

REGULAR MEETING – ATHENS TOWN BOARD – June 5, 2023

The regular meeting of the Athens Town Board was called to order on June 5, 2023, at 7:00 pm by Supervisor Michael N. Pirrone with the Pledge of Allegiance, at the Town of Athens Highway Garage at 79 Old Kings Road.

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

These people were also present: Highway Superintendent John J. Farrell; Attorney George McHugh; Finance / Budget Officer Don Pierro; George F. Stacey; Theresa Cardinale; Fran McCusker; Barbara Trembacz; Ed Bloomer; Tami Bone; Lee Palmateer; Tom Satterlee; Hailee Dickson; Russ Nadler; Becky Pine; Paulette Miller-Travis; Chris and Carol Pfister; Diane Abadie; Robert Brunner; Mary K. Garvey; Annika Vogt; Donald Gardner; George Greiner; Janet Paluch; Eugene Paluch; Michael Campbell; Melissa Beck and Patrick Doyle.

Highway Superintendent John J. Farrell presented a Proposal/Agreement for Engineering Services (with Lamont Engineering) for Church Street, for a Culvert Replacement. The replacement is for an existing 3-ft x 4-ft laid-up stone culvert on Church Street, the Town of Athens, Greene County, NY.

The project will include replacing the failing culvert structure with an appropriately sized culvert and extending the culvert length to allow for the widening of roadway by approximately ten (10) feet to eliminate a narrow travel lane and to facilitate the future installation of guardrails. This will be done at a Lump Sum of \$7,350 for Basic Services, plus Direct expenses (Estimated at \$200).

On the motion of Councilmember Mary H. Brandow seconded by Councilmember Michael Ragaini the following **RESOLUTION # 2023-31** was adopted, authorizing the Highway Superintendent to sign the Proposal to perform Professional Engineering Services (of Lamont Engineering) for the replacement of an existing 3-ft x 4-ft laid-up stone culvert on Church Street in the Town of Athens, Greene County, New York. The project will include replacing the failing culvert structure with an appropriately sized culvert and extending the culvert length to allow for the widening of roadway by approximately 10 feet to eliminate a narrow travel lane and to facilitate the future installation of guardrails. This will be done at a Lump Sum of \$7,350 for Basic Services, plus Direct expenses (Estimated at \$200).

Ayes-4 (Pirrone; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Spinner) Abstentions-0

Supervisor Michael N. Pirrone made a motion seconded by Councilmember Michael Ragaini to go into Executive Session, to seek legal advice from the Town Attorney under the attorney-client privilege. Ayes-4 (Pirrone; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Spinner) Abstentions-0 Exceptions Noted: Lee Palmateer objected to action. Time: 7:03 pm.

Councilmember Mary H. Brandow made a motion seconded by Councilmember Anthony Paluch to adjourn the Executive Session. Time: 7:26 pm.

Ayes-4 (Pirrone; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Spinner) Abstentions-0

Councilmember Mary H. Brandow made a motion seconded by Councilmember Michael Ragaini to reconvene the Regular meeting. Ayes-4 (Pirrone; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Spinner) Abstentions-0

On the motion of Councilmember Michael Ragaini seconded by Councilmember Anthony Paluch the following **RESOLUTION #2023-32** that *the Supervisor be authorized to sign the Athens Gen Pilot and the Host Agreement, after review by the Attorney.* Ayes-4 (Pirrone; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Spinner) Abstentions-0

Councilmember Michael Ragaini made a motion seconded by Councilmember Mary H. Brandow to *approve the following vouchers* which were audited by the Board prior to the meeting:

General Abstract #11, vouchers #246 through #272 inclusive for **\$22,203.76**.

Highway Abstract #10, vouchers #91 through #101 inclusive for **\$84,330.30**.

Trust & Custodian:

1. **FreePoint Solar-Legal- ZBA- Abstract #5, Voucher #5 for \$450.00.**

2. **9071 Rt 9W- Stay @ Lina-Abstract #3, voucher #4 for \$712.50.**

3. **FreePoint Solar- ZBA- Abstract #5, voucher #7 for \$1,935.00.**

4. **ARX Wireless- Abstract #8, voucher #9 for \$593.29**

5. **Deschaine Café- Abstract #2, voucher #4 for \$37.50.**

Ayes-4 (Pirrone; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Spinner) Abstentions-0

Councilmember Anthony Paluch made a motion seconded by Councilmember Michael Ragaini to *approve the minutes of May 15th, 2023, as read.*

Ayes-4 (Pirrone; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Spinner) Abstentions-0

Councilmember Mary H. Brandow made a motion seconded by Councilmember Michael Ragaini to *approve the Town Clerk's Report as submitted.* Ayes-4 (Pirrone; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Spinner) Abstentions-0

A letter was received from the Greene County Superintendent of Highways, Scott Templeton, requesting a speed reduction on Farm to Market (County Rt. #57) from the Village limits to the Town of Cocksackie Line, from 55 mph to 45mph. This request has to come from the Town.

