

REGULAR MEETING – ATHENS TOWN BOARD

July 15, 2024

The regular meeting of the Athens Town Board was called to order on July 15, 2024, by Supervisor Michael Pirrone at 6:00pm and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. The meeting was held at the Athens Municipal Building, 2 First St.

The following Board members were in attendance: Supervisor Michael Pirrone, Council Members Tami Bone, Tony Paluch and Becky Pine.

Others in attendance: Town Clerk Phyllis Dinkelacker, Highway Superintendent John Farrell, Code Enforcement Officer Albert Gasparini, Town Attorney George McHugh.

The following people were in attendance: Russell, Nadler, Campbell, James McDermott, Margaret Muenkel.

VOUCHERS

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

General 2024 Abstract # 14 Vouchers 292 – 307 \$20,151.27

Highway 2024 Abstract # 14 Vouchers 92 – 96 \$43,238.86

T&C's

Camp Catskill Abs #4 Voucher 4 \$ 3,199.75

Stay at Lina's Abs #7 Voucher 7 \$ 440.00

A motion was made by Pine and seconded by Bone to pay all the vouchers excluding the Bill from Breyer Boyajian, LLP. Which could be paid after it is reviewed. Motion carried. Ayes – 4, No's – 0, Abstentions/Absents – 1

MINUTES FROM: June 17, 2024 were not available for distribution, they will be presented at the next Town Board meeting.

TOWN CLERK'S MONTHLY REPORT: A motion was made by Pine and seconded by Bone to accept the clerk's report. Motion carried. Ayes – 4, No's – 0, Abstentions/Absents – 1

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT – John Farrell

- Hauled millings for village of Catskill with 2 trucks for a day and 1 truck in village of Athens for 2 days.
- Mowed sides of all town roads and in village ahead of street festival.
- We finished all our oil and stonework for the year.
- Checked all roads and culvert pipes.

-Had sweeper in coxsackie for 2 days sweeping and the village of Athens for 2 days.

CODE ENFORCEMENT – Albert Gasparini

See attached.

Also, Mr. Gasparini should reach out to the Town court regarding Mr. DiStefano non-compliance to his court order.

ASSESSOR – Ms. Dawn DeRose

See attached.

FINANCIAL/BUDGET OFFICER – Joanne Kratz

Supervisor's Report for June 2024 is attached.

Supervisor Report: Legal Items:

- FreePoint Solar, LLC. et al. v. Town of Athens Zoning Board of Appeals. Appellate Division, Third Dept.-Case/Docket No.:CV-24-0711.

Town of Athens, Special Counsel, John Dowd, Dreyer-Boyajian has filed our Respondent Brief for the case. Awaiting determination from the NYS Supreme Court-Appellate Division.

-Hailee Dickson, et al. v. Town of Athens Zoning Board of Appeals, et al. NYS Supreme Court, Greene County-Index No.: EF2024-400.

-APO Sleepy Hollow Lake, Inc., et al, Plaintiffs (Index No. EF2023-573, Dtd. August 11, 2023) – vs Greene County Industrial Development Agency, et al.

-Town Attorney McHugh-Town Board legal update & explanations.

Supervisor Report: General Items:

-Employee Dental & Vision Policy. The policies are employee only plans. No participation of the Town required. Please consider & advise.

- Even Year Election Legislation, Proposed Public Hearing, Mandatory Referendum, Local Law, Change the Term of Supervisor, Town of Athens.

NEW BUSINESS:

Town Action: To Appoint Christopher Mitchell, Plant Manager, NAES (Athens Gen Plant) as a Town of Athens Community Foundation Trustee for the period of July1, 2024 to June 30, 2026.

Motion was made by Pine Seconded by Paluch. Motion carried. Ayes – 4, No's – 0
AIF

Town Action: Appoint James McDermott, TOA resident, recommended by John Farrell, to the Town of Athens Community Foundation as Advisory Board Member July1 7, 2024 to June 30, 2026.

Motion made by Paluch and seconded by Bone. Motion carried. Ayes – 4, No's – 0.

Town Action: Appoint Esther Bell, TOA resident, as recommended by Town Assessor DeRose, as Town Data Collector for the Assessor's Office.

Motion made by Pine seconded by Bone. Motion carried. Ayes – 4, No's – 0.

Town Action: Authorize the Supervisor to proceed with the updating and replacement of Town Computer Server as has been previously recommended by our IT supplier.
Current Reserve A/C 878F, \$ 16,011.

