

REGULAR MEETING – ATHENS TOWN BOARD

October 21, 2024

The regular meeting of the Athens Town Board was called to order on October 21, 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 present: Supervisor Pirrone, Council Members Tami Bone, Anthony Paluch and Becky Pine. Absent, Mary Brandow

The following Town Officers were present: Town Clerk Phyllis Dinkelacker. Deputy Supervisor Gail Lasher, Highway Superintendent John J Farrell, Town Code Enforcer Albert Gasparini. Town Attorney George McHugh

The following people were in attendance: Michael Campbell, Mary K. Garvey, P, Doyle.

VOUCHERS

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

<u>General 2024 Abstract # 20</u>	Vouchers	433 – 445	\$13,380.61
<u>Highway 2024 Abstract # 20</u>	Vouchers	131 – 138	\$13,830.87

The minutes from October 7, 2024 were distributed to the Town board. A motion was made by Pine and seconded by Bone, to accept the minutes.

Motion carried. Ayes – 4, No’s – 0, Absent - 1

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT – John Farrell sees attached.

Truck #2 that was sold in auction was picked up.

Mower should be here in 3-4 weeks. When it comes in, we will be looking to sell the attachment to the old mower.

Mr. Farrell reported that he has joined a Beta group for a program to track Highway assets, Inventory. It will map where the culverts, roads etc. are and the condition.

Mr. Farrell let the board know that he put in for an ACF grant. It is for a pre wet system to use with salt. \$20,000.00

CODE ENFORCEMENT – Albert Gasparini See attached.

A discussion about the plans and how the Tower should look. Mr. McHugh advised that the chair of the planning board go over the plans and note the 7 points instead of going back to the full board.

There is going to be a conference call tomorrow at 1pm, to go over the plans & moving forward.

ASSESSOR – Ms. Dawn DeRose

TOWN SUPERVISOR – Supervisor's report see attached.

Supervisor Report: Legal Items

1. 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 All the appellate briefs have been filed with the Appellate Division Scheduled for oral arguments in November 2024.

Oral argument will be on 11/15/2024 at 9:30am

2. Palmateer (Index EF2023-2803, Dtd. November 24, 2023) – CPLR Article 78 versus Greene County Industrial Development Agency, et al. Judge Gandin issued a decision dismissing the petition. The petitioner has appealed the decision.

The case has been abandoned.

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

Towns Special Counsel, John Dowd, Esq. preparing memorandum of law in opposition to Dickson and others' Article 78 Verified Petition.

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

On July 23, 2024, Honorable Sharon A. Graff, J.S.C., accordingly, hereby ORDERED that the petition/complaint is dismissed; There is an indication that Sleepy Hollow Lake is filing an Appeal.

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

Supervisor Report: General Items.

A. Greene Sheriff Office conducting Dog Control Officer Training on Oct 26, 2024.

B. Tentative Planning & Zoning Training, October 29 & November 12. Town Clerk has sent in the request form to Dept of Human Services on 9/25, to use the Senior Center on 2nd St.

C. Building Fees, last time updated, June 7, 2021. Will consider review.

Board Member Becky Pine reported that she will be meeting with CEO Albert Gasparini this week, to go over the building fees.

New Business:

Town Action: To Authorize the Supervisor to sign the Letter of Engagement with Dreyer Boyajian, John Dowd, Esq. lead attorney, filing of brief in opposition to "Amicus Curiae" brought

by State of New York & the Public Service Commission. Estimated Cost is \$5,000. To \$6,000.
(+/-) Budget A/C 1420.41

Motion By Pine 2nd By Bone.
Motion Carried: Ayes – 4, No's – 0. Absent – 1

Town Action: To Authorize the Supervisor to sign the Leeds Volunteer Fire Department Contract.

Motion By Bone 2nd By Pine.
Motion Carried: Ayes – 4, No's – 0. Absent – 0.

Town Action: To designate Supervisor Michael N. Pirrone, Town Bookkeeper Joanne Kratz and One (1) Town Councilperson to Attend the Association of Towns Annual Training & Meeting in NYC in February 2025.
Estimate Cost per Department is \$2,000., Total Estimated Cost \$6,000. (+/-)

Budget A/C 1010.4 & 1220.4.

Motion By Bone 2nd By Pine.
Motion Carried: Ayes – 4, No's – 0. Absent – 1

Town Action: To Authorize the Supervisor & Town to apply to the Athens Community Foundations, \$14,250.00, on behalf of the Athens Cultural Center, for the Victorian Stroll December 2024.

Motion By Bone 2nd By Pine.
Motion Carried: Ayes – 4, No's – 0. Absent – 1

Town Action: To Appoint William Tompkins, TOA resident, retired Community activist in many organizations, recommended by John Farrell, to the Town of Athens Community Foundation as Advisory Board Member October 1, 2024, to September 30, 2027.

