

REGULAR MEETING – ATHENS TOWN BOARD – January 17, 2017

The regular meeting of the Athens Town Board was called to order on January 17, 2017 by Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. at 7:02 p.m. 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 and Town Clerk Linda M. Stacey. (Councilman Surrano and Highway Superintendent Farrell were absent.)

These people were also present: Assessor Carol McBride; Code Enforcement Officer George Holsopple; and Mark Evans of State Telephone, Coxsackie.

The following bills were audited by the Board and ordered paid:  
General Abstract #2, vouchers #21 through #40 inclusive for \$16,572.44.  
Highway Abstract #2, vouchers #8 through #16 inclusive for \$14,789.39.

Code Enforcement Officer George Holsopple gave his Annual Report to the Board.

There were 41 Building Permits with a total of \$19,147.12 in fees collected.

There were 3 Septic Permits for a total of	135.00
One Sign Permit for	30.00
4 Demolition Permits	200.00
2 Fireworks Permits	200.00
33 Certificates of Occupancy	<u>1,320.00</u>
Total amount of fees collected was	\$21,132.12

The Building permits were actually valued at \$2,320,791.00.

Mr. Holsopple reported that he had inspected the 3 junkyards: B& & Garage; Richard A. and Lance Fischer; and John O Rexford and Son. He said all were found in compliance.

Code Enforcement Officer Holsopple stated that he is currently looking into Heavy Haulers fill permit from 2014. He is looking to find out where the fill came from and how much was actually brought in.

Mr. Holsopple informed the Board that January 27<sup>th</sup> would be his last day of work for the next six weeks, as he will be having an operation.

Assessor Carol McBride informed the Board that exemptions were coming in every day. She told them of former Town Assessor, current Director of Real Property Tax Services, Laura Van Valkenburg's pending retirement.

Mrs. McBride talked about the disclosure website for the reval. She wanted to know how this would work with the Town switching from North Shore to ITS. She will be attending a Class on Solar Energy on February 3<sup>rd</sup> at Columbia Greene Community College.

**Mr. Mark Evans Vice President of State Tel** handed out maps to Board members for his presentation of phone/internet service in fiber optic form.

Mr. Evans stated that they would like to do the top third of Sleepy Hollow Lake, come down Routes 385 and 9W with Broadband.

They have been awarded 10.2 million for this project which has to be completed by 2018.

They will be building a 100 mg service fiber optic network from scratch.

He explained that they are looking at every pole. It will be laid out by census blocks.

There will be a website. They hope to be constructing be this summer.

Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow made a motion seconded by Councilman Michael Ragaini *to approve the Town Clerk's Report as presented*. Ayes: 4 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch) Noes-0 Absent-1(Surrano) Abstentions-0

The Minutes of January 3, 2017 were held for the next meeting.

A Letter was received from Attorney Tal G. Rappleyea representing the Town of Cairo RE: A Proposed Zoning Law Change.

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Councilman Michael Ragaini made a motion seconded by Councilman Anthony Paluch that the *Supervisor be authorized to sign the Agreement with Pattison, Koskey, Howe & Bucci as the Town's Accountants for 2017.* Ayes: 4 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch) Noes-0 Absent-1(Surrano) Abstentions-0

Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow made a motion seconded by Councilman Michael Ragaini *authorizing the Supervisor to sign the Engagement Letter for the services of Justice Court Agreed Upon Procedures for the year ending December 31, 2016.* Ayes: 4 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch) Noes-0 Absent-1(Surrano) Abstentions-0

The Board reviewed the Short Term Rental Law Draft. Discussion followed RE: Enforcement other than Code Enforcement Officer. Attorney Benedict is to see if Village Police can be used.

The Board reviewed the Employee Handbook.

Supervisor Butler presented proposed building plans for the Town Highway Garage to Board members. The Board is to review the plans. Highway Superintendent Farrell and Supervisor Butler are to meet with the Engineer this week.

Discussion of Cemeteries was held.

Councilman Ragaini stated that he would help Supervisor Butler in finding an interim Code Enforcement Office to cover George's leave.

As there was no further business to come before the meeting, a motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Michael Ragaini seconded by Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow. Ayes: 4 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch) Noes-0 Absent-1(Surrano) Abstentions-0

Meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.