

REGULAR MEETING – ATHENS TOWN BOARD – February 16, 2016

The regular meeting of the Athens Town Board was called to order on February 16, 2016 at 7:00 pm by supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The following people were present: Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr.; Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow; Councilman Michael Ragaini; Councilman Anthony Paluch; Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr.; Highway Superintendent John J. Farrell and Town Clerk Linda M. Stacey.

These people were also present: Attorney Corinne Smith; Gregory Christy and John Brock of Northeast Treaters and Cossackie – Athens Central School District Superintendent of Schools, Randall Squier.

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

General Abstract #4, vouchers #69 through #98 inclusive for \$401,691.25.

Highway Abstract #4, vouchers #28 through #41 inclusive for \$10,536.74.

TA (Escrow Account) Abstract #4, vouchers #68 and #99 for \$858.50.

**Northeast Treaters:** Attorney Corinne Smith explained that there was an amended timeline. We are behind by 1 meeting. The Attorney is waiting for the Engineer to get the Environmental Assessment Form Part 2, back to her. The amended map has been received, but we cannot move forward until the Engineer is done. (Amended timeline schedules were handed out to Board members and Mr. Christy.)

Superintendent of Cossackie-Athens Central School District, Randall Squire came before the Board to explain the proposed Capital Project at the High School and Middle School in Cossackie. The proposal is to update classroom areas; make more efficient and effective use of existing space; relocate some classrooms; make security upgrades ( cameras throughout the school); Repair and/or replace items that are failing; and improve outdoor athletic facilities. The vote for this project is scheduled for March 22, 2016, from 1:00 -9:00 p.m. at the both Elementary Schools.

**Highway Superintendent John J. Farrell** reported that he is still getting prices on a new chipper vs fixing the old one.

Mr. Tom Murphy of 1316 Schoharie Turnpike, wants to block off his alley. The Town has been plowing it. (The Attorney will look into this, as deeds have to be reviewed.)

Truck #6 broke down and had to be towed to Ben Funks. There was a broken wire up by the fire wall. Everything was covered by extended warranties.

They started hauling #1A stone for 2016', Road Agreement. It will be done for the March meeting.

Highway employee, Robert W. Wager has handed in his letter of resignation. His last day will be February 28, 2016.

Mr. Farrell wants to hire Harry Kniffen as part-time, on call status, no more than 28 hours a week. He would be paid on the books, but with no benefits. Mr. Kniffen currently helps out with plowing during snow storms.

Highway Superintendent Farrell would be looking to hire a new full time employee in the April.

Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. made a motion seconded by Councilman Anthony Paluch *that Highway Superintendent Farrell hire Harry Kniffen as a part time, on call employee (on the books) for the Highway Department.* Ayes-5(Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

**Town Highway Garage:** The Town Board reviewed drawings from Ryan Biggs Associates, of the proposed Highway Garage. Discussion followed.

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Supervisor Butler advised the Board to take the plans to review them and decide what they wish to do. It is a good floor plan. If the Board decides to move forward, it will have to be put out to bid. Board members were invited to bring back questions and ideas to the next meeting.

**Pilgrim Pipeline.** Supervisor Butler printed out a map of the Athens area for Board members to review. Discussion followed.

Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr. made a motion seconded by Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. to approve the minutes of February 1, 2016 as read. Ayes-5(Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

**Employee Handbook:** Councilwoman Brandow asked for the latest copy of the Employee Handbook. (Handbook is to be updated.)

**Building:** Cost benefits were discussed as well as, wells, septic etc. Discussion followed.

Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. made a motion seconded by Councilman Michael Ragaini to send a letter to the Village of Athens stating that the Town will invest money in a study on this building for possible future renovations and usefulness, only if the Village will deed the building over to the Town and make the Town owners of the building. Ayes-5(Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Councilman Anthony Paluch made a motion seconded by Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. to go into Executive Session to discuss Union Negotiations. Ayes-5(Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0 Time: 9:05 p.m.

Councilman Anthony Paluch made a motion seconded by Councilman Michael Ragaini to adjourn the Executive Session and reconvene the regular meeting. Ayes-5(Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0 Time: 9:12 p.m.

As there was no further business to come before the meeting a motion to adjourn was made by Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. seconded by Councilman Michael Ragaini. Ayes-5(Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Meeting adjourned at: 9:14 p.m.