

REGULAR MEETING – ATHENS TOWN BOARD – January 21, 2014

The regular meeting of The Athens Town Board was called to order on January 21, 2014 by Supervisor Joseph Iraci with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:00 p.m. with the following people present: Supervisor Joseph Iraci; Councilman Robert F. Butler, Jr.; Councilwoman April Paluch; Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow; Councilman Michael Ragaini; Highway Superintendent John J. Farrell and Town Clerk Linda M. Stacey.

These people were also present: Attorney Virginia Benedict; Bookkeeper Michael Strenko; Code Enforcement Officer George Holsopple; Herbert Blasewitz; Marlene and Ralph Favicchio; Andrea Smallwood; Ron Puhalski; Larry Styles; Jacqueline Goddeau; Nora Adelman; Sam Sebren and Dave LaVoie.

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

General Abstract #2, vouchers #15 through #34 inclusive for \$94,289.63.

Highway Abstract #2, vouchers #3 through #16 inclusive for \$4,459.96.

Dave LaVoie of CDPHP came before the Board regarding the new rates for the Health insurance. He suggested increasing the deductible. He went over the different rates and what was included in each “rate” with the Board. Discussion followed.

Herbert Blasewitz came before the Board to in for the Board that the Street Festival Committee has begun working on their plans for the event. He also submitted a letter of Thanks for previous donations and requested a donation for 2014’s Festival.

Ralph Favicchio came before the Board regarding West Point Partners and AC Power Transmissions. Supervisor Iraci informed all in attendance, that AC Power Transmission portion of the Project is on hold until February 20, 2014.

Mr. Favicchio reminded the Board that the Athens Citizens Development Committee is completely opposed to the project.

They have a website and are on Face book. The submitted a FOIL request for the Attorney, for all correspondence between the Town and the Village.

Mr. Favicchio had asked the Board several meetings ago for a resolution.

Supervisor Iraci advised him that he will draw a resolution up with the Board’s approval. The converter station goes against the intent of the plan was when zoning was planned. Sam Sebren suggested that the Board write letters.

Supervisor Iraci Informed the Board that New Athens Generating is changing its debt to stock, and that will be no impact on the Town of Athens.

Highway Superintendent John J. Farrell reported the following:

There have been 6 snow events;

They serviced the backhoe, roller, sweeper, ford tractor and grader.

They replaced a heater motor and muffler on #8. On 12/30 during a check of roads they found that 7 different road signs were missing. They ordered new ones but they also filed a report with the Sheriff’s office.

They spent 2 days picking up trash on Potic Mt. Road; Church St.; Leeds Athens Rd.; Forest Hills Ave.; and South Vosenkill Rd.

Snowplows have been washed and greased between snow events.

They had an inspection from NYS Dept. of Labor “PESH”

He also reported that he is working on his road agreement and hopes to have it ready by the next meeting.

Code Enforcement Officer George Holsopple handed out his Annual Report.

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He had 43 Building permits; 3 Demolition Permits; 4 Fireworks Permits;  
42 C/O'S & Predated letters.

Total fees collected:

Building Permits	\$10,184.85
Demo Permits	150.00
Fireworks Permits	400.00
C of O & Predated letters	1,680.00

(Total Cost of Construction for Building permits- \$909,399.32)

Historian Lynn Brunner submitted her annual report: All the historian files have been sorted and filed in the collection of the Historian's books. During the past year she has assisted anyone desiring information regarding houses being renovated. Also noted is the assistance given to a new Historian in Greene County who continues to ask for help.

On the motion of Councilman Robert F. Butler, Jr. seconded by Councilwoman April Paluch the following **RESOLUTION #2014-14** to change the maximum income limits for Senior Citizens and Disabled Tax Exemptions was adopted as follows;

WHEREAS, the Code of the Town of Athens Chapter 159, Article II expressly authorizes the Town Board to change the maximum income limits for Senior Citizens and Disabled Tax Exemptions;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Town of Athens changes the maximum income limits for Senior Citizen and Disabled Tax Exemptions to be set at \$22,500.00 with full sliding scale.

Introduced by Councilman Robert F. Butler, Jr.

Seconded by Councilwoman April Paluch

Upon the question of the adoption of this Resolution, the following Board members voted aye in favor of the Resolution:

Supervisor Joseph Iraci  
Councilwoman April Paluch  
Councilman Michael Ragaini

Councilman Robert F. Butler, Jr.  
Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow

The following Board member voted No in opposition of the Resolution: None

The proposed Resolution having been approved by a majority of the Board, the same was declared duly adopted by the Athens Town Board.

Ayes-5(Iraci; Butler; Paluch; Brandow; Ragaini) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

On the motion of Councilwoman April Paluch seconded by Councilman Michael Ragaini the following **RESOLUTION #2014-15** authorizing the Supervisor to sign the Village / Town Lease and to pay the same was adopted. Ayes-5(Iraci; Butler; Paluch; Brandow; Ragaini) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Councilman Robert F. Butler, Jr. made a motion seconded by Councilwoman April Paluch to approve the minutes of January 6, 2014 as read. Ayes-5(Iraci; Butler; Paluch; Brandow; Ragaini) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Councilman Michael Ragaini made a motion seconded by Supervisor Joseph Iraci to approve the Street Festival Voucher for payment. Ayes-5(Iraci; Butler; Paluch; Brandow; Ragaini) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

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Councilwoman April Paluch made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow to go into Executive Session to discuss negotiations. Ayes-5(Iraci; Butler; Paluch; Brandow; Ragaini) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0 Time 8:35 p.m.

Councilwoman April Paluch made a motion seconded by Councilman Michael Ragaini to *adjourn the Executive Session and reconvene the regular meeting*. Ayes-5(Iraci; Butler; Paluch; Brandow; Ragaini) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0 Time :8:53p.m.

Supervisor Joseph Iraci made a motion seconded by Councilwoman April Paluch *to adjourn the meeting*. Ayes-5(Iraci; Butler; Paluch; Brandow; Ragaini) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0 Meeting Adjourned 8:55 p.m.