

The regular meeting of the Athens Town Board was called to order on February 7, 2022, at 7:00 p. m. by Supervisor Michael N. Pirrone with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, at the Village of Athens Volunteer Fire House at 39 Third Street.

The following people were present: Supervisor Pirrone; Councilmember Mary H. Brandow; Councilmember Michael Ragaini; Councilmember Anthony Paluch; Councilmember Shannon Spinner and Town Clerk Linda M. Stacey. (Highway Superintendent John J. Farrell was absent.)

These people were also present: Bookkeeper/Budget Officer Donald Pierro; Robert Brunner; E. Timothy Mercer; Paula Butler and Patrick Doyle of Flint Mine Solar.

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

2021- General Abstract #28, voucher #612 for **\$10,697.25.**

Highway Abstract #27, vouchers #201 through #205 inclusive for **\$3,319.06.**

2022- General Abstract #3, vouchers #15 through #47 inclusive for **\$13,854.58.**

Highway Abstract #3, vouchers #4 through #15 inclusive for **\$143,589.35.**

Trust & Custodian- (Special Districts)

Abstract #1, vouchers #1 through #4 inclusive for **\$375,929.00.**

Councilmember Michael Ragaini made a motion seconded by Councilmember Mary H. Brandow *to approve the minutes of January 18th, 2022, as read.* Ayes-5 (Pirrone; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

On the motion of Councilmember Shannon Spinner seconded by Councilmember Michael Ragaini the following **RESOLUTION #2022-21** to state the primary intended uses of the majority portion of **the ARPA FUNDS** received in two allotments of Local Fiscal Recovery Funds through the American Rescue Plan Act: and for Other Permitted Purposes.

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2021, the United States Congress passed the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA), which provides fiscal relief funds to State and Local Governments, and other program areas aimed at mitigating the continuing effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic; and,

WHEREAS ARPA is intended to provide support to local governments in responding to the impact of COVID-19 and in their efforts to contain Covid-19 in their communities, for residents, and businesses; and

WHEREAS ARPA includes State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to support urgent COVID response efforts to replace lost public sector revenue to strengthen support for vital public services; to support immediate economic stabilization for household and businesses; and to address systemic public health and economic challenges that have contributed to unequal impacts of the pandemic on populations; and,

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Treasury has adopted the final rules as of January 6, 2022, as guidance regarding the use of ARPA Funds; and,

WHEREAS, on July 27, 2021, the United States Treasury through the State of New York, the Town of Athens received one Hundred Nineteen Thousand, Six Hundred Sixty-Four and 92/100 Dollars (119,664.92); and,

WHEREAS that as recipient, the Town of Athens accepts award of Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds allocation up to the maximum allowed by the terms and conditions of the ARPA; and,

WHEREAS this resolution is intended as a statement of intent of the Town Board to expend A portion or portions of the Town's ARPA Funds in accordance with Federal Law and guidance, for the current critical needs and priorities for which there is consensus as set forth below.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF ATHENS, NEW YORK: Subject to the provisions of the final permitted funding uses, **1.** COVID-19 public health emergency or **2.** Premium pay to essential workers, **3.** Cover loss of revenue for government services, or **4.** Make infrastructure investments in water, sewer, culverts

or broadband; The Town Board consensus as stated below will be to expend virtually all of the ARPA funding within category #4 for the purpose of Infrastructure improvements.

This resolution was adopted as follows: Ayes-5 (Pirrone; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

On the motion of Councilmember Michael Ragaini seconded by Councilmember Shannon Spinner the following **RESOLUTION #2022-22** to surplus the Ford 515 tractor and sell it on Auctions International. The F600 with plow, etc. has been delivered. Ayes-5(Pirrone; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

A discussion on extra hours or help for the Code Enforcement Officer followed

Councilmember Ragaini thought that Mr. Gasparini could benefit by an extra six hours a week. He was told that Mr. Gasparini does not need an extra 6 hours, as he has been coming in about half a day on Tuesday (in addition to his regular hours) to catch up on paperwork.

A new secretary, Rene' Meryman has been hired for the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Bookkeeper/ Budget Officer Don Pierro informed the Board that Legal fees are high already for the beginning of the year.

The Annual Trooper Brinkerhoff Race will be held on April 9th and April 23rd.

Athens Conservation Committee: alerting the Town Board of a grant opportunity to possibility secure the property known as “0 River Road” for river front conservation. A property that has extensive river frontage but does not appear to work well for development. Conceptually, the site could then be used for recreational purpose, e.g., hiking & river access -- adding much desirable riverfront parkland to the Town. The program is the DEC Community Forest Conservation Grant (<https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands>). Securing such a grant might make the acquisition of the property more feasible – for example, if combined with efforts of a third party such as Scenic Hudson.

Consensus of the Town Board: Declined by Majority.

Patrick Doyle, Manager of Flint Mine Solar, LLC, presented an update of the progress of the Project. “Mr. Doyle advised that Flint Mine is close to completing its response to Athens’s comments and is awaiting notification from legal advisors. Mr. Doyle spoke of the host community agreement of approximately \$200,000 per year (with an escalation of clause) and That the road use agreement negotiation is still in progress but should be close to completion. Supervisor Pirrone will inquire with Town Legal advisors of the Town status.”

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:42 p. m.