

REGULAR MEETING- ATHENS TOWN BOARD- September 5, 2017

The regular meeting of the Athens Town Board was called to order on September 5, 2017 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 Surrano, Jr.; Deputy Town Clerk Gail M. Stacey; and Highway Superintendent John J. Farrell.

These people were also present: Attorney Virginia Benedict; Bookkeeper Michael Strenka; Assessor Carol McBride; Code Enforcement Officer Albert Gasparini; Michael Pirrone; Janet and Eugene Paluch; Fran McCusker; and Theresa Cardinale.

The following bills were audited by the Board:

General Abstract #16, vouchers # 444 through # 457 inclusive for \$ 22,306.23

Highway Abstract#16, vouchers # 167 through 171 inclusive for \$ 3,509.83

Supervisor Butler announced to all those who were present that Councilman Michael Ragaini has been Acting Deputy Supervisor since July 17, 2017. All calls are to be referred to Linda M. Stacey, Town Clerk for Mr. Ragaini.

Assessor Carol McBride gave report on the small claims hearing from 9/5/2017: Sleepy Hollow vs. Town and Village. Summary Judgement in at the beginning of October and Response due at the end of October. Trial date is set for April 11, 2018. In Zabel vs. the Town of Athens, date set for September 8, 2017, owners were working on getting an appraisal. Assessor McBride also stated that there was one Assessment Review Board Member needed and Lynn Brunner was the choice. Supervisor Butler stated that he will need to view the budget to see where they are at for an Assessor Clerk.

Code Enforcement Officer Albert Gasparini gave report on the Quarry Rd. property. The outhouse is an undetermined distance from a moving waterway and minimum is 150 ft, human waste found on ground, no electric, possible generator. Violation will be issued due to it does not comply with NYS Codes. Demolition on the Dollar General site has been pushed back due to the finding of artifacts until mid September. Chris Morgan is the contact. Building Permit not issued as of yet, just the Demo Permit. Horse barn in a self-contained unit request is within legal codes. 270 Green lake Rd: in regards to greenhouse, owner will send specs/documents for property line. Rental application for 51 Thorpe Rd was sent by fax. Mr. Gasparini still needs to contact owner.

Supervisor Butler stated there was no change in the Fireworks Permit.

Highway Supervisor John J. Farrell submitted list of all equipment at the Highway Garage. Budget for the Highway has no change except to replace Unit # 4 (2003 Ford F250), estimated cost of \$ 70,000. Surplus Equipment is a 1970 Homelite Chainsaw which is out of service. Supervisor Farrell also stated that the state has yet to receive FEME funding from the March 2017 storm. He is hoping to receive approximately \$ 14,000. Reported that all back work has been completed. The sale of the backhoe generated a profit of \$ 13,800 which Supervisor Farrell was hoping could be put in the budget for new appliances, chairs, and shelving for the new building. Locks for the new building discussed and will be determined on by funds allotted.

Bookkeeper Mike Strenka gave August Report. No changes. May need to modify budget due to a loss in revenue from the court. Town receives 40% and State receives 60%. We are looking at a \$ 22,000 loss from the prior year (2016). Mr. Strenka also stated the reason given to him was that criminal cases were up and civil cases were down and that trees that were cut along the thruway were the reason for less tickets. Monies for the Town Highway Garage building are due next week, may need alternatives to generate funds. Report also shows a \$17,000 deficit in attorney's fees for E. Stuart Jones for a pending lawsuit. **Councilman Richard Surrano** makes the motion to accept Bookkeeper Report. **Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow** seconds the motion. Ayes- 5 (Butler, Brandow, Ragaini, Paluch, Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Supervisor Butler discussed the Site Plan Review. During the process of the review, a contractor is allowed a conditional permit for a certain amount of time or it will be revoked. Attorney Virginia Benedict stated that if a DOT permit is issued then there is limit of time. A date for a public hearing will be set at the next meeting.

Supervisor Butler discussed a couple of the sections of the Inter-Municipal Agreement with the Board and Attorney Benedict. #5A, Town will pay for own fuel, repairs, etc. and there is no need for a reimbursement. #6 will be eliminated from the Agreement and separate Resolution will be made. The Inter-Municipal Agreement will be discussed at next meeting as to give the Board members a chance review it.

Supervisor Butler discussed a letter from the DOT Region 1 Director to Gene Hatton in regards to the intersection of Howard Hall Rd. and Rt.385. Funding has been found and a design is being worked on. Project is moving forward.

Town Clerks Report was submitted. **Councilman Surrano** a motion to accept, **Councilman Ragaini** seconded the motion. Ayes- 5(Butler, Brandow, Ragaini, Paluch, Surrano) Noes- 0 Absent- 0 Abstentions- 0

8/21/2017 Minutes submitted. **Councilman Surrano** makes a motion to accept, **Councilman Ragaini** seconded the motion. Ayes- 5(Butler, Brandow, Ragaini, Paluch, Surrano) Noes- 0 Absent- 0 Abstentions- 0

Supervisor Butler discussed the Bishop Beaudry Construction application and no payment will be made until a certified payroll is turned in. The application has been approved by Supervisor Butler. No motion was made.

2017 Community Foundation Grants were discussed. Town will be putting in an application for the Victorian Stroll. Supervisor Butler asked Highway Supervisor Farrell if the Highway Department would be putting in an application. Discussion at a later time.

Communittee Foundation Trustee: Councilman Ragaini makes a motion, seconded by Councilman Surrano, that Supervisor Butler fill the rest of the year as Trustee. Ayes-5 Noes- 0 Absent- 0 Abstentions- 0

Community Foundation Appointments discussion on the 5 candidates. Vote was taken.

Carol Bernard- 3 year appointment
Stephan Bradicich- 3 year appointment
Joan Satterlee- 3 year appointment
Maureen Murphy- 1 year appointment

Other Items of Business: Councilman Ragaini asked about an assistant for the Code Enforcement/Assessor Office. A review of what will be needed will be at a later date.

As there was no further business to come before the Board, a motion to adjourn was made by **Councilman Michael Ragaini** and seconded by **Councilman Richard Surrano Jr.** AYES- 0 (BUTLER, BRANDOW, RAGAINI, PALUCH, SURRENO) NOES- 0 ABSENT- 0 ABSTENTIONS-0

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:20 P.M.