

ATHENS TOWN BOARD - REGULAR MEETING - April 19, 2021

A regular meeting of the Athens Town Board was held via Zoom on Monday April 19, 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 also attended: Attorney George McHugh; Bookkeeper/ Budget Officer Don Pierro and Robert Brunner.

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

**General Abstract #8**, vouchers #140 through #175 inclusive for **\$20,807.90**.

**Highway Abstract #8**, vouchers #60 through #67 inclusive for **\$12,606.77**.

**Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr.** read a proposed Solar Exemption to the Board.

**On the motion of Councilmember Shannon Spinner** seconded by Councilmember Mary H. Brandow the following **RESOLUTION #2021-27** was adopted:

**WHEREAS**, solar and wind energy systems are now available and becoming more common in the Town of Athens; and

**WHEREAS**, most solar and wind energy systems are rentals and are not owned by the property owner; and

**WHEREAS**, the New York State exemption for solar, wind and farm waste energy systems (Application 4B-487) is a fifteen-year tax exemption for homeowners who purchase solar and wind energy systems;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that effective for the 2021 assessment roll, the Town of Athens will exempt solar, wind and farm energy systems from being assessed, but same will be inventoried as an improvement by the Assessor of the Town of Athens. This resolution was adopted as follows: Aye-4 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Spinner) Noes-1(Paluch) Absent-0 Abstentions-0

**Bookkeeper/Budget Officer Don Pierro** reviewed the Supervisor's Report with Board members.

**Councilmember Michael Ragaini** made a motion seconded by Councilmember Shannon Spinner to **accept the Supervisor's Report as presented**. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

**Mr. Pierro reported** that the RFQ's (Request for Qualifications) for engineering services for a new town building, that three were picked. MJ Engineering was the highest rated by the Councilmembers; with Ryan Biggs and Delaware Engineering coming in second and third. Mr. Pierro to write letter to the three finalists asking them to compare initial cost, with bid price and then the final price.

Councilmember Michael Ragaini spoke about Leeds Fire Protection. Discussion followed.

**Highway Superintendent John J. Farrell** reported that the Highway Crew has been cleaning up trash along the sides of the roads, and they will get rid of what they collected at the joint Cleanup Day.

**Mr. Farrell** stated that he is looking to black top next week.

**Supervisor Butler** asked about the status of the boom mower. John told him hopefully before June. When asked about the Truck, he replied that the finished truck would probably arrive in mid- September.

**Clean-up Day discussion followed.** Members wondered where the dumpsters would go, as the new Village DPW building is there now. They will go along side of it on the south. The Sheriffs will also be there to collect unused medication. There will be NO Tires.

**The Supervisor stated he** finally got an answer from the Fire Chief about using the Fire House for our meeting so we will be in compliance with the State's Executive Law regarding Covid-19. We need to draw up a Covid Plan and submit it to the Village Board.

**Councilmember Mary H. Brandow made a motion** seconded by Councilmember Shannon Spinner to approve the minutes of April 5, 2021, as corrected. (Councilmember Paluch's name was spelled incorrectly.) Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

**Councilmember Anthony Paluch** made a motion seconded by Councilmember Shannon Spinner to appoint Donald Andrews as an Alternate to the Town Planning Board for a term of 1 year, beginning 4/19/21 to 12/31/21. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

**Councilmember Anthony Paluch** made a motion seconded by Councilmember Michael Ragaini to appoint Elizabeth Bruning as Secretary to the Town Zoning Board of Appeals for a term of 1 year – 4/19/21 to 12/31/21. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

**Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. made** a motion seconded by Councilmember Michael Ragaini to appoint Gail Stacey as Secretary to the Town Planning Board for a term of 1 year- 4/19/21 to 12/31/21. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

**Councilmember Michael Ragaini made a motion** seconded by Councilmember Shannon Spinner to pay the Planning Board and the Zoning Board of Appeals Secretary each \$100.00 per meeting. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

**On the motion on Councilmember of Mary H. Brandow** seconded by Councilmember Shannon Spinner the following **RESOLUTION #2021-28 was moved for adoption:**  
**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN BOARD AS FOLLOWS:**

The accompanying proposed Local Law No. 1 for the Year 2021 to amend and replace Section 159-3 of the Town of Athens Town Code, changing Grievance Day from the fourth Tuesday of May every year to the fourth Thursday of May every year is hereby introduced, and

A public hearing upon such proposed Local Law shall be held on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021, at 7:00 pm at Athens Town Hall, 2 First Street, Athens, NY 12015, and

The Town Clerk shall publish notice of the Public Hearing upon the proposed Local Law with a summary thereof in the official newspaper at least five (5) days in advance of the Public Hearing.

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

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There will be a Public Hearing on the Comprehensive Plan for the Town on May 3, 2021 after the Grievance Day Local Law.

Discussion followed on Quarry Road, off of Potic Road. It doesn't meet the State Fire Code. This is a private road, with private residences.

**Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr.** made a motion seconded by Councilmember Shannon Spinner to go into Executive Session to discuss possible litigation. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0 (8:20)

**Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. made** a motion seconded by Councilmember Anthony Paluch to adjourn the Executive Session and reconvene the regular meeting. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0 (8:35)

No decisions were made.

As there was no further business to come before the meeting a **motion to adjourn was made by Councilmember Anthony Paluch seconded** by Councilmember Shannon Spinner. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Meeting adjourned at 8:38 pm.