

REGULAR MEETING – ATHENS TOWN BOARD

January 21, 2026

The regular meeting of the Athens Town Board was called to order on January 21, 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: Town Supervisor Michael Pirrone, Town Board members Karen Haas, Brittany Palmateer, and Becky Pine. Absent board member Tami Bone.

The following Town Officers and Appointees were in attendance: Town Clerk Phyllis Dinkelacker, Deputy Supervisor Gail Lasher, and Code Enforcement Officer Albert Gasparini.

The following people were in attendance(signed in): Cindy Wood.

PUBLIC HEARING:

A motion by Pine and seconded by Haas to open the Public Hearing for the proposed Local Law #2026 -1, Noise.

Motion carried: Ayes – 4 Pirrone, Haas, Palmateer and Pine. Nos – 0, Absent/Abstain – 1 Bone.

Discussion followed regarding the new Local Law.

A motion was made by Pine and seconded by Palmateer to keep the Public Hearing open until completion of the regular meeting.

Motion carried: Ayes – 4 Pirrone, Haas, Palmateer and Pine. Nos – 0, Absent/Abstain – 1 Bone.

PRIOR MEETING MINUTES: Tabled

VOUCHERS

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

<u>General 2025 Abstract #2</u>	Vouchers	4 – 27	\$25,642.40
<u>Highway 2025 Abstract #2</u>	Vouchers	2 - 11	\$26,657.36

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT – John J Farrell see attached.

ASSESSOR – Ms. Dawn DeRose. see attached.

CODE ENFORCEMENT – Albert Gasparini. see attached.

TOWN SUPERVISOR – Supervisor’s report, see attached.

Supervisor Report: Legal Items

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. 2025 Assessment Roll Taxes 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.

This is being followed by the Assessor's office.

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. Municipal Building Outside Accessibility Lift Project Update: Meeting on January 12 with Principal Vendor Technical Staff & Village Engineer Preisner regarding Doors, Roof Enclosure, Lighting, etc. Details attached.
- D. Noise Ordinance Local Law: Resolution, Public Hearing, Authorize Notice of Public Hearing.
- E. Highway Law-Seasonal Parking Local Law Regulations: Awaiting additional information & clarification of some issues.
- F. ARX Cell Tower Construction Project: Requested Escrow has been funded by Project Principals, Stop Work Order has been lifted. Engineering Team & Attorney for the Town will update.
- G. Town Council requested discussion by Attorney for the Town with Planning Board & Zoning Board Chairpersons successful, procedures improvements will be enacted.
- H. Athens Rivertown Senior Center Building, looking forward to finalizing.
- I. Mountaintop Supervisors & Mayors Meeting, March 2026.
- J. NYSDOT, Region One, Town of Athens, Culvert Project, Route 385, Corlaer Kill, 2026 Year.
- K. NYSDOT, Region One, Village of Athens, Pavement Corrective Maintenance, Route 385, RM385-130-1051 to RM 385-1301-1065, 2026 Year.
- L. NYSDOT, Region One, Town of Athens, Culvert Project, Route 9W, Murderers Creek, 2027-2028 Year.

NEW BUSINESS:

-Discussion: Town of New Baltimore & Athens Shared Services Agreement

Town Action: To Authorize the Supervisor to Sign the 2026 Shared Services Agreement as Described in Attached.

A motion by Pine and seconded by Palmateer to authorize the Supervisor to sign the above-mentioned agreement.

Motion carried: Ayes – 4 Pirrone, Haas, Palmateer and Pine. Nos – 0, Absent/Abstain – 1 Bone

-Discussion: Village Municipal Building Lease with the Town of Athens. As previously reported by the Supervisor, provided for in the Town Annual Budget, in conversations with the Mayor of Athens, an agreement has been achieved whereby the Town Rent for the Municipal Building will be \$55,000 in 2026, \$58,000 in 2027 and \$60,000 in 2028, for the office spaces so described in the Lease.

Town Action: To Authorized the Supervisor to Sign the Municipal Building Lease for the Period of January 1, 2026, to December 31, 2028.

A motion by Pine and seconded by Haas to authorize the Supervisor to sign the above-mentioned agreement.

Motion carried: Ayes – 4 Pirrone, Haas, Palmateer and Pine. Nos – 0, Absent/Abstain – 1 Bone

-Discussion: Village of Athens, Agreement for Fire Protection. As previously reported by the Supervisor, provided for in the Town Annual Budget, in conversations with the Mayor of Athens, an agreement has been achieved whereby the Town's Protection Agreement for Services will be \$103,000 in 2026, \$106,090 in 2027, \$109,272.70 in 2028, \$112,550.88 in 2029, \$ 115,927.40 in 2030 for the Services so described in the Agreement.

Town Action: To Authorized the Supervisor to Sign the Agreement for Fire Protection the Period of January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2030.

A motion by Palmateer and seconded by Haas to authorize the Supervisor to sign the above-mentioned agreement.

Motion carried: Ayes – 4 Pirrone, Haas, Palmateer and Pine. Nos – 0, Absent/Abstain – 1 Bone

-Discussion: Budget Transfers, General Fund, Details Attached.

Town Action: To Authorize the Supervisor to make the stated Budget Transfers as itemized and described in Attached Resolution. Formal Resolution Attached.

A motion by Palmateer and seconded by Haas to approve the Budget Transfers

Motion carried: Ayes – 4 Pirrone, Haas, Palmateer and Pine. Nos – 0, Absent/Abstain – 1 Bone

-Discussion: Date Collector. Supervisor inadvertently failed to Re-Appoint the Current Data Collector for the Town.

Town Action: To Re-Appoint Esther Bell as Assessor Data Collector for a One Year Term, January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2026.

A motion by Palmateer and seconded by Pine to reappoint Esther Bell as the Assessor Data collector.

Motion carried: Ayes – 4 Pirrone, Haas, Palmateer and Pine. Nos – 0, Absent/Abstain – 1 Bone

Other Business Items:

Town Attorney – The Board is going to do up a new RFP. Pine and Palmateer will make phone calls.

Dog Control Officer – Nothing yet

Code Enforcement Officer & Code Clerk. Still working on this.

Year End Unexpended Balance

Lights on the Hudson. Pine to get more information.

Dental Health Policy for Employees

Old Business:

Town Council Concerns:

Supervisor Pirrone asked the Board members if it they wanted to continue to get all the paperwork at the meetings or just emailing them would be helpful. They all agreed they can access the emails on their computers and not getting the amount of paperwork at the meeting would be fine.

-A motion at 7:43 was made by Palmateer and seconded by Haas to close the Public Hearing.

Motion carried: Ayes – 4 Pirrone, Haas, Palmateer and Pine. Nos – 0, Absent/Abstain – 1 Bone

-A resolution (2026-19) was made by Palmateer and second by Haas to pass Local Law #2026-1, Noise

Motion carried: Ayes – 4 Pirrone, Haas, Palmateer and Pine. Nos – 0, Absent/Abstain – 1 Bone

Public Concerns:

Community Information: All Dates Subjected to Change.

- * 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.
- * Apr 23: Town Planning Board Meeting. Municipal Building.
- * May 1 to May 6: Supervisor will be out of Town.
- * May 4: Town Board Meeting. Municipal Building.

Being no other business to come in front of the Board a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:00pm.

Respectfully submitted.

Phyllis Dinkelacker
Town Clerk