On the motion of Councilmember Michael Ragaini seconded by Councilmember Mary H. Brandow the following **RESOLUTION #2023-33** to send in the paperwork for the resolution to Greene County Highway Department to be forwarded to NY DOT *requesting a speed limit reduction from 55 mph to 45 mph on County Route #57 (Farm to Market Road) from the Village Limits to the Cocksackie Town Line was adopted.*

Ayes-4 (Pirrone; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Spinner) Abstentions-0

On the motion of Councilmember Anthony Paluch seconded by Councilmember Michael Ragaini the following **RESOLUTION #2003-34** authorizing *the Supervisor to sign the 2024 Village/Town Lease, for office space in the Municipal Building, upon review of the Town Attorney, was adopted.* Ayes-4 (Pirrone; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Spinner) Abstentions-0

Supervisor Michael N. Pirrone read a list for the Solar Energy Citizen Committee and also a list for the Telecommunication Tower Citizen Committee.

The Telecommunication Tower Citizen Committee is to address the Town's concerns, protect the public health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the Town of Athens and to maintain the status quo as to certain telecommunications towers as the present zoning regulations in the Town do not adequately address this type of use. The committee will be aided by legal & engineering professionals.

Councilmember Mary H. Brandow made a motion seconded by Councilmember Michael Ragaini to appoint the following citizens of Athens to serve on the Telecommunications Tower Citizens Committee: *They are Russ Nadler; Carol Mercer; Hailee Dickson; Becky Pine and Cari Gardner.* Ayes-4(Pirrone; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Spinner) Abstentions-0

The Solar Energy Citizen Committee is to address the Towns concerns, protect the public health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the Town of Athens and to maintain the status quo as to certain solar energy uses, as the present zoning regulations in the Town do not adequately address this type of use. These residents from the Town of Athens will be aided by legal & engineering professionals.

Councilmember Michael Ragaini made a motion seconded by Councilmember Mary H. Brandow to appoint the following citizens of the Town of Athens to serve on the Solar Energy Citizen Committee: *They are: Margaret Munkel; Derek Brown; Fran McCusker; Eric Holsopple; Diane Michener; George Greiner and Chris Garvey.* Ayes-4(Pirrone; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Spinner) Abstentions-0

On the motion of Councilmember Mary H. Brandow seconded by Councilmember Anthony Paluch, the following **RESOLUTION #2023-35** to increase Budgeted Expenditures and to Reduce Contingency was offered:

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Athens hereby determines that it is in the public interest and purpose to transfer Contingency funds to General Fund A to replenish a single expenditure in (A) Fund 1610.43 Building Lease Expenditures \$3,000.00, and

WHEREAS, in order to achieve such appropriate Transfer of Funds the Town Board shall authorize said Budget Transfer at a public meeting of the Town Board, and

WHEREAS, the current funds are duly held at the National Bank of Coxsackie, Athens, New York, and said funds are currently un-restricted funds and available to be transferred after the June 5th Board Meeting, and

WHEREAS, the amount of un-restricted funds for this Transfer total (A) Fund \$3,000.00, and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED that the Town Board hereby authorizes the Transfer of General Funds, and is further,

RESOLVED that the foregoing Budget Transfer shall become effective the 5th day of June in the year 2023.

Ayes-4(Pirrone; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Spinner) Abstentions-0 Adopted

Supervisor Michael N. Pirrone informed the Board of the following items: A letter was received from Mount Hope Cemetery Association thanking the Town for the money received for the upkeep of the Cemetery.

An e-mail was received, from Margaret Munekel regarding posting Business Agendas on the Website.

Sleepy Hollow presented their Fireworks Permit for July 1, 2023.

ARPA Fund Expenditure Attestation.

Resident Russ Nadler urged the Town Board to push the Moratorium, and set a Public Hearing For the Cell towers.

The Town offices will be closed June nineteenth, for the Juneteenth-Holiday.

The next meeting of the Town Board will be held on Tuesday June 20th, at the Town Hall (municipal building.)

Patrick Doyle of Flint Mine Solar gave an update.

Resident Lee Palmateer spoke about the Pilot Agreement, the Host Agreement and wanted to know what the new amount for the power plant is. What would it be, if on the Tax Roll? (At this time, it had not been received by the Supervisor.)

Mr. Palmateer advised the Board that he was very disappointed.

Mr. Pfister concurred with Mr. Palmateer's statement.

Ms. Abadie stated that she was trying to explain that the lost revenue from those tax parcels means, that the total amount of tax revenue lost by removing four new parcels from the tax rolls, means, a bigger loss in revenue than in the first pilot.

Mr. Greiner commented on information in the newspaper about Town meeting places.

As there was no further business to come before the meeting, Councilmember Anthony Paluch made a motion to adjourn seconded by Councilmember Michael Ragaini. Ayes-4(Pirrone; Badow; Ragaini; Paluch) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Spinner) Abstentions-0

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.