

REGULAR MEETING – ATHENS TOWN BOARD

May 5, 2025

The regular/organizational meeting of the Athens Town Board was called to order on May 5, 2025, 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., Athens, NY

The following Town Board members were in attendance: Supervisor Michael Pirrone, Town Board members Tami Bone and Karen Haas. Absent Tony Paluch and Becky Pine

The following Town Officers and Appointees were in attendance: Town Clerk Phyllis Dinkelacker and Deputy Supervisor Gail Lasher.

The following people were in attendance: Karen Dudley, Mary Hodor, Susan Brady, Michael Campbell, and Robert Brunner.

VOUCHERS

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

<u>General 2024 Abstract # 8</u>	Vouchers	165 – 188	\$13,332.20
<u>Highway 2024 Abstract # 8</u>	Vouchers	60 - 69	\$14,817.17

The minutes from Minutes from April 21, 2025 were not available for distribution to the Town board.

Clerk's Report: The Clerk's report for the month of April was presented to the Board. A motion was made by Bone and seconded by Haas to accept the Clerk's report.

Motion Carried. Ayes – 5 (Pirrone, Bone, Haas), No's – 0. Absent/Abstain 2 (Paluch and Pine).

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.
Special Counsel Dreyer Boyajian (John Dowd, Esq., Of Counsel) applied to the Appellate Division asking them to refer the Freepoint Solar decision to the Court of Appeals for their review and deliberation. If application is not granted, the Appellate Division decision stands & Freepoint Solar will have the ability to proceed to the Planning Board for Site Plan review.

Town Attorney McHugh-Town Board legal update & explanations.

Supervisor Report: General Items

Peckham, Schoharie Turnpike odor issues. The Supervisor continues to aid in the resolution of this issue, accurately identify any & all potential causes. Current report of

odors, March 26, 2025. Peckham managers responded with information & kept us apprized. Constructive conversations, questions & answers are always welcomed.

-Greene County Ambulance Review Study Meeting will be Wednesday, May 14, 2025.

-Thoughts about Summertime Cancelling of Town Meeting for July 7, 2025, and August 4, 2025.

-Greene – Columbia NYS Dept. of State Training, June 10, 2025. Open to all.

-Judge Pazin 40th Anniversary of Service. Town Honorarium recognition.

-Green Lake Resort, Planned Unit Development Project: No additional information.

New Business:

Code Review Committee items for discussion. Board member Karen Haas will look at the committee's suggestions and bring forward items for discussion.

Battery Energy Storage System items for discussion. Adam Yagelski, from Delaware Engineering, is working on finishing up the BESS Local law.

Building Code Permits and related charges items for discussion. Discussion that the fees may need to be reviewed further, the current rates may be less than they were before.

Cancellation of First Monthly Town Council meeting in July & August 2025 for the convenience of vacation scheduling.

Motion by Bone and second by Haas to Authorize the Supervisor the discretion to Cancel the First Monthly Town Council meetings in July & August 2025 for the convenience of vacation scheduling.

Motion Carried. Ayes – 5 (Pirrone, Bone, Haas), No's – 0. Absent/Abstain 2 (Paluch and Pine).

Old Business Issues: None

Town Council Concerns: None

Public Concerns:

Resident Karen Dudley asked about the time frame for the Freepoint Solar appeal? Supervisor Pirrone let her know that Attorney John Dowd has applied to the Appellate division.

Resident Mary Hodor asked.

1) what are we doing about the smell from Peckham? Supervisor Pirrone said this is the first time that she is bringing this forward. The Town is working with Peckham.

2) How do we get the tracks fixed? Supervisor Pirrone let her know that he has contacted CSX

and let them know of the issue.

3)When are the potholes on Flats Rd., there is a big one on flats Rd heading towards Hamilton Rd. Supervisor Pirrone let her know that Superintendent Farrell has submitted his road agreement for 2025 and he will check to see if this repair.

4) Resident Michael Campbell is out of compliance. Supervisor Pirrone will take it under advisement.

Community Information:

Community Information: All Dates Subjected to Change.

Please be advised: Burn Ban March 16 until May 14, 2025.

- * May 11: Mother's Day.
- * May 14: Zoning Board of Appeal Meeting. Municipal Building.
- * May 17: West Athens Lime Street Volunteer Fire Co. Award Ceremony & Banquet.
- * May 19: Town Board Meeting. Municipal Building.
- * May 20: Cossackie-Athens School Budget & Board Election. EJ Arthur School.
- * May 22: Town Planning Board Meeting. Municipal Building.
- * May 26: Memorial Day. Town Offices Closed.
- * Jun 2: Town Board Meeting. Municipal Building.
- * Jun 10: NYS-Greene & Columbia Counties Training by Registration.
- * Jun 11: Zoning Board of Appeal Meeting. Municipal Building.
- * Jun 14: Flag Day.
- * Jun 14: Athens Community Day. Riverside Park.
- * Jun 15: Father's Day.
- * Jun 16: Town Board Meeting. Municipal Building.
- * Jun 26: Town Planning Board Meeting. Municipal Building.
- * Jul 4: Independence Day. Town Offices Closed.
- * Jul 7: Town Board Meeting. Municipal Building.
- * Jul 9: Zoning Board of Appeal Meeting. Municipal Building.
- * Jul 21: Town Board Meeting. Municipal Building.
- * Jul 24: Town Planning Board Meeting. Municipal Building.

