

## REGULAR MEETING – ATHENS TOWN BOARD

November 18, 2024

The regular meeting of the Athens Town Board was called to order on November 18, 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 Michael Pirrone, Council Members Tami Bone, Mary Brandow, Anthony Paluch and Becky Pine.

**The following Town Officers were present:** Town Clerk Phyllis Dinkelacker, Deputy Supervisor Gail Lasher, Bookkeeper Joanne Kratz, Town Code Enforcer Albert Gasparini, and Town Attorney George McHugh

**The following people were in attendance:** Michael Ragaini, Mary K. Garvey, Susan Brady, Fran McCusker.

A motion to reopen the Public Hearing for the 2025 Budget was made by Pine and seconded by Bone.

Motion carried. Ayes- 5, No's – 0.

Supervisor Pirrone asked if there were any questions. Discussion followed.

It was noted that the superintendent of Highway and one of the Judges' salary reflected the insurance buy out in their annual salary. There should be a separate line item for the insurance buyout.

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1220.2 Equipment 500.00 was added in twice, that was fixed.

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the total for the Code Enforcement total was overstated because the calculation picked up the year 2025.

The extra 2025 was distributed as follows: code 8010.4 Attorney +1013.00, 8020.4 Attorney +1012.00.

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1410.1 The salary should be changed from 48000.00 to 42000.00 per the 2024 modified budget.

1410.12 what should the correct amount be 3672.00 or 3762.00? it should be 3762.00.

Ms. Brandow asked about the salary for the ACO, it is more than 2.5%. Mr. Pirrone answered, yes. Not sure what will happen next year.

Ms. Brandow asked about leaving in the sprouts (7310.0) and increasing youth programs. Mr. Pirrone answered, not sure what is going to happen next year and there was a good turnout for the kid's summer program.

Discussion on the 30,000.00 contingency (1990.4). The money will be taken from the following accounts. 1220.13, 1410.12 and 1620.4.

**VOUCHERS**

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

<b><u>General 2024 Abstract # 22</u></b>	Vouchers	486 - 499	\$59,065.26
<b><u>Highway 2024 Abstract # 22</u></b>	Vouchers	151 - 162	\$45,658.18

**The minutes from 11/7/24:** The clerk did not have the minutes ready for tonight's meeting.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT** – John Farrell sees attached.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT** – Albert Gasparini See attached.

**ASSESSOR** – Ms. Dawn DeRose. See attached.

**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.

2.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.

3.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.

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

**Supervisor Report: General Items.**

Peckham, Schoharie Turnpike odor issues. The Town & residents have been in touch with the Plant Manager. Waiting for cleaning of air filters, etc.

Cohotate Preserve dedication of remodeled Flied Station/Classroom Facility  
In cooperation with Greene County Legislature, Columbia-Greene Community College,  
Greene County Soil & Water Conversation & Town of Athens.

Greene County Ambulance Review Study Meeting #2, EMERGENCY CONTROL  
CENTER, 25 Volunteer Drive, Cairo, NY 12413. Minutes attached.

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

**New Business:**

**Town Action:** To Appoint Susan Brady, Town of Athens resident, community activists and concerned citizen, nominated by Supervisor Pirrone, to the Town of Athens Zoning Board of Appeals as a Regular member for a Term of Five (5) years, effective November 18, 2027, to November 17, 2029.

Motion By Bone 2<sup>nd</sup> By Paluch. Motion carried. Ayes – 4, Bone, Brandow, Pirrone & Paluch.  
Nos – 0, Abstain 1, Pine.

**Town Action:** To Appoint Matt Sovern, Town of Athens resident, community activists and concerned citizen, nominated by Supervisor Pirrone, to the Town of Athens Zoning Board of Appeals as a Regular member for a Term of Five (5) years, effective November 18, 2024, to November 17, 2029.

A motion was made by Bone and seconded by Paluch, to put this action until the next meeting.  
Motion carried. Ayes – 5, No’s – 0.

**Town Action:** To Appoint Antonio Calarco, Town of Athens resident, community activists and concerned citizen, nominated by Supervisor Pirrone, to the Town of Athens Zoning Board of Appeals as an Alternate member for a Term of Five (5) years, effective November 18, 2024, to December 31, 2025

This action was put on hold until the next meeting.

**Town Action:** To Appoint Sean Biederman, Town of Athens resident, community activists and concerned citizen, nominated by Supervisor Pirrone, to the Town of Athens Zoning Board of Appeals as an alternate for a Term of one (1) year, effective November 18, 2024, to December 31, 2025.

Motion By Bone 2<sup>nd</sup> By Paluch. Motion carried. Ayes – 4, Bone, Brandow, Pirrone & Paluch.  
No’s – 0, Abstain - 1, Pine

**Town Action:** To adopt the new maximum income limits for the “Persons sixty-five years of age or over Tax exemption (RPTL #467)” as present for the 2025 assessment rolls.

Motion By Bone 2<sup>nd</sup> By Paluch. Motion carried. Ayes – 5, No’s – 0.

**Town Action:** To accept the adopted equalization rates (2024) per chapter 36 laws of 1980, amending section 804 of the real property tax law for the Town of Athens, which is determined to be 93%.

Motion by Bone and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Pine. Motion Carried. Ayes – 4. Bone, Brandow, Pine and Pirrone.  
No’s – 1, Paluch.

**Town Action:** To accept resolution #379-24, amount due to the County by respective Towns, for the town of Athens \$17,483.53 for various services performed by Greene County.

Motion by Bone and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brandow. Motion Carried. Ayes – 5. Nos – 0.

**Town Action:** To Close Public Hearing for the 2025 Preliminary Budget as reviewed.

Motion by Brandow and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Pine. Motion Carried. Ayes – 5. Nos – 0.

**Town Action:** To Adopted the Town of Athens 2025 Budget. As presented today and with the changes discussed.

Motion by Pine and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brandow. Motion Carried. Ayes – 4. Bone, Brandow, Pine and Pirrone. No's – 1, Paluch.

**Old Business Issues:**

Town Facebook Proposal. No action.

Planning Board & ZBA Mr. Pirrone asked for two board members to take lead on forming a committee to reach out to residents and do interviews when openings come up on these 2 boards. No one volunteered.

**Town Council Concerns:**

Ms. Bone asked if the NY Forward grant if the repair of the building could/was put in the grant.  
Answer: No, the grant cannot be used for the building.

**Public Concerns:**

Mr. Ragaini asked what is going on with the Village and Town concerning the building.  
Answer: It is a work in progress.

Ms. Lasher gave an update on the ARPA grant.

The basketball court cannot be finished until the Spring. We still have money left, there is to be bought yet picnic tables, playground equipment, and the Little League.

Ms. Brandow asked what happened to the picnic tables that the Town bought and placed at Green Lake.

Answer. The property where the tables were placed was NYS DEC property, they needed to be removed. Mr.> Pirrone will check with the former Town Supervisor to see what happened to them.

**Community Information:**

Nov 21: Planning Board Meeting. Municipal Building.  
November 18, 2024

Regular Town Board Meeting

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.  
Jan 6: Town Board Meeting. Yearly Organizational Meeting. Municipal Building.  
Jan 8: Zoning Board of Appeal Meeting. Municipal Building.  
Jan 21: Town Board Meeting. Municipal Building. Jan  
22: Town Planning Board Meeting. Municipal Building.

Motion By Pine and 2<sup>nd</sup> By Brandow, to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 pm.

Motion Carried. Ayes – 5. Nos – 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Phyllis Dinkelacker  
Town Clerk