

REGULAR MEETING – ATHENS TOWN BOARD

January 5, 2026

The regular/organizational meeting of the Athens Town Board was called to order on January 5, 2026, 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 Riverfront Senior Center, 39 Second St., Athens, NY

The following Town Board members were in attendance: Supervisor Michael Pirrone, Town Board members Tami Bone, Karen Haas, Brittany Palmateer and Becky Pine

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

The following people were in attendance (those who signed in and name were legible): Marcia Puorro, Anne Pirrone, Edward Bloomer, David Cole, Sarah Brailey, Eddie Lenzo, Robert Brunner, Carol & Chris Pfister, James O’Connell, Adrianna Haas, Jen Mosher, Jody Pinot, Alyer, John Palmateer

Supervisor Pirrone paused the meeting for the swearing in of the new and renewed elected officers:

Honorable David G. Cole presided over the swearing in:

Michael N. Pirrone, Supervisor. His wife Anne L. Pirrone held the Bible.

Karen Haas, Town Board member. Her daughter Adrianna Haas held the Bible.

Brittany Palmateer, Town Board member. Her husband John Palmateer and daughter Rhiannon held the Bible.

Honorable Constance Pazin, Town Justice. Marcia Puorro held the Bible.

The swearing in was followed by light refreshments and the meeting was called to order at 6:30pm.

TOWN LEGAL SERVICES:

A motion was made by Bone: to authorize the Town Supervisor to sign the letter of engagement with the Law office of George D. McHugh, P.C. as the Attorneys for the town of Athens, NY.

Motion was seconded by Haren Haas.

Motion carried: Ayes-5, Pirrone, Bone, Haas, Palmateer, Pine. No’s-0

VOUCHERS

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

<u>General 2025 Abstract # 25</u>	Vouchers	520 – 540	\$57,731.20
<u>General 2025 Abstract # 26</u>	Vouchers	541 – 544	\$ 5,611.22
<u>Highway 2025 Abstract # 26</u>	Vouchers	201 – 212	\$ 5,646.65
<u>General 2026 Abstract # 1</u>	Vouchers	1 - 3	\$ 370.00
<u>Highway 2026 Abstract # 1</u>	Vouchers	1 - 1	\$ 4,805.525

The Minutes from: December 15, 2025, were distributed to the Town board and motion by Pine and seconded by Bone to accept the minutes.

Motion carried: Ayes-5, Pirrone, Bone, Haas, Palmateer, Pine. No's-0

Clerk's Report: The Clerk's report for December 2025 was presented to the Board. A motion was made by Pine and seconded by Bone to accept the Clerk's report.

Motion carried: Ayes-5, Pirrone, Bone, Haas, Palmateer, Pine. No's-0

TOWN BOARD YEARLY RESOLUTIONS Numbers 2026-1 to 2026-15.

- Town Action: Resolution #2026-1 for the Adoption of Rules of Procedure for the Town of Athens Board Meeting for 2026. Rules of Procedure Attached.
Motion By Pine 2nd By Haas.

Motion carried: Ayes-5, Pirrone, Bone, Haas, Palmateer, Pine. No's-0.

- Town Action: Resolution #2026-2 for the Adoption of Salary Schedule for 2026, as presented in the Adopted 2026 Budget. Schedule Attached.
Motion By Haas 2nd By Bone

Motion carried: Ayes-5, Pirrone, Bone, Haas, Palmateer, Pine. No's-0.

- Town Action: Resolution #2026-3 for the Authorizing Highway Superintendent the Ability to Expend the Necessary Funds for the Purchase of Small Tools and Parts Without Prior Board Approval Per Town of Athens Resolution # 2021-42, dated August 2, 2021.
Motion By Haas 2nd By Palmateer.

Motion carried: Ayes-5, Pirrone, Bone, Haas, Palmateer, Pine. No's-0.

- Town Action: Resolution #2026-4 for the Adoption of Mileage Reimbursement Rate of \$.725 per IRS Rules for use of employee own vehicles on Town business.
Motion By Palmateer 2nd By Bone.

Motion carried: Ayes-5, Pirrone, Bone, Haas, Palmateer, Pine. No's-0.