Being there is no other business to come before the Board.

A Motion was made by Haas and second by Bone to adjourn the meeting at 6:26pm.

Motion Carried. Ayes – 5 (Pirrone, Bone, Haas), No's – 0. Absent/Abstain 2 (Paluch and Pine).

Respectfully submitted.

Phyllis Dinkelacker
Athens Town Clerk

5/5/2025 1:24 PM

Town of Athens, NY & Town Council Meeting

Municipal Building, 2 First Street

Michael N. Pirrone, Supervisor, Presiding.

Agenda, Monday, May 5, 2025 @ 6:00pm

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

- **CALL to ORDER. PLEDGE of ALLEGIENCE.**

- **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 Meeting of April 21.**
Motion By _____ 2nd By _____ AIF
EXCEPTIONS NOTED:

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

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.
Special Counsel Dreyer Boyajian (John Dowd, Esq., Of Counsel) applied to the Appellate Division asking them to refer the Freepoint Solar decision to the Court of Appeals for their review and deliberation. If application not granted, the Appellate Division decision stands & Freepoint Solar will have the ability to proceed to the Planning Board for Site Plan review.
2. **Town Attorney McHugh-Town Board legal update & explanations.**

Community Information: All Dates Subjected to Change.

Please be advised: Burn Ban March 16 until, May 14, 2025.

- **May 11: Mother's Day.**
- **May 14: Zoning Board of Appeal Meeting. Municipal Building.**
- **May 17: West Athens Lime Street Volunteer Fire Co. Award Ceremony & Banquet.**
- **May 19: Town Board Meeting. Municipal Building.**
- **May 20: Coxsackie-Athens School Budget & Board Election. EJ Arthur School.**
- **May 22: Town Planning Board Meeting. Municipal Building.**
- **May 26: Memorial Day. Town Offices Closed.**
- **Jun 2: Town Board Meeting. Municipal Building.**
- **Jun 10: NYS-Greene & Columbia Counties Training by Registration.**
- **Jun 11: Zoning Board of Appeal Meeting. Municipal Building.**
- **Jun 14: Flag Day.**
- **Jun 14: Athens Community Day. Riverside Park.**
- **Jun 15: Father's Day.**
- **Jun 16: Town Board Meeting. Municipal Building.**
- **Jun 26: Town Planning Board Meeting. Municipal Building.**
- **Jul 4: Independence Day. Town Offices Closed.**
- **Jul 7: Town Board Meeting. Municipal Building.**
- **Jul 9: Zoning Board of Appeal Meeting. Municipal Building.**
- **Jul 21: Town Board Meeting. Municipal Building.**
- **Jul 24: Town Planning Board Meeting. Municipal Building.**

Town Action: Move to Adjourn,

Motion By

2nd By

AIF

Account Description	Fee Description	Account#	Qty	Local Share
Building Permits	Building Permit	B2555	4	5,650.00
			Sub-Total:	\$5,650.00
Conservation	Conservation	A1255	4	4.97
			Sub-Total:	\$4.97
Dog Licensing	Female, Spayed	A2544	1	11.00
Dog Licensing	Male, Neutered	A2544	3	33.00
			Sub-Total:	\$44.00
Misc Clerk Fees	Photocopies	A2770	9	2.25
			Sub-Total:	\$2.25
Misc Clerk/Registrar Fee	Marriage Transcript Fee	A1255	1	10.00
			Sub-Total:	\$10.00
Misc Code Fees	Municipal Search	B2770	6	600.00
Misc Code Fees	Short Term Rental	B2770	1	150.00
Town Clerk/Registrar Fees	Death Certificate/Copies	A1255	16	160.00
			Sub-Total:	\$910.00
Total Local Shares Remitted:				\$6,621.22
Amount paid to:	NYS Ag. & Markets for spay/neuter program			4.00
Amount paid to:	NYS Environmental Conservation			85.03
Total State, County & Local Revenues:				\$6,710.25
Total Non-Local Revenues:				\$89.03

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.

_____	_____	_____	_____
Supervisor	Date	Town Clerk	Date

TOWN of ATHENS

OFFICE of the ASSESSOR

Our Office is aware that some property tax grievance companies are soliciting property owners to assist them in grieving their assessed values. The Assessor and Town of Athens strongly believe that all property owners have the right to grieve their assessment. In fact, if you believe that your assessment is excessive or inaccurate, we will strongly encourage you to contact the assessor's office. The average property owner can navigate the assessment grievance process on their own.

Please note that your Assessment will stay the same unless you have made some type of physical change on your property (building permit or demolition permit). As long your assessment remains the same, your property taxes may stay relatively the same as they had been in prior years. Actual taxes due will vary from year to year based upon the budgetary changes in our local school district, town and county.

Your taxes are based on your assessed value NOT your full market value.