Motion was made by Bone and seconded by Pine. Motion carried. Ayes – 4, No's – 0.

Town Action: To Authorize the Supervisor to proceed with the updating and replacement of the Town Phone System as has been previously recommended by our IT supplier.
Current Reserve A/C 878H, \$ 7,500.

Motion was made by Paluch and seconded by Pine.

Motion carried. Ayes – 4, No's – 0.

Town Action: To Authorize the Supervisor to proceed with additional funding of approximately \$ 3,000 pertaining to the Solar & BESS law amendments. Motion By Pine and seconded by Bone. Motion carried. Ayes – 4, No's – 0.

Town Action: Authorize Town and Village to enter a joint project for Greene County ARPA funding for a total of \$50,000.00(\$25,000.00 each). The money will be used to upgrade the playground/basketball courts by the little league field.

Motion made by Paluch and seconded by Pine. Motion carried. Ayes – 4, No's – 0

-Town Attorney McHugh followed up with the discussion that he had with Bond Counsel Chris Chale. It is possible for the Town and the Village to jointly own real property and bond future renovations/additions. Chris Chale recommends that the Town and Village consider engaging her firm to draft an IMA for this purpose. She is also capable of handling any bond representation for the Twon and Village.

No action by the Board currently. They are asking for the Town and Village to meet again and go over the details of this update.

-The Town Board had a discussion on Videoconferencing. A Local Law would have to be made.

No action by the Board currently. It will be investigated more and brought up for more discussion.,

OLD BUSINESS:

Planning Board items of concern.

- Update to Code, Fees, Fine schedules.
- Committee to do codes.
- Additional, alternate members.
- Code book (Hard Copy).
- Attendance & Training., Maps

There will be no meeting on 7/25/24 for the Cell Tower zoning updates. Tami and Becky will meet with George McHugh and Adam Yagelski and fine tune the changes.

Town Council Concerns:

Board Member Bone wanted to recognize Catherine, Kitty, Haeussler who recently passed away on July 4th at 100 years old, for her years of service to the community.

A Motion was made by: Pine and seconded by Paluch to send a draft copy of the Local Law, amended to the Solar Energy Code, 180.52, to the Greene County Planning Board and The Town of Athens Planning Board. Asking for their feedback to the amendment by 8/16/2024. Motion carried. Ayes – 4, No’s – 0

Public Concerns:

Margaret Munkel asked a question: On Page 2 under Supervisor General Items. A. Dental and Vision What is that about? It was explained that it is an option that could be available to employees. Answer: The employee would be responsible for the cost; it would be no cost to the Town.

She also inquired who is/was eligible for health insurance in the Town.
Answer: Only full-time employees are eligible for health insurance.

Margaret also asked about a letter that she sent to Supervisor Pirrone on March 15th. He acknowledged her note at the time and forwarded it onto the Board members.

Community Information:

- Jul 24: Village Board meeting. Municipal Building.
- Jul 25 Town Board meeting/workshop. Municipal. CANCELED
- Jul 25: Planning Board meeting. Municipal Building.
- Aug 5: Town Board meeting. Municipal building
- Aug 13: Code Review Committee. Municipal building
- Aug 14: Zoning Board of Appeal. Municipal Building
- Aug 19: Town Board meeting. Municipal building.
- Aug 22: Planning board meeting. Municipal building.
- Aug 24: Town & Village Yard Sale Day.
- Sep 3: TUESDAY Town Board meeting. Municipal Building.
- Sep 7: Greene County YMCA Triathlon. Sleepy Hollow Lake.
- Sep 11 Zoning Board of Appeals. Municipal Building.
- Sep 13: Annual Senior Citizens Day. Historic Catskill Point.
- Sep 16 Town Board meeting. Municipal Building.
- Sep 26: Planning Board meeting. Municipal Building.

Being no other business to come before the Board.

A Motion was made by Paluch and second by Bone to adjourn the meeting at 7:05pm. Motion passed. Ayes – 4, No’s – 0, Abstentions/Absents – 1.

Respectfully submitted,

Phyllis Dinkelacker
Athens Town Clerk

7/15/2024 3:13 PM

Town of Athens, NY & Town Council Meeting

Municipal Building, 2 First Street

Michael N. Pirrone, Supervisor, Presiding.

Agenda MONDAY, JULY 15, 2024 @ 6:00pm

Please Sign In, No Sign in-Not Included in Minutes.

