

The regular meeting of the Athens Town Board was called to order at 7:00 p. m. by Supervisor Michael N. Pirrone with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag on June 20, 2022, at the Village of Athens Volunteer Fire House at 39 Third Street.

The following people were in attendance: Supervisor Pirrone; Councilmember Mary Brandow; Councilmember Michael Ragaini; Councilmember Anthony Paluch; Councilmember Shannon Spinner and Town Clerk Linda M. Stacey.

These people were also present: Highway Superintendent John J. Farrell; Attorney George McHugh; Bookkeeper/Budget Officer Don Pierro; Rob Stout; Hilary Edmunds; Constance Pazin; Barb Trembacz; Fran McCusker; Theresa Cardinale; Nolan J. Pazin; Susan Pazin; Mike Campbell; Tim Mercer; Susan Grilli; Robert Brunner; Mayor Amy Serrago; Deputy Mayor Gail Lasher; Yves Gerard Goldberg; Nancy Poylo; Patrick Doyle of Flint Mine Solar and Paulette Miller.

Supervisor Michael Pirrone read the Notice of Public Hearing for the Town of Athens on Proposed Local Law #1 of 2022.

Notice is hereby given that the Town Board of the Town of Athens will hold a Public Hearing on June 20, 2022, at 7:00 p. m. at the Athens Volunteer Fire House located at 39 Third St., Athens, NY 12015. The purpose of the proposed Local Law is to amend the Town of Athens Code Chapter 180 to authorize the Town of Athens Planning Board to consider applications for special use permits for a Commercial Event Venue in permitted districts.

There were no questions from the public nor the Board. The public hearing will remain open until the end of this meeting.

Mayor Amy Serrago and Deputy Mayor Gail Lasher came before the Board to invite them to a Joint Meeting Executive Session to be held on July 20th, 2022, at the Village Volunteer Fire House at 6:30 p.m. This is their regular meeting night, so they will do the public portion of the meeting first, then the Executive Session. (Both Attorneys will be in attendance as well.)

The Board discussed paying the Village lease. It was suggested to pay ½ of the 2021 lease rate for January 2022 to June 2022.

Councilmember Michael Ragaini made a motion seconded by Councilmember Mary H. Brandow **to pay the 2022 Village lease, from January 2022 to June 2022 at ½ of the 2021** lease rate which comes to \$14,592.48. Ayes-4 (Pirrone; Brandow; Ragaini; Spinner) Noes-1 (Paluch) Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Eminent Domain Proceeding

Attorney Robert Stout, Esq. did a presentation of “Consent to SEQRA Lead Agency”. He went over reasons and public purposes.

Councilmember Anthony Paluch made a motion seconded by Councilmember Michael Ragaini **to set the public hearing for the Consent to SEQRA Lead Agency for July 18, 2022.** Ayes-5 (Pirrone; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Councilmember Shannon Spinner made a motion seconded by Councilmember Michael Ragaini to approve the following vouchers that were audited by the Board:

General Abstract #12, vouchers #273 through #294 inclusive for **\$10,147.96.**

Highway Abstract #12, vouchers #88 through #94 inclusive for **\$2,036.45.**

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 minutes of June 2, 2022.** Ayes-5 (Pirrone; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Highway Superintendent John J. Farrell reported the highway crew installed new guiderail on Gypsy Point Road and changed post on High Hill Road with Litchko Construction. They mowed paved with the Town of Windham- 2 trucks for one day. They mowed the side of town roads. They Blacktop patch on Schoharie Turnpike; Potic Mountain Road and Flat Road Extension. They helped the Village DPW put up Flags in the Village. Cleaned up 2 downed trees on Indian Ridge Road and Sandy Plains Road. His new employee will start full time in July

He received a price on roller- would like to move on used 2019 Hamm HD 12 from Finke Equipment for \$36,900.00.

On the motion of Councilmember Anthony Paluch seconded by Councilmember Shannon Spinner the following **RESOLUTION #2022-30** for the Highway Superintendent to move forward on the 2019 Hamm HD 12 used roller from Finke Equipment for \$36,900.00 was adopted. Ayes-5 (Pirrone; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Mr. Farrell also turned in a report for proposed ARPA Funds Project #1: Project #1 would consist of doing a paver -placed surface treatment Flats Road Ext. Flats Road Ext. will be paved at a length of 8,050 feet long and 20 feet wide with a type B paver placed treatment @ 100 lbs. per square yard. The total cost of the project would be \$150,012.14.

Projected cost breakdown

ARPA Funds provided	\$100,000.00
Town's New York CHIPS Funding	\$50,012.14
Total cost est.	\$150,012.14

Mr. Farrell has to wait for approval from Greene County.

