.38**.

**Highway Abstract #3**, vouchers #23 through #27 inclusive for **\$6,324.33**.

**General Abstract #4**, vouchers #62A through #79 inclusive for **\$9,069.80**.

**Highway Abstract #4**, vouchers #28 through #33 inclusive **for \$11,297.04**.

**Trust & Agency Abstract #1**, vouchers #1 through # 4 inclusive for **\$364,347.00**.

**Code Enforcement Officer Albert Gasparini: VIOLATIONS:** reported that he had a Notice posted on the property at 1717 Schoharie Turnpike in Athens, (for the new owners) a Notice of Demolition letter and an Order to Vacate Dangerous and Unsafe Building.

At 1319 Schoharie Turnpike, Athens, he attached an Order to Remedy on the Front Door, for a boat parked at the corner of Schoharie Turnpike and Green Lake Road.

Two building permits were issued. Ten building Inspections were done.

There were two Certificates of Occupancy. One Temporary Certificate of occupancy. There were Seven Certificates of Occupancy Search Requests. One demolition Permit.

He finished his FOIL Request for Short Term Rental documents. (Andrew Peck.)

He also received plans for a proposed gas station & Convenience Store at Old Kinga Road and 9W.

**Assessor Cheryl Kaszluga** turned in her written report earlier: Which was read by Supervisor Butler. The Deputy Assessor has processed and mailed out all exemption renewals, which are to be returned by March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Assessor and Deputy Assessor continue to work on all sales that they have received. The month of November had (3) sales with the highest at \$440,000 and the lowest \$61,500 for a vacant parcel. The Highest in Sleepy Hollow with waterfront with a sale price of \$507,500 and lowest at \$4,000 for vacant parcel. It is very important to verify all sales to determine if they are an arm's length sale. The sales will be used to determine for our level of assessment.

She and Kathy continue updating their files with information from the previous data collector along with MLS listings and sales verification that they receive. E-mails and phone calls are being received wanting estimate of value for potential new construction.

**Bookkeeper/Budget Officer Don Pierro reviewed the** Supervisor's Report for January.

**Councilmember Shannon Spinner made a motion** seconded by Councilmember Mary H.

Brandow to approve and accept the Supervisor's Report as presented. Ayes-4(Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-1(Paluch) Abstentions-0

Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. reviewed the Town Clerk's Report with Board members.

**Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr.** made a motion seconded by Councilmember Michael Ragaini to approve the Town Clerk's Report for January as presented, Ayes-4(Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-1(Paluch) Abstentions-0

**Bookkeeper Don Pierro** presented a resolution to the Board regarding **Senior and Disability Filing Requirements.**

**On the motion of Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr.** seconded by Councilmember Michael Ragaini the following **RESOLUTION #2021-18** was adopted as follows:

**WHEREAS,** the Town Board of the Town of Athens hereby recognizes that on March 7, 2020

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo issued Executive Order Number 2020, declaring a State disaster emergency for the entire State of New York, and

**WHEREAS,** on December 18, 2020 said declaration was extended to include: Subdivisions 7, 7a and 8 of section 459-c of the Real Property Tax Law, and subdivisions 5, 5a, 5b, 5c, and 6 of section 467 of the Real Property Tax Law, which permits the governing body of an assessing unit to adopt a resolution directing the assessor to grant exemptions pursuant to such section on the 2021 assessment roll to all property owners who received that exemption on the 2020 assessment roll, thereby dispensing with the need for renewal applications from such persons and further dispensing with the requirement for assessor’s to mail renewal applications to such persons, and

**WHEREAS,** the Town is desirous in adopting such resolution while also allowing the assessor to require a renewal application to be filed when he or she has reason to believe that an owner who qualified for the exemption on the 2020 assessment toll may have since changed his or her primary residence, added another owner to the deed, transferred the property to a new owner, or died, now **THEREFORE, BE IT**

**RESOLVED,** that the Town Board is authorized to pass such resolution, and that the assessor is instructed to take any such necessary actions in the above described directives.

**RESOLVED,** that the foregoing resolution shall become effective this 16<sup>th</sup> day of February in the year 2021.

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

(Same Sliding Scales for both Exemptions, the same as 2020)

|                       |             |                  |
|-----------------------|-------------|------------------|
| Maximum Income Limit- | \$29,000.00 | 50%              |
|                       | \$29,000.01 | \$29,999.99 45%  |
|                       | \$30,000.00 | \$30,999.99 40%  |
|                       | \$31,000.00 | \$31,999.99 35%  |
|                       | \$32,000.00 | \$32,899.99 30 % |
|                       | \$32,900.00 | \$33,799.99 25 % |
|                       | \$33,800.00 | \$34,699.99 20%  |
|                       | \$34,700.00 | \$35,599.99 15%  |
|                       | \$35,600.00 | \$36,499.99 10%  |
|                       | \$36,500.00 | \$37,399.99 5%   |

The Board held a short discussion on Attorneys.

**Councilmember Mary H. Brandow** made a motion seconded by Councilmember Michael Ragaini **to hire Attorney George McHugh from Coeymans, New York as the Towns Attorney.**

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

**Supervisor Robert F. Butler Jr.** Explained the Intervenor Fund Settlement Proposal to the Board and asked for permission to sign the Settlement Proposal Letter.

**Councilmember Michael Ragaini** made a motion seconded by Councilmember Shannon Spinner authorizing Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. to sign the Intervenor Settlement Fund Proposal Letter on behalf of the Town. Ayes- 4 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Paluch) Abstentions-0.

**Councilmember Mary H. Brandow** made a motion seconded by Councilmember Shannon Spinner authorizing the Supervisor to sign the Intervenor Reimbursement Application as presented. Ayes- 4 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Paluch) Abstentions-0.

Bookkeeper/ Budget Officer spoke about doing an RFQ (a request for qualifications) for the land out by the Town garage. He is looking for an area to put an office building.)

**Bookkeeper / Budget Officer Don Pierro** presenter the Board with the two copiers; One for the Clerk's Office and one for the Assessor/ Code Offices.

**Councilmember Shannon Spinner** made a motion seconded by Councilmember Michael Ragaini to move ahead and order the copiers. Ayes- 4 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Paluch) Abstentions-0.

**Zoning and Planning Board Secretary:**

**Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. made a motion** seconded by Councilmember Michael Ragaini to appoint Mary Mirando as secretary to the ZBA and the Planning Board. Ayes- 4 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Paluch) Abstentions-0.

As there was no further business to come before the meeting, a motion to adjourn was made by Councilmember Shannon Spinner seconded by Councilmember Mary H. Brandow and carried. Ayes- 4 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Paluch) Abstentions-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 P.M.