

ATHENS TOWN BOARD – REGULAR MEETING – March 1, 2021

A meeting of the Athens Town Board was held via Zoom on Monday March 1, 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 Anthony Paluch; Councilmember Shannon Spinner; Highway Superintendent John J. Farrell and Town Clerk Linda M. Stacey.

These people were also in attendance; Bookkeeper/ Budget Officer Don Pierro; Code Enforcement Officer Albert Gasparini; Tom Satterlee; Senior Court Clerk Marcia Puorro; Court Clerk Vee Carl and Town Justice E. Timothy Mercer.

The following bills were audited and ordered paid:

General Abstract #5, vouchers #81 through #89 inclusive for **\$17,301.08.**

Highway Abstract #5, vouchers #34 through # 38 inclusive for **\$7,078.15.**

Supervisor Butler announced that from now on, the second meeting of the month is when Department heads will give their reports.

Code Enforcement Officer Albert Gasparini reported that he had 3 building permit; 9 building inspections.

He had an inquiry on a building permit for a solar farm on Spoorenburgh Road. There are 89 acres zoned as farm land. (James Kondrat is the project developer for Borrego Solar. Dominick Arico is the engineer for the proposed project which includes sub-division of a property, a storage shed, garage and 2 new homes).

2 Certificates of Occupancy were issued; one Certificate of Compliance was issued; He was called to a structure fire at 470 Green Lake Road from the wood stove.

Highway Superintendent John J. Farrell reported that he had advertised the referendums for the Alamo RM180 rear mounted boom mower off of the Sourcewell Contract, and for the purchase of a Ford Pickup truck off of the OGS Marketplace Mini Bid and there were no petitions against either of them. He wants to order the mower, and he needs to put the specs together for the truck.

He will have the Road agreement ready for the next meeting.

On the motion of Councilmember Shannon Spinner seconded by Councilmember Mary H. Brandow the following **RESOLUTION #2021-19** was adopted:

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Athens hereby determines that it is in the public interest and purpose to authorize the Superintendent of Highways to purchase an Alamo RM180 rear mounted boom mower off of the Sourcewell Contract and,

WHEREAS, in order to meet such Equipment needs the Town Board shall authorize the Superintendent to place an order with Tracey Road Equipment, Inc. for the Alamo RM180 at a cost not to exceed \$25,873.00 and,

WHEREAS, it is the intention of the Town Board of the Town of Athens to recognize such equipment needs as funded in the Annual Highway Budget and,

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NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Town Board of the Town of Athens hereby authorizes the purchase of Highway equipment to be paid for out of the Equipment Reserve (\$9,000) and the Community Foundation Grant Program for the balance of \$16, 873.00 and that the foregoing resolution shall become effective this 1st day of March in the year 2021.

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

The Ford pickup will replace the truck that Mr. Farrell currently drives, which has high mileage on it.

On the motion of Councilmember Shannon Spinner seconded by Councilmember Mary H. Brandow the following **RESOLUTION #2021-20** was adopted: Town Board of the Town of Athens has authorized the Highway Superintendent to purchase a Ford Pickup truck off of the OGS Marketplace Mini Bid. The Price of the Ford pickup truck should not exceed \$125,000.00.

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

Annual Court Report was given next: Senior Court Clerk Marcia Puorro; Court Clerk Vincenzina Carl; and Town Justice E. Timothy Mercer were in attendance.

Senior Court Clerk Puorro went over the report with Board members.

In summary; Tickets received in Court for 2020 were 1533, up 300 from 2019.

Small Claims & Evictions-26

Criminal Cases -75

DWI Cases -22

Unlicensed Operator cases -31

The total amount collected for 2020 was \$253,935.00

Amount to NYS 145,498.00

Amount to Town 103,498.00

Amount to County 5,293.00

(Total to Village for parking Tickets \$135.00)

Court was closed for two months according to the Governor's Covid Executive Orders. Then it was run at a reduced rate as per the Governor, and the Executive orders.

On the motion of Councilmember Anthony Paluch seconded by Councilmember Michael Ragaini the following **RESOLUTION #2021-21** to accept the Court's Annual Report was adopted. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Mr. Thomas Satterlee the Town's Representative to the 2020 Joint Village/Town Comprehensive Plan spoke about where we are.

Supervisor Butler asked him if there was anything major for the Town that could be looked at. Discussion followed.

Supervisor Butler announced that the second meeting of the month will be when the department heads give their reports, and when the Attorney will be present.

Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. made a motion seconded by Councilmember Shannon Spinner to reappoint Councilmember Anthony Paluch to the Greene County Planning Board for a three year term. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Supervisor Butler suggested that we have Ryan Biggs look at the Highway Building regarding air conditioners.

Mr. Butler named the following as potential revenue streams:

Flint Mine Solar

Athens Gen

Catskills Renewable Corridor

Champlain Hudson

Councilmember Michael Ragaini made a motion seconded by Councilmember Mary H. Brandow authorizing Planning Board Chairman Scott Fischer to hire Delaware Engineering. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Discussion followed on lot line adjustments; problems getting people out for a meeting. It was suggested to reduce the Planning Board down to 5 members from 7.

Our current assessor Cheryl Kaszluga handed in her resignation.

We have access to another assessor, for one day a week, and who will also operate remotely. Her name is Dawn DeRose, from Coxsackie.

Councilmember Shannon Spinner made a motion seconded by Councilmember Mary H. Brandow **to appoint Dawn DeRose as Sole Assessor** for the Town of Athens, to fill the unexpired term of Cheryl Kaszluga. (Term to expire 9/30/25.) Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-0 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. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.