

REGULAR MEETING – ATHENS TOWN BOARD – November 21, 2016

The regular meeting of the Athens Town Board was called to order on November 21, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

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

These people were also present: Attorney Virginia Benedict; Patrica McLoughlin; Anne Waling and Matt Downs of Cypress Creek (Solar).

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

General Abstract #21, vouchers #525 through #539 inclusive for \$33,090.89.

Highway Abstract #20, vouchers #205 through #210 inclusive for \$2,118.07.

Anne Waling of Cypress Creek asked the Board about putting a solar farm on Vosenkill Road. She explained they would need a strong electric cable hookup or a sub-station, for this. Supervisor Butler asked how this would be assessed. She told him that you would need 9 to 13 acres for the solar panels, which would be in place for 15 years.

Attorney Benedict advised the Board that if you opt out, you opt out for everything. If you stay in, your property owner still gets an exemption.

Ms. Waling stated that this would be a 2 megawatt project. There is no substation. The power would be sold, and the property would receive a 20% discount on rate.

After 15 years they would decommission, or since they own, they could continue.

Discussion followed.

Supervisor Butler stated that currently there are 31 property owners who have solar.

Ms. Waling stated that if you opt out it would be date forward and wouldn't affect the property owners that currently have solar.

Supervisor Butler advised her that we don't know what we are doing right now; that is what we have to do as a Board; we have to decide.

Ms. Waling offered to provide sample ordinances.

Shelter Agreement for 2017: Attorney Benedict to check with Ron Perez as the Town is now doing the Dog Control for the Village, and the wording in Agreement is incorrect.

Reserves-Councilwoman Brandow and Bookkeeper Strenka to work on later.

Pat McLoughlin came forward at this time to go over suggested changes she made in the Employee Handbook at the request of the Board.

These changes included vacation leave policy; taking the Civil Service system references out; retirement with insurance.

On the motion of Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. seconded by Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr. the following **RESOLUTION #2016-36** to increase the amount of the medical buyout for the town justices which is \$1,500 shall be supplemented in an additional amount of \$1,500 (for a total of \$3,000.)Effective 1/1/2017. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr. made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow to approve the minutes of November 10, 2016 as read. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Discussion followed on solar.

Councilman Paluch asked how much it would cost to rezone on Route 9W.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.