The Assessor, Dawn DeRose turned in a written report stating that the final assessment roll has been completed and the file has been sent to Greene County Real Tax Services for processing. She reported that the Board of Assessment Review held grievance day on 5/26/22. There were 2 scheduled appointments, 3 stipulations, with a total of 64 RP-524 complaint forms filed. She and Kathy both continue working on all sales that they have received. They are also continuing to update their files with data received from the data collector, adding pictures, etc. for the systematic analytiscs. The Final assessment roll for 2022 will be filed on or before July 1st.

Code Enforcement Officer Albert Gasparini's written report for May showed that he received 5 building permits. Did 14 building inspections. He had 9 Certificate of Occupancy Search Requests. 1 Septic permit on Dawn Drive. He had 1 Short Term Rental Certificate at 73 Lisa Lane. 1 Fireworks Permit for Sleepy Hollow Lake on July 2, 2022.

The Court Case for Rustic Cabin on Poetic (Potic) Mountain Road, Dresser Properties, Inc. has been dismissed, after an out of Court settlement/agreement was reached.

Bookkeeper/Budget Officer Don Pierro informed the Board that the current year Funds continue to run typically with 41.66% of the year now recorded and closed. The Town Wide A Fund is 26.91% over budget in revenue and 3.99% over budget in expenditures. The Part Town B Fund is 26.31% under budget in revenue and 5.02% over budget in expenditures. The Highway Town Wide DA is 58.46 % over budget in revenue and 13.69% under budget in expenditures. The Highway part Town DB is 57.61% over budget in revenue and 13.44 % under budget in expenditures. The aggregate excess of Revenue over expenditures as of May 31, 2022, is \$746,664.33 for all funds.

All bank statements and Cash Reconciliations for the second quarter ending June 30th will be provided to the Outside CPA Firm, along with a backup of the General Ledger Activity for the firm's review as we continue to do at each quarter end.

We have received the first half of the 2022 Mortgage Tax from the NYS Comptroller's Office. We have determined 3 dates for Budget Workshops, October 5, 13, and the 19th. The Public Hearing is scheduled for November 10th, and once the Public Hearing is closed the Board may then adopt the 2023 Budget that same night.

Resident Michael Campbell came before the Board inquiring when the Town is going to do something about Quarry Road. He says it is registered as a 911 road, but he feels that no emergency vehicles can get down or back up this road.

All Board members received correspondence from resident Christian Pfister concerning the valuable historical importance of the municipal building and economic benefits it gives to all residents.

Rick Rabideau speaks to the Town Board about the NYS Local Government Efficiency Grant Program. He wants to reduce taxes.

Patrick Doyle of Flint Mine Solar, LLC came before the Board to give them an update on the status. There have been two meetings of the Public Service Commission this month when Flint Mine was on the agenda. Also, that the sale of the project to DESRI was subject to several conditions and regulatory approvals, the main approval of which would come from the Commission.

Flint Mine has not received a copy of any orders resulting from the June 16 PSC meeting but that they would be forthcoming, and that Flint Mine expected that approval would likely be granted. So, if something unforeseen could come up, He would anticipate the sale of the project to DESRI will close within one month.

Last week Flint Mine provided additional information requested by the IDA for their PILOT deliberations.

The project teams continue to work away on project optimization, detailed design, and the eventual preparation of material for all the post-certification compliance fillings for Article 10.

Local Law #1 has to go to Greene County Planning Board along with a completed Short Form SEQRA and a 239 Referral, before it can be closed or voted on.

Councilmember Michael Ragaini made a motion seconded by Councilmember Mary H. Brandow *to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue*. Ayes-5 (Pirrone; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0 Time- 8:00 p.m.

Councilmember Shannon Spinner made a motion seconded by Councilmember Mary H. Brandow *to come out of Executive Session and reconvene the regular meeting*. Ayes-5 (Pirrone; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0 Time- 8:31 p.m.

On the motion of Councilmember Anthony Paluch seconded by Councilmember Michael Ragaini the following **RESOLUTION 2022-31** adopted.

Eminent Domain Proceeding, Town of Athens v. Shirley Horowitz, 31 Old Kings Road, Catskill, NY. Notice of Public Hearing on the Proposed Acquisition by the Town of Athens Under the Eminent Domain Procedure Law of Certain Land for the Construction and Relocation of the Town Hall.

Ayes-5 (Pirrone; 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 Mary H. Brandow** seconded by Councilmember Shannon Spinner. Ayes-5 (Pirrone; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.