

REGULAR MEETING – ATHENS TOWN BOARD – February 21, 2022

The regular meeting of the Athens Town Board was called to order on February 21, 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; Highway Superintendent John J. Farrell and Town Clerk Linda M. Stacey.

The following people were also present: Bookkeeper/ Budget Officer Don Pierro; Attorney George McHugh; Code Enforcement Officer Albert Gasparini; Village Trustee Nancy Poylo; Barb Trembacz; Theresa Cardinale; Fran McCusker; Robert Brunner; Patrick Doyle; and M.K. Garvey.

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

**General Abstract #4**, vouchers #48 through #71 inclusive for **\$44,272.99**.

**Highway Abstract #4**, vouchers #16 through #27 inclusive for **\$90,641.90**.

**Councilmember Shannon Spinner** made a motion seconded by Councilmember Michael Ragaini to approve the minutes of February 7, 2022, as read. Ayes-5 (Pirrone; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

A motion to approve the Town Clerk's Monthly Report for January 2022, was made by **Councilmember Mary H. Brandow** seconded by **Councilmember Shannon Spinner** Ayes-5 (Pirrone; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

**Councilmember Shannon Spinner** made a motion seconded by Councilmember Mary H. Brandow to approve the Assessor's monthly written Report. Ayes-5 (Pirrone; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

**Supervisor Pirrone** informed everyone that the Data Collectors are working hard gathering all the data the Assessor needs.

**Code Enforcement Officer Albert Gasparini** reported that the Article 78 Proceeding file against the Town Re: Dresser Properties and Andrew Peck have been dismissed. The Judge arraigned Mr. Peck. Attorney George McHugh advised the Board Mr. Peck was using stall tactics.

Free Point Solar still has not turned anything paperwork into the Code Department.

**Councilmember Michael Ragaini** made a motion seconded by Councilmember Shannon Spinner to **approve the Code Enforcement Officer's** report as presented. Ayes-5 (Pirrone; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

**Bookkeeper/Budget Officer Don Pierro** spoke on ARPA Funds. (\$119,664.92.) The second half will arrive in the summer of 2022. We have received the working plan for infrastructure improvements applying ARPA Funds as provided by the Superintendent of Highways and reviewed by the Town Supervisor. At this point in time the Town intends to use 100% of the ARPA Funds for said infrastructure improvements such as Culvert replacement and related Guide rail systems within the Town. The deadline for the first report is April 30,2022.

Bookkeeper/Budget Officer Don Pierro informed the Board that he has been investing idle funds. The Auditors will be back in March.

**Councilmember Shannon Spinner** made a motion seconded by Councilmember Michael Ragaini **to approve the Bookkeeper/ Budget Officer’s report as presented**. Ayes-5 (Pirrone; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

**Highway Superintendent John Farrell** presented and read his Agreement for the Expenditure of Highway Moneys, between the Town Superintendent of the Town of Athens, Greene County, New York, and the undersigned members of the Town Board.

**On the motion of Councilmember Michael Ragaini** seconded by Councilmember Shannon Spinner the following **Resolution #2022-23** was adopted: Pursuant to the provisions of Section 284 of the Highway Law, we agree that moneys levied and collected in the Town for the repair and improvement of highways, and received from the State for State Aid for the repair and improvement of highways, shall be expended as follows:

1. GENERAL REPAIRS. T sum of \$288,000 shall be set aside to be expended for primary work and general repairs upon 31.17 miles of town highways, including sluices, culverts, and bridges having a span of less than five feet and boardwalks or renewals thereof.