- **PLEDGE.**

- **VOUCHERS: To Approve the Vouchers audited by the Town Board for payment.**
Motion By 2nd By AIF
EXCEPTIONS NOTED:

- **PRIOR MEETING MINUTES: To Approve the Minutes of the meetings of June 17, 2024.**
Motion By 2nd By AIF
EXCEPTIONS NOTED:

- **TOWN CLERK'S REPORT: To accept Town Clerk Report for the month of June.**
Report Attached.
Motion By 2nd By AIF
EXCEPTIONS NOTED:

Departmental Narratives:

- **Highway Superintendent: Report Attached.**
- **Code Enforcement Officer: Report Attached.**
- **Assessor Report: Report Attached.**
- **Financial Report: Report Attached.**

- **Town Action:** To Authorize the Supervisor to proceed with the updating, replacement of the Town Computer Server as has been previously recommended by our IT supplier, notification to Town Council, establishing of reserve to fund the project.

Current Reserve A/C 878F, \$ 16,011.

Motion By 2nd By AIF

EXCEPTIONS NOTED:

- **Town Action:** To Authorize the Supervisor to proceed with the updating and replacement of the Town Phone System as has been previously recommended by our IT supplier, notification to Town Council, establishing of reserve to fund the project.

Current Reserve A/C 878H, \$ 7,500.

Motion By 2nd By AIF

EXCEPTIONS NOTED:

- **Town Action:** To Authorize the Supervisor to proceed with additional funding of approximately \$ 3,000 pertaining to the Solar & BESS law amendments.

Motion By 2nd By AIF

EXCEPTIONS NOTED:

ARPA FUNDS-County Additional Funds: Deputy Supervisor Lasher to report.

- **Town Action:** To Authorize Town & Village Joint Project for Greene County additional ARPA funding of a total of \$50,000. that upgrades to the playground/basketball courts by the little league field were the most doable with the budget and time constraints.

Motion By 2nd By AIF

EXCEPTIONS NOTED:

Meetings via Videoconference from Locations Outside the Town of Athens Boundary Lines.

- **Town Action: To Adopt a Local Law that would allow Members of the Town Board to Participate in Town Board Meetings via Videoconference from Locations Outside the Town of Athens Boundary Lines.**

Motion By

2nd By

AIF

EXCEPTIONS NOTED:

Old Business Issues:

Planning Board items of concern.

- 1. Update to Code, Fees, Fine schedules.**
- 2. Committee to do codes.**
- 3. Additional, alternate members.**
- 4. Code book (Hard Copy).**
- 5. Attendance & Training., Maps**

- **Town Action:**

Motion By

2nd By

AIF

EXCEPTIONS NOTED:

- **Town Council Concerns:**

- **Public Concerns:**

Account Description	Fee Description	Account#	Qty	Local Share
Building Permits	Building Permit	B 2590	3	428.87
			Sub-Total:	\$428.87
Clerk Fees	Municipal Search	0604704056	2	200.00
			Sub-Total:	\$200.00
Conservation	Conservation	A1255	5	4.70
			Sub-Total:	\$4.70
Dog Licensing	Female, Spayed	A2544	1	11.00
Dog Licensing	Male, Neutered	A2544	2	22.00
			Sub-Total:	\$33.00
Marriage Lic.	Marriage License Fee Lic#7	A 1255	1	17.50
			Sub-Total:	\$17.50
Marriage Transcript Fee	Marriage Transcript Fee	A1255	1	10.00
			Sub-Total:	\$10.00
Miscellaneous Income	Fireworks Permit	B 2770	1	150.00
Other Unclassified Revenues	Short Term Rental	B 2770	2	300.00
Town Clerk Fees	Birth Certificate/Copies	A 1255	1	10.00
			Sub-Total:	\$460.00

Total Local Shares Remitted: \$1,154.07

Amount paid to:	NYS Ag. & Markets for spay/neuter program	CR# 1755	3.00
Amount paid to:	NYS Environmental Conservation	SEEP	80.30
Amount paid to:	State Health Dept. for Marriage Licenses	CR# 1756	22.50

Total State, County & Local Revenues: \$1,259.87

Total Non-Local Revenues: \$105.80

To the Supervisor:

Pursuant to Section 27 Sub 1, of the Town Law, I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full and true statement of all fees and monies received by me, Phyllis Dinkelacker, Town Clerk, Town of Athens during the period stated above, in connection with my office, excepting only such fees and monies, the application of which are otherwise provided for by law.

