

REGULAR MEETING - ATHENS TOWN BOARD - November 20, 2017

The regular meeting of the Athens Town Board was called to order on November 20, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag lead by Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr.

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.

The following people were also present: Attorney Virginia Benedict; Assessor Carol McBride; Bookkeeper/Budget Officer Michael Strenka; Madelyn Brandow; Larry Styles; Barbara Trembacz; Fran McCusker; Dominic Multari; Robert Robinson; Rickie Gabrielle; Leah Lasher and Marla Butler.

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

Capital Project H (Highway Garage) Abstract #21, vouchers #546 through #550 inclusive for \$304,976.87.

General Abstract #21, vouchers #551 through #563 inclusive for \$13,039.00.

Highway Abstract #21, vouchers #216 through #220 inclusive for \$630.89 .

Supervisor Butler advised all present that the public hearing on the Preliminary Budget for 2018 was still open and asked if anyone had any questions.

Assessor Carol McBride asked about the assessor's portion of the budget. She stated that she needed a part-time clerk to help her for 12 hours a week, or she would need to work 40 hours a week herself. She said the money is not showing in her budget line.

Supervisor Butler explained to her, and to all present, that the money is in the budget however it is under the B section of the budget. Discussion followed. Assessor McBride left at 7:10 pm.

Supervisor Butler explained that the money is in the budget. The part time clerk can also answer the phone for the Code Enforcement Offer on the days he is not in, and take messages. She can be a shared clerk working for both the Assessor and Code Enforcer., so we don't have to have to hire someone else. Job Justification.

As there were no other questions on the Preliminary Budget, **Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr. made a motion** seconded by Councilman Michael Ragaini *to close the public hearing.*
Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

On the motion of Councilman Michael Ragaini seconded by Councilman Richard M Surrano, Jr. the following **RESOLUTION 2017-51** to adopt the Preliminary Budget for 2018 as presented as the **Adopted Town Budget for 2018.** Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. informed the Board that he has spoken with Ryan Biggs-Clark Davis about doing a study on the building .

He and Attorney Benedict explained that when you use Capital Reserves this money is subject to a Permissive Referendum however if you use money from the General Account, you do not need a Permissive Referendum.

Supervisor Butler put Councilman Surrano and Councilman Ragaini in Charge of this project.

Highway Superintendent John J. Farrell informed the Board that the FEMA check will be coming next year.

Mr. Farrell reported that the joint jobs with the Village were finished.

They helped the Town/Village of Catskill at the Jefferson Heights Cemetery.

He stated that he would be buying the appliances after January. Bookkeeper Strenka is to draw up a resolution. (\$8,000.00)

Superintendent Farrell reported that the DOT testing is now including testing for opioids.

Highway Superintendent John J. Farrell presented information on a John Deere – Frontier SB1388-88 In. 3-point Commercial Snowblower with Hydraulic Motor Chute Rotation and single auger. Suggested price \$9,977.41.

Contract: NY Piggyback NJPA Landscaping and Grounds Related Equipment

PC66663 (PG XN) Price effective date: November 21, 2017 at the price of \$8,181.48, to the Board, that he would to purchase.

He said that any remaining money can be rolled into the equipment fund.

On the motion of Councilman Michael Ragaini seconded by Councilwoman Mary H.

Brandow the following **RESOLUTION #2017-52** authorizing the Highway Superintendent to purchase the Frontier SB1388-88 In. 3-Point Commercial Snowblower with Hydraulic Motor Chute Rotation and single Auger at the selling price of \$8,181.48 was adopted.

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

Mr. Farrell advised the Board that he has received permission, from the Greene County Highway Superintendent, to use the County Highway Building to work on Town vehicles, if he needs to, until the garage is complete. (Shop 1 or Building 2)

Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr. asked to read something that he and previous Supervisor Joseph Iraci had worked on. As he began to read, Councilman Paluch got up and left (7:50 p.m.) without explanation and Barbara Trembacz interrupted Surrano with inaccurate allegations and left slamming door behind her.

Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues seconded by Councilman Michael Ragaini. Ayes-2 (Brandow; Ragaini) Noes-2 (Butler; Surrano) Absent-1 (Paluch) Abstentions-0 There was no Executive Session.

Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr. and Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow discussed previous bookkeeping issues.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.