- Town Action: Resolution #2026-5 for the Authorization of Petty Cash Funds in the amount of \$ 100 each for: Town Justice Pazin, Town Justice Cole, Town Highway Superintendent Farrell, and \$300.00 Town Clerk Dinkelacker.
Motion By Palmateer 2nd By Haas.

Motion carried: Ayes-5, Pirrone, Bone, Haas, Palmateer, Pine. No's-0.

- Town Action: Resolution #2026-6 for the Authorization of a Cash Draw of \$ 100 for Town Clerk Office and a Cash Draw of \$ 125 for Tax Collector Office.
Motion By Pine 2nd By Bone

Motion carried: Ayes-5, Pirrone, Bone, Haas, Palmateer, Pine. No's-0.

- Town Action: Resolution #2026-7 for the Adoption of Town of Athens Meeting Dates as follows: the first and third Monday of every Month, beginning at 6:00 pm. Exception # 1, when a Holiday is Monday, the meeting will be on Wednesday. Exception # 2, November's first meeting will be held on the first Thursday following the General Election.
Motion By Pine 2nd By Palmateer

Motion carried: Ayes-5, Pirrone, Bone, Haas, Palmateer, Pine. No's-0.

- Town Action: Resolution #2026-8 for the Designation of the National Bank of Coxsackie as the Official Depository.

Motion By Haas 2nd By Bone

Motion carried: Ayes-5, Pirrone, Bone, Haas, Palmateer, Pine. No's-0.

- Town Action: Resolution #2026-9 for the Designation of the Daily Mail as the Official Newspaper.

Motion By Haas 2nd By Pine.

Motion carried: Ayes-5, Pirrone, Bone, Haas, Palmateer, Pine. No's-0.

- Town Action: Resolution #2026-10 for Establishing March 1, 2026, as the date of Audit for the Judicial Office Record of Accounts and the Town Clerk Officers Record of Accounts.

Motion By Pine 2nd By Palmateer

Motion carried: Ayes-5, Pirrone, Bone, Haas, Palmateer, Pine. No's-0.

- Town Action: Resolution #2026-11 for Designating Phyllis Dinkelacker as Registrar and Christina Martinez as Deputy Registrar of Vital Statistics, respectively. For a term of two(2) years January 1, 2026 – December 31, 2027.

Motion By Palmateer 2nd By Bone.

Motion carried: Ayes-5, Pirrone, Bone, Haas, Palmateer, Pine. No's-0.

- Town Action: Resolution #2026-12 for the Adoption of a Sixty-Day Extension to send the Annual Financial Report to the State Comptroller, if necessary.

Motion By Palmateer 2nd By Bone.

Motion carried: Ayes-5, Pirrone, Bone, Haas, Palmateer, Pine. No's-0.

- Town Action: Resolution #2026-13 To Designate RBT, LLP., CPAs. as the Town of Athens Certified Public Accounting Firm.

Motion By Haas 2nd By Pine.

Motion carried: Ayes-5, Pirrone, Bone, Haas, Palmateer, Pine. No's-0.

- Town Action: Resolution #2026-14 To Adopt the Established and Amended Employee Handbook for the 2026 Year.

Motion By Palmateer 2nd By Bone.

Motion carried: Ayes-5, Pirrone, Bone, Haas, Palmateer, Pine. No's-0.

- Town Action: Resolution #2026-15 Designating Supervisor Pirrone as Delegate & Council Member to be Named as Alternate Delegate to the Annual Association of Towns Training School and Meeting Scheduled for February 15 to 18, 2026.

Motion By Haas 2nd By Pine.

Motion carried: Ayes-5, Pirrone, Bone, Haas, Palmateer, Pine. No's-0.

TOWN SUPERVISOR APPOINTMENTS. One Year Term.

Appoint Gail Lasher as Deputy Town Supervisor.

Appoint Joanne Kratz as Town Bookkeeper.

TOWN CLERK APPOINTMENT. One Year Term.

Appoint Christina Martinez as Deputy Town Clerk.

TOWN BOARD APPOINTMENTS. One Year Term.

Designation & authorization of bank signatories as follows for the Town of Athens: Michael N. Pirrone, Supervisor, Gail Lasher, Deputy Supervisor and Rebecca Pine, Councilperson. (Formal Resolution attached.)
Motion by Palmateer and seconded by Bone.

Motion carried: Ayes-5, Pirrone, Bone, Haas, Palmateer, Pine. No's-0.