Motion By Paluch 2nd By Pine.
Motion Carried: Ayes – 4, No's – 0. Absent – 1

Town Action: To Appoint Marya Warshaw, TOA resident, businesswoman, Community activists in several organizations, recommended by Ellen Roth, to the Town of Athens Community Foundation as Advisory Board Member October 1, 2024, to September 30, 2027.

Motion By Bone 2nd by Pine.
Motion Carried: Ayes – 4, No's – 0. Absent – 1

Town Action: By the consensus of the Town Board is to pass a local law on November 7th, to override the 2% tax levy. Public Hearing will be held On November 7th.

Motion By Pine 2nd By Paluch.
Motion Carried: Ayes – 4, No's – 0. Absent – 1

Town Action: To Authorize the Supervisor to Make the following Budget Amendments & Transfers as follows:

(1), to transfer from General Fund B, Contingency A/C 1990.4, \$10,000. to General Fund A, Central Services Administration, Outside Payroll Services, A/C 1610.4, \$10,000.:

(2) to transfer from General Fund B, CEO-Officer (Vacant), A/C 3620.12, \$18,720. to General Fund B, Solar committee Development, A/C 3620.4, \$4,680.

(3) to transfer from General Fund B, CEO-Officer (Vacant), A/C 3620.12, \$18,720. to General Fund B, BESS Committee Development, A/C 3620.4, \$4,680.

(4) to Code Review Committee Development, A/C 3620.4, \$4,680.

(5) to General Fund B, Wireless Communication Facility Committee, A/C 3620.4, \$4,680.

Motion By Pine 2nd By Bone.

Motion Carried: Ayes – 4, No's – 0. Absent – 1

Old Business Issues:

Town Facebook Proposal.

This was tabled until a later date.

Letter from VOA Trustee Lipsman. (Tabled)

Planning Board & ZBA: Discussion about the Town Clerk getting the minutes and posting them on the website.

After the discussion, the following motion was made.

Motion made by Pine and 2nd by Bone. The secretary of the Planning Board and the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA). Will not be paid their stipend until the minutes are submitted. The minutes can be in Draft form.

Motion Carried: Ayes – 4, No's – 0. Absent – 1

A motion was made by Pine and 2nd by Bone to move forward with the Dental Plan. It will be Plan D and be paid, 100%, by the employee.

Motion Carried: Ayes – 4, No's – 0. Absent – 1

Town Council Concerns: None

Public Concerns: None

Community Information:

- Oct 21: Town Board Meeting, Budget Workshop, 5:00 p.m. Municipal Building.
- Oct 21: Town Board Meeting, 6:00 p.m. Municipal Building.
- Oct 24: Planning Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Municipal Building.
- Oct 25: Town Board Meeting, Budget Workshop, 4:00 p.m. Municipal Building.
- Oct 26: Town Wide Clean Up. Town Highway Facility, 70 Old Kings Road.
- Oct 26: Dog Control Training. Greene County Sheriff Office
- Nov 2: Greene County Honor a Vet, Veteran of the Year. Historic Catskill Point Warehouse, 10:00 am.
- Nov 5: Election Day. Town Offices Open.
- Nov 7: Town Board Meeting. Municipal Building.
- Nov 11: Veterans Day, all Town Offices closed.

- Nov 13: Zoning Board of Appeal Meeting. Municipal Building.
- Nov 18: Town Board Meeting. Municipal Building.
- Nov 21: Planning Board Meeting. Municipal Building.
- Dec 2: Town Board Meeting. Municipal Building.
- Dec 11: Zoning Board of Appeal Meeting. Municipal Building.
- Dec 14: Victorian Stroll. Village of Athens.
- Dec 16: Town Board Meeting. Municipal Building.
- Dec 19 or 26 TBD: Planning Board Meeting. Municipal Building.

Motion By Pine and 2nd By, to adjourn the meeting at 7:11 pm.

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Phyllis Dinkelacker
Town Clerk

10/21/2024 3:10 PM

Town of Athens, NY & Town Council Meeting

Municipal Building, 2 First Street

Michael N. Pirrone, Supervisor, Presiding.

Agenda MONDAY, October 21, 2024 @ 6:00pm

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

- **PLEDGE of ALLEGIENCE.**

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

- **PRIOR MEETING MINUTES: To Approve the Minutes of the Meetings of October 7, 2024. Minutes Attached.**
Motion By 2nd By

Departmental Narratives

- **Highway Superintendent: Report Attached.**
- **Assessor: No Report Attached.**
- **Code Enforcement Officer: Report Attached.**
- **Supervisor's Report: Report Attached.**

Supervisor Report: Legal Items

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Motion By 2nd By AIF

- **Town Action: To Authorize the Supervisor to sign the Leeds Volunteer Fire Department Contract.**
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Old Business Issues:

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- Planning Board & ZBA.

