

The regular meeting of the Athens Town Board was called to order on December 5, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag by Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr.

The following people were present: Supervisor Butler, 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 Virginia Benedict; Bookkeeper/ Budget Officer Michael Strenka; Assessor Carol McBride; Code Enforcement Officer George Holsopple; CA senior, Victor Cutillo; Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Maguire; Barbara Trembacz; Frances McCusker and Patrica McLoughlin.

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

General Abstract #22, vouchers 3540 through #559 inclusive for \$68,388.90.

Highway Abstract #21, vouchers #211 through #216 inclusive for \$35,743.10.

Assessor Certification: Assessor Carol McBride reported that she needs three courses (Data Collection, Mass Appraisal and Farm Appraisal) and she will be taking these after the Final Tax roll is produced (July 1, 2017). She needs to complete all the courses by September 14, 2017 to receive certification.

There is one Case pending with Attorneys under Article 7 for 2016.

She advised the Board that a spread sheet is being created for the Town Clerk for the County/Town billing. (Includes new addresses, new owners etc.)

All exemption applications are due by taxable status date, March 1, 2017.

The office is preparing postcards for the Enhanced Star Income Verification Program and are due to be mailed out the end of December.

Senior Citizen Exemption/ Persons with Disabilities& Limited Income Exemption:

Assessor McBride informed the Board that Greene County Legislature had reviewed the maximum income limits for the “aged Senior Citizen’s Tax Exemption” as well as the “Persons with Disabilities and Limited Income Tax Exemptions” for County purposes. (There was no increase for last year.) The County recommended an increase of \$2,000 for the maximum income limits for both exemptions for the 2017 Assessment Roll.

Highway Superintendent John J. Farrell reported that the highway crew was clearing brush and trees, before the snow flies.

He stated that they had one snow event so far.

The highway department will be doing training for the next few days.

Code Enforcement Officer George Holsopple reported that Mr. Maguire’s well tested positive for E.coli and coliform. The well was tested twice: once in August and again in November. The State’s test report came back negative. Discussion followed.

Supervisor Butler offered to have the Town do one more test, taking two samples and sending one to the State’s lab and one to the lab Mr. Maguire used (Meyers in Hunter).

Mr. Maguire refused the offer of re-testing.

Attorney Virginia Benedict stated that Action had been started.

Mr. Maguire was very upset and stated he was “closed out”. He can no longer use his property in the summers, nor have the children and grandchildren use this house as vacation place.

Discussion followed. He stated that the Town does not want to do anything. Supervisor Butler stated that it was a matter of legalities.

Code Enforcement Officer Holsopple stated that there is a boil water notice on the Starlight Motel, on Rt. 9W as the chlorination on the well is not working. Janice McGrath listed items that don't work and will send the list to the owner.

Section #180-26 of the Code Book reads that in RU1, 1 animal (pig) per acre is allowed. Attorney Benedict read RU allows 2 pigs.

Starlight Motel has free range chickens.

Budget Motel is owned by DKAG of New Jersey. Code Enforcement Officer Holsopple spoke to the manager. The motel had been boarded up and red-tagged. Currently the electric has been turned back on to the house, and the manager and his 4 sons are living there. (Electric was inspected before it was turned back on.

Bookkeeper/ Budget Officer Michael Strenka went over the Supervisor's monthly Report. Mr. Strenka then went over the Town Reserves, including Fund Balances and Trial Balances.

Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow made a motion seconded by Councilman Michael Ragaini to accept the Supervisor's Report as presented. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Councilman Michael Ragaini made a motion seconded Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow to accept the Town Clerk's Report as presented. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Councilman Michael Ragaini made a motion seconded by Mary H. Brandow to accept the minutes of November 21, 2016 as corrected. (On last page Councilman Paluch asked how much it would cost to put solar on Rt. 9W: It should have stated rezoning Rt. 9W.) Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

General Codes: Town Code Book. The local laws were sent in to General Codes, who sent an estimate of between \$1,510 and \$1,810, for the cost of printing the new pages for the Code Book, which needs to be signed by the Supervisor, and returned to General Codes.

Columbia Greene Humane Society Shelter Agreement: Attorney Benedict reported that she is still waiting for Mr. Ron Perez to return her call.

Pat McLoughlin made update changes in the employee handbook as per the Board. The handbook is to be reviewed by the Board starting at the next meeting on December 19th.

Student Victor Cutillo left at this time. (8:30 p.m.)

Bookkeeper Michael Strenka went over Senior Insurance. He advised the Board that it is increasing from \$469 a person to \$493. There are 11 people: 7 retirees and 4 spouses. He stated that 2 employees pay part of their insurance now: one at 10% and one at 20%. Councilwoman Brandow stated that when people were hired, they got a retirement package which included Health Insurance. Discussion followed. It is a 4% increase; who should pay the difference the employees or the Town? This will be revisited at the next meeting.

Discussion followed on solar energy. Board members should try to isolate the zones: Mixed use commercial; Light Industry 1 and Light Industry 2.

The Town website is being moved from North Shore to Its. (Intelligent Technology Solutions.)

Short Term Rental Law:

Supervisor Butler suggested that language should be included that length of rental will be between 1 and 8 days.

On the motion of Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. seconded by Councilman Michael Ragaini the following **RESOLUTION #2016-37** was adopted: That the Town adopt the \$2000 maximum income limit increase for the 2017 Assessment Roll for the “Aged Exemption” and “Persons with Disabilities and Limited Income Exemption” from \$24,500 to \$26,500 in accordance with the County, as follows:

Maximum Income Limit:	\$26,500.00	50%
\$26,500.01	\$27,499.99	45%
\$27,500.00	\$28,499.99	40%
\$28,500.00	\$29,499.00	35%
\$29,500.00	\$30,399.99	30%
\$30,400.00	\$31,299.99	25%
\$31,300.00	\$32,199.99	20%
\$32,200.00	\$33,099.99	15%
\$33,100.00	\$33,999.99	10%
\$34,000.00	\$34,899.99	5%

This resolution was adopted as follows: Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. made a motion seconded by Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr. to go into Executive Session to discuss hours of operation. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0 Time: 8:54 p.m.

Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow to come out of Executive Session and reconvene the regular meeting. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0 Time: 9:03 p.m.

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 was adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