M. P. Moore
Supervisor

7/15/24
Date

Phyllis Dinkelacker
Town Clerk

7/15/24
Date

TOWN OF ATHENS
Building Department
Report for June 2024

Building Permits: 4 –

Interior Renovation at 1540 Leeds Athens Road.

Install New Roof Shingles

Build an 8 Ft. by 10 Ft. Egress Platform Deck for 2nd Story Window Emergency Exit
(as per request from Dept of Health)

Install a 44 Panel 17.82 KW Solar Array on House and Garage

Building Inspections: 16 – (inspections close each other)

Building Permit Inquiries: Inquiries of parcels of land to build homes, Residential Solar Panels, Garage, Shed, Keeping of Animals caller is planning to build a house.

Certificate of Occupancy:

Temporary Certificate of Occupancy:

Certificate of Compliance: 2

8 Ft. by 10 Ft. Egress Platform Deck for 2nd Story Window Emergency Exit.

Install a 500 Gallon Grease Interceptor Tank. At Camp Achim.

Certificate of Occupancy Search Request: 4

(Properties associated with Athens Gen 9W, Rte 385, Thorpe Road, Hidden Drive)

Complaints: 1, 1160 Schoharie Turnpike, Litter Debris and 4 cars.

Demolition Permits: 1 (1950 Cottage on Quarry Road- New Owner of Property)

Septic Permit: Install a 500 Gallon Grease Interceptor Tank

Sign Permits:

Short Term Rental Certificates:

Fire / 911 Calls: -

Fireworks Permit:

Violations: 1, 1160 Schoharie Turnpike, Litter Debris and 4 cars. (From a complaint)

Violations: On going,

- Vandalized Property at 1030 Leeds Athens Road:
Wells Fargo maintenance company Altisource has been contacted to have the area of the property around the barn cleaned up and to apply for a demolition permit to remove the deteriorated barn. Waiting for a reply. Three different departments are involved. Thursday July 4, 2024, barn was destroyed by fire. Altisource doing their fire investigation.
- Vacant Property on Schoharie Turnpike was not cleaned of litter and debris by July 4, 2024, court agreement owned by Luigi DiStefano. Athens Court will be notifying the property owner.

TOWN OF ATHENS
Assessor's Monthly Report July 2024

Our office has received and processed the following:

- Village Permits/CO/CC: 0 (Received from V-CEO)
- Town Permits/CO/CC: 3 (Received from T-CEO)
- Village Deeds via parcels: 0 (Received from RPTS-County)
- Town Deeds: 2 (Received from RPTS-County)
- Village Map Revisions: 0 (Received from RPTS-County)
- Town Map Revisions: 0 (Received from RPTS-County)
- Village E-911 number Revision: 1 (Received from RPTS-County)
- Town E-911 number Revision: 4 (Received from RPTS-County)

The final roll was completed and filed on July 1st, 2024.

There are no sales received for the Village this month.

There was 1 deed filed for the Town this month, which had conditions.

We will be reviewing all exemptions and documentation on file and may be reaching out to the property owners for updated information, if missing.

We have had some issues with my computer and the Assessor's Clerk computer, which ITS have been working on.

We have set up next year's processing for the 2025 assessment roll.

The Board of Assessment Review will be meeting on 7/17/2024 to act on "Petitions to the Board Of Assessment review" for corrections to the final assessment roll for the September 2024 school taxes.

We are continuing to update our files, adding pictures, verifying data, filing, collecting data and valuation.

Otherwise, conducting business as usual,

Thank you.

Dawn DeRose
Assessor

Town of Athens
Operational Narrative
June ~~May~~ 2024

- 1. All financial matters are moving along very good.**
- 2. All financial activity through June 30 has been recorded in the General Ledger.**
- 3. Current Summary of Cash & Combing Balance Sheet is updated & attached to the rear of the report.**
- 4. The majority of Operating & Reserve Bank statements are reconciled.**
- 5. The Monthly Retirement Report is being prepared & filed.**
- 6. All Accounts Payable activity is coded, processed & paid as of May 31, 2024.**
- 7. Time Reports are monitored, reviewed, and submitted for processing. Transition to outside service has been well received.**
- 8. The bookkeeper has begun to get the 2025 Budget information request in order. Consulting with the Supervisor with additional information.**