TOWN BOARD APPOINTMENTS, Numbers 1 to 14. One Year Term.

1. Appoint Phyllis Dinkelacker as Town of Athens Tax Collector and Christina Martinez as Town of Athens Deputy Tax Collector.

Motion By Pine 2nd By Palmateer.

Motion carried. Motion carried: Ayes-5 Pirrone, Bone, Haas, Palmateer, Pine. No's-0.

2. Appoint Albert Gasparini as Town of Athens Code Enforcement Officer.

Motion By Pine 2nd By Bone.

Motion carried: Ayes-5, Pirrone, Bone, Haas, Palmateer, Pine. No's-0.

3. Appoint Albert Gasparini as Town of Athens Dog Damage Officer.

Motion By Palmateer 2nd By Haas.

Motion carried: Ayes-5, Pirrone, Bone, Haas, Palmateer, Pine. No's-0.

4. Appoint Michael N. Pirrone as Town of Athens Consolidated Health Chairperson.

Motion By Palmateer 2nd By Bone.

Motion carried. Yes – 5, Pirrone, Bone, Haas, Palmateer and Pine. No – 0.

5. Appoint Albert Gasparini as Town of Athens Consolidated Health Secretary

Motion By Pine 2nd By Palmateer

Motion carried: Ayes-5, Pirrone, Bone, Haas, Palmateer, Pine. No's-0.

6. Appoint Dr. Stephen G. Hassett as Town of Athens Consolidated Health Officer.

Motion By Palmateer 2nd By Pine.

Motion carried. Yes – 5, Pirrone, Bone, Haas, Palmateer, Pine. No's-0.

7. Appoint Mayor Amy Serrago as Town of Athens Consolidated Health Member.

Motion By Palmateer 2nd By Bone.

Motion carried: Ayes-5, Pirrone, Bone, Haas, Palmateer, Pine. No's-0.

8. Appoint Marcia Puorro as Town of Athens Senior Court Clerk.

Motion By Palmateer 2nd By Pine.

Motion carried: Ayes-5, Pirrone, Bone, Haas, Palmateer, Pine. No's-0.

9. Appoint Sarah Brailey as Town of Athens Historian.

Motion By Pine 2nd By Bone.

Motion carried: Ayes-5, Pirrone, Bone, Haas, Palmateer, Pine. No's-0.

10. Town of Athens Dog Control Officer. Appointment is tabled until a new DCO is appointed.

Motion By Palmateer 2nd By Bone.

Motion carried: Ayes-5, Pirrone, Bone, Haas, Palmateer, Pine. No's-0.

11. Appoint Kathy Sprague as Town of Athens Assessor's Clerk.

Motion By Pine 2nd By Palmateer.

Motion carried: Ayes-5, Pirrone, Bone, Haas, Palmateer, Pine. No's-0.

12. Appoint Marilyn Peters as Town of Athens Assessor's Clerk II(parttime/seasonal)

Motion By Palmateer 2nd By Bone.

Motion carried: Ayes-5, Pirrone, Bone, Haas, Palmateer, Pine. No's-0.

13. Appoint Margaret Pieruzzi as Town of Athens Code Enforcement Clerk.

Motion By Haas 2nd By Bone

Motion carried: Ayes-5, Pirrone, Bone, Haas, Palmateer, Pine. No's-0

14. Appoint Alison Dooley as Town of Athens Assessor Consultant.

Motion by Haas and 2nd by Bone.

Motion carried: Ayes-5, Pirrone, Bone, Haas, Palmateer, Pine. No's-0

TOWN BOARD APPOINTMENTS Numbers 1 to 9, PLANNING, ZONING, BOARD of ASESSEMENT REVIEW. For Term So Stated or One Year.

1. Appoint Eric Nelson, Town of Athens Planning Board Chairperson, for the term of January 1, 2026, to December 31, 2026.

Motion By Bone 2nd By Palmateer.

Motion carried: Ayes-5, Pirrone, Bone, Haas, Palmateer, Pine. No's-0

2. Appoint Gail Stacey as Town of Athens Planning Board Secretary.

Motion By Bone 2nd By Palmateer.