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Public Concerns:

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Town Action: Move to Adjourn,

Motion By

2nd By

Highway report for 10/21/2024

Did Gradall work on Vosenkill road

Hauled item 4 for village of Athens for 2 days

Mowed sides of all town roads

We finished all our blacktop patching work for the year

Checked all roads and culvert pipes

Did a driveway culvert and new culvert with catch

basin on Leeds Athens Road

Antonio went to flagger training school

Cracked filled Vosenkill road

Hauled blacktop for town of new Baltimore Did tree

work in village of Athens for a day

Clean up day is this Saturday at town highway garage

TOWN OF ATHENS
Building Department
Report for September 2024

Building Permits: 3

Mini Splits AC Cooling and Heating Units- 20 Lakeshore Ct,
14 Kw Generac Generator - 385 High Hill Road,
Timber Frame Carport 16 Ft. by 24 Ft. - 135 Vosenkill Road,

Building Inspections: 14 –

Building Permit Inquiries: Inquiries of parcels of land to build homes, Residential Solar Panels, Garage, Shed, New Home, Home Generator. Email from Paces a GIS and data platform for renewable energy wanting information that the Greene County has. Advised to contact Greene County.

Certificate of Occupancy:

Temporary Certificate of Occupancy:

Certificate of Compliance: 2 79 Lake Forest Drive 44 Panels 17.82 KW Solar Array. 734 Green Lake Road Installation of a 15.58 Kw Mounted Solar Array.

Certificate of Occupancy Search Request: 8

Complaints:

Demolition Permits:

Septic Permit:

Sign Permits:

Short Term Rental Certificates: 3 Renewals

Fire / 911 Calls: -

Fireworks Permit:

Violations:

Note:

- On October 10, 2024, a site visit was made at the vacant lot on Schoharie Turnpike and it was found that the commercial tracked excavator and commercial bulldozer were removed from the vacant lot. Chapter 180. Zoning Section 180-9. Prohibited uses Any use not listed in the Schedule of Uses (§ 180-10) shall be deemed prohibited
- On October 17, 2024, at 9:37 A.M. A site visit was made at 1043 Schoharie Turnpike and it was found that the commercial tracked excavator and commercial bulldozer were moved from the vacant lot to 1043 Schoharie Turnpike.
- The only ARX work that has started for the cell tower is for Building Permit BP24-37, the trenching for the cell tower electrical service building permit. Work has not begun for the cell tower foundation base, Building Permit BP24-39. Both permits were issued on 8/29/2024.

2024 – ATHENS COMMUNITY FOUNDATION APPLICATION – 2024

The application process requires that qualified organizations/groups seeking funding answer ALL questions AND provide a detailed, descriptive narrative of the funding request(s) as outlined herein. Organizations seeking funding for multiple projects/purchases must submit separate applications for each (maximum of three applications per organization).

APPLICANT LEGAL NAME (as on your organization's Bank Account): Click here to enter text.

TYPE OF ENTITY ("X" mark only one entity type):

(Click here to enter text.) **Tax Exempt - Eligible organizations attach a copy of your Tax Exempt Certificate**

(Click here to enter text.) **Non-profit/Not for Profit**

(Click here to enter text.) **Corporation**

(Click here to enter text.) **Community Benefit**

(X) **Municipality** - [If intending to be considered as a governmental agency (municipality) for the purpose of funding eligibility, applicant **MUST** attach a letter of sponsorship from the applicable governmental agency, signed by an authorized government official (i.e. - Mayor, Town Supervisor, County Administrator, etc.)]

ORGANIZATION CONTACT INFORMATION (provide an accurate mailing address for your organization):

Organization Name: **Town of Athens**

Contact Person: **Michael Pirrone**

Position: **Town Supervisor**

Mailing Address: **2 First Street**

Athens, NY 12015

Phone: **518 945-2122** Cell: **917 656-0425**(provide multiple phone numbers if applicable)

Email address (Organization): Click here to enter text.

Email address (Contact Person): **kokomomike@hotmail.com**

Dollar Amount Requested in **2024** (rounded up to nearest dollar): **\$14,250**

Dollar Amount Requested in **2023** (rounded up to nearest dollar): **\$12,500**

Athens Community Foundation Grant Award in **2023** (dollar amount): **\$12,500**

Please note that the information presented in the completed application will be the sole basis for funding consideration. This is a competitive process; typically with many eligible organizations seeking project funding. All applications will be evaluated and measured using a standardized process. Take the time to prepare a thorough, complete, and merit based submittal for consideration by the Foundation Trustees.

**All submitted applications must be received between
Monday September 30, 2024 and Friday, October 25, 2024.**

Each applicant MUST submit twelve (12) copies. Please hand deliver or mail twelve (12) copies of all COMPLETED application materials to:

Athens Community Foundation
c/o Athens Town Clerk
2 First Street
Athens, NY 12015

Grant awards will be disbursed December, 2024.