

The regular meeting of the Athens Town Board was called to order on February 19, 2018, at 7:00 pm, by Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

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.

These people were also present: Attorney Virginia Benedict; Leo Palmateer, Trustee for the Community Benefits Foundation Trust; Fran McCusker; Michael Campbell; Larry Styles- videographer; and Mandrake Vermilyea- CA high School Senior.

The following bills were audited by the Board:

**General Abstract #4**, vouchers #76 through #90 inclusive for **\$12,644.33**.

**Highway Abstract #4**, vouchers #27 through #37 inclusive for **\$18,152.08**.

**Capital Project H** Abstract #3, vouchers #5 through #7 inclusive for **\$91,232.33**.

**Leo Palmateer, Trustee of the Athens Community Foundation**, presented the annual report of the same.

For 2017, the Trustees of the Community Foundation announced the net distribution of 38 grants totaling \$215,962 to qualifying civic, sports, cultural, fraternal, education, and governmental groups. Including this cycle, the Foundation's fifteenth (15) annual round of grants, the number of awards over the life of the Foundation now totals 448, with a total disbursement of \$2,553,933. He also presented a listing of the 2017 award recipients, the individual grant amounts, and notations about the purpose/ approved use of the award.

The Trustees expect 2018 to be a good year, as the Foundation is in good shape. It will be a good year for growth and for the fund to grow in perpetuity.

They invested in Janney Montgomery Scott LLC (Albany, NY) and Fenimore Asset Management (Cobleskill, NY). The portfolio of the Athens Community Foundation includes high market stocks from companies that are; in strong financial condition, have good management teams, have solid future growth prospects, and can weather the storm of an extended downturn in the stock market.

**Mr. Palmateer stated** he would like to encourage people to participate: In seeking funding and by being members of the Advisory Board.

**Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr.** made a motion seconded by Councilman Anthony Paluch *to remove Supervisor Butler as Trustee to the Athens Community Foundation*. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

**Councilman Anthony Paluch made** a motion *to appoint Edward Bloomer as Trustee to the Athens Community Foundation for a two (2) year term beginning February 19, 2018 and ending December 31, 2019*. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