Motion carried: Ayes-5, Pirrone, Bone, Haas, Palmateer, Pine. No's-0

3. Appoint Michael Barton as Town of Athens Planning Board Regular Member, for the term of January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2032.

Motion By Palmateer 2nd By Bone.

Motion carried: Ayes-5, Pirrone, Bone, Haas, Palmateer, Pine. No's-0

4. Appoint Courtney Sherman Town of Athens Planning Board Alternate Member for the Term of January 1, 2026, to December 31, 2026.

Motion By Pine and 2nd By Bone.

Motion carried: Ayes-5, Pirrone, Bone, Haas, Palmateer, Pine. No's-0

5. Appoint Edward Lenzo Town of Athens Planning Board Alternate Member for the Term of January 1, 2026, to December 31, 2026.

Motion By Palmateer and 2nd By Bone.

Motion carried. Yes – 5, Pirrone, Bone, Haas, Palmateer and Pine. No – 0.

6. Appoint Christian Ames as town of Athens Zoning Board of Appeals Chairperson, Member for the Term of January 1, 2026, to December 31, 2026.

Motion by Pine and 2nd by Palmateer

Motion carried. Yes – 5, Pirrone, Bone, Haas, Palmateer and Pine. No – 0.

7. Appoint Jeanne Oliveria as Town of Athens Zoning Board of Appeals Secretary, for the term of one(1) year, January 1, 2026 – December 31, 2026.

Motion By Haas 2nd By Bone.

Motion carried. Yes – 5, Pirrone, Bone, Haas, Palmateer and Pine. No – 0

8. Appoint Antonio as Town of Athens Zoning Board of Appeals, Alternate member, for a term of one(1) year, January 1, 2026 – December 31, 2026.

Motion by Haas and 2nd by Palmateer.

Motion carried. Yes – 5, Pirrone, Bone, Haas, Palmateer and Pine. No – 0

9. Appoint Gail Stacey as Town of Athens Board of Assessment Review Secretary.
Motion By Bone 2nd By Palmateer.

Motion carried. Yes – 5, Pirrone, Bone, Haas, Palmateer and Pine. No – 0

TOWN BOARD APPOINTMENTS, COMMITTEES LIASONS: One Year Term.

COMMITTEE	LIAISON	
Assessor	Tami Bone	Karen Haas
Code Enforcement	Karen Haas	Brittany Palmateer
Collective Bargaining	Joanne Kratz	Michael Pirrone
Court	Brittany Palmateer	Becky Pine
EMS/ALS/Ambulances	Mark Dinkelacker	Karen Haas
Employees Liaison	Karen Haas	Brittany Palmateer
Employees Handbook	Brittany Palmateer	Becky Pine
Fire Dept Contracts	Gail Lasher	Michael Pirrone
Highway	Becky Pine	Tami Bone
Insurance, General	Tami Bone	Karen Haas
Joint Landfills, Towns	Karen Haas	Brittany Palmateer
Medical Health, Insurance	Joanne Kratz	Becky Pine
Planning Board	Brittany Palmateer	Becky Pine
Reserve Funds	Joanne Kratz	Michael Pirrone
Special Projects	Gail Lasher	Michael Pirrone
Town/Village	Gail Lasher	Michael Pirrone
Zoning Board	Karen Haas	Brittany Palmateer

Supervisor Report: Legal Items

1. July 18, 2025, Teleport Communications Group, Inc. v. The Assessor of the Town of Athens, et al. Supreme Court of the State of New York, County of Greene-Index No.: EF2025-660. Notice of Petition Under Article 7 of The Real Property Tax Law of New York State for Review of Tax Assessments. Town Roll for the Year 2025/2026. Tax Map IDs: 622.89-0000-744.790-1881, 622.089-0000-744.790-1882, 622.0890000-744.790-1883.

Supervisor Report: General Items

- A.** Peckham, Schoharie Turnpike odor issues. Odor complaints on Nov. 19, 2025, Nov 6, 2025; Nov. 3, 2025; Oct. 24, 2025; Oct. 21, 2025; Oct 11, 2025; Oct. 3, 2025; Sept. 29, 2025; Sept 22, 2025.
- B.** Village/Town Intermunicipal Agreement: Town/Village Partnership is moving forward with Intermunicipal Agreement. All Parties have received the Appraisal & the Title Search. The group is moving forward.
- C.** Athens Rivertown Senior Center Building, looking forward to finalizing.
- D.** Mountaintop Supervisors & Mayors Meeting, March 2026.
- E.** NYSDOT, Region One, Town of Athens, Culvert Project, Route 385, Corlaer Kill, 2026 Year.
- F.** NYSDOT, Region One, Village of Athens, Pavement Corrective Maintenance, Route

385, RM385-130-1051 to RM 385-1301-1065, 2026 Year.