**Oil & Stone Project for 2022**

<u>Road Name</u>	<u>Length</u>	<u>Width</u>	SY	App Rate	Oil	Gallon	Price	Tot. Oil	stone.
Schoharie tpk#1	2582’	21’	6,025	0.4	CRS2P	2,410	\$2.63	\$6,338.30	1A’s
Schoharie tpk#2	1917’	21’	4,473	0.4	CRS2P	1,789	\$2.63	\$4,705.07	1A’s
Potic Mountain	22,565’	21’	52,652	0.4	CRS2P	21,961	\$2.63	\$55,390.43	1A’s

Oil Cost	\$66,433.80
Rubber Tire Roller w/o Operator	\$ 4,350.00
635 Tons Washed 1A Stone cost	\$ 9,366.25
Oil And Stone Project for 2022	\$ 80,150.05

**CHIPS PROJECT**

PPST For Schoharie Turnpike

½ campground to Athens res.

Schoharie TPK. 6400’ 22’’ 15,644SY 782 Tons \$162.29 a ton \$126,943.24

Total NYS CHIPS Project \$126,943.24

Total Road Work \$207,093.29

The remaining fund in DB 5110.4 will be used for diesel fuel, equipment repair, EZ Pass, gas, tires, signs, drainage, uniforms and general repair on the remaining town roads.

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

Highway Superintendent Farrell informed the Board that he would sweep the street before the Brinkerhoff race so there will not be any gravel on it.

Mr. Farrell reported that the new truck was received but it had to go back for minor adjustments. Since the new truck has come back, they have used it, and haven’t have any issues.

**Superintendent Farrell** will check with the Village and the County on dates for the Spring Cleanup.

**Supervisor Pirrone** reported that Training will be held for the Planning Board and the Zoning Board of Appeals on March 29th and March 31 from 6:00 to 8:00 P.M on both nights so that they can get their training hours in. Attorney George McHugh will teach these classes.

**Councilmember Anthony Paluch** suggested that we have an air quality study done in the office building. He said that fee is \$2400 for them to do a study on both floors. (Sterling Environmental)

**Councilmember Michael Ragaini made a motion** seconded by Councilmember Mary H. Brandow that an air quality study be done on the building at a cost of \$2400. Ayes-5(Pirrone; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Councilmember Ragaini spoke about a helper for the Code Enforcement Officer. Code Enforcement Officer Albert Gasparini came before the Board and stated that he is doing okay at the time being.

**Patrick Doyle of Flint Mine Solar** reported that he filed for a Pilot with Greene IDA. He spoke about having lawyer agreements in place; as well as engineers. We will need a Road agreement. Discussion followed.

Discussion followed on fund balances. Bookkeeper/ Budget Officer Don Pierro informed the **Board that the Highway funds were completely restricted.**

**Councilmember Anthony Paluch** made a motion seconded by Councilmember Mary H. Brandow to have an audit done on fund balances from 2015 to 2019. Ayes-5 (Pirrone; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

**Supervisor Pirrone advised** the Board to think about renovating the building, as it is a focal point. He then read from a letter he had written. Discussion followed.

**Councilmember Michael Ragaini** made a motion seconded by Councilmember Mary H. Brandow to do a shared study on the building with the Village. Ayes-4 (Pirrone; Brandow; Ragaini; Spinner) Noes-1(Paluch) Absent-0 Abstentions-0

**Highway Superintendent John J. Farrell** announced that Auctions International's highest bid tonight on the site was \$17,300.

**Councilmember Shannon Spinner** made a motion seconded by Councilmember Mary H. Brandow to sell the truck on Auctions International for \$17,300. Ayes-5 (Pirrone; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noe-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

**Councilmember Shannon Spinner made a motion to go into Executive Session** for a personnel issue.) Ayes- 4(Pirrone; Brandow; Ragaini; Spinner) No-1(Paluch) Absent-0 Abstentions-0

**Councilmember Michael Ragaini** made a motion seconded by Councilmember Mary H. Brandow to close the Executive Session and reconvene the regular meeting. (8:57pm) (Ayes-5(Pirrone; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-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 Michael Ragaini. Ayes-5 (Pirrone; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

**Meeting adjourned at 8:58 P.M.**