G. NYSDOT, Region One, Town of Athens, Culvert Project, Route 9W, Murderers Creek, 2027-2028 Year

New Business:

- Town Action: To Acknowledge Greene County Resolution No. 418-25, Authorizing Levy of Omitted Taxes for the Year 2025, Town of Athens Certified.
Motion By Haas 2nd By Bone.

Motion carried. Yes – 5, Pirrone, Bone, Haas, Palmateer and Pine. No – 0

- Town Action: To Acknowledge Greene County Resolution No. 419-25, Town Levies, Town of Athens Certified.
Motion By Pine 2nd By Bone

Motion carried. Yes – 5, Pirrone, Bone, Haas, Palmateer and Pine. No – 0

- Town Action: To Acknowledge Greene County Resolution No. 420-25, Authorizing the Relevy of Unpaid School Taxes for the Year 2025, Town of Athens Certified.
Motion By Palmateer 2nd By Bone.

Motion carried. Yes – 5, Pirrone, Bone, Haas, Palmateer and Pine. No – 0

- Town Action: To Authorize the Supervisor to implement the 2026 Senior Citizens Tax Exemption as advised by the Greene County Real Property Tax Department, as follows.

Maximum Income Limits	Exemption Percentage
\$37,000.00	50%
\$37,000.01 to \$37,999.99	45%
\$38,000.00 to \$38,999.99	40%
\$39,000.00 to \$39,999.99	35%
\$40,000.00 to \$40,899.99	30%
\$40,900.00 to \$41,799.99	25%
\$41,800.00 to \$42,699.99	20%
\$42,700.00 to \$43,599.99	15%
\$43,600.00 to \$44,499.99	10%
\$44,500.00 to \$45,399.99	5%

Motion By Palmateer 2nd By Pine.

Motion carried. Yes – 5, Pirrone, Bone, Haas, Palmateer and Pine. No – 0

- Discussion: The Shpigler Group is offering services to explore the town interest in “Smart City” opportunities, evaluate the issues, community development, etc.

Old Business Issues:

Town Council Concerns:

Board member Tami Bone would like the Board to Acknowledge Tony Paluch his service on the Town Board over the 10 plus years.

Public Concerns: NONE

Community Information:

All Dates Subjected to Change.

- * Jan 5: Yearly Town Board Organizational Meeting. Athens Rivertown Center.
- * Jan 7: Zoning Board of Appeal Meeting. Municipal Building.
- * Jan 8 to Jan 20: Supervisor will be out of Town.
- * Jan 19: Monday, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Town Offices Closed
- * Jan 21: Wednesday, Town Board Meeting. Athens Rivertown Center Building.
- * Jan 22: Town Planning Board Meeting. Municipal Building.
- * Feb 2: Town Board Meeting. Municipal Building.
- * Feb 11: Zoning Board of Appeal Meeting. Municipal Building.
- * Feb 16: Presidents Day. Town Offices Closed.
- * Feb 18: Town Board Meeting. Municipal Building.
- * Feb 26: Town Planning Board Meeting. Municipal Building.
- * Mar 2: Town Board Meeting. Municipal Building.
- * Mar 11: Zoning Board of Appeal Meeting. Municipal Building.
- * Mar 16: Town Board Meeting. Municipal Building.
- * Mar 26: Town Planning Board Meeting. Municipal Building.
- * Apr 6: Town Board Meeting. Municipal Building.
- * Apr 8: Zoning Board of Appeal Meeting. Municipal Building.
- * Apr 20: Town Board Meeting. Municipal Building.

Being no other business to come before the Board.

A Motion was made by Pine and second by Palmateer to adjourn the meeting at 7:10pm.
Motion carried. Yes – 5, Pirrone, Bone, Haas, Palmateer and Pine. No – 0

Respectfully submitted.

Phyllis Dinkelacker
Athens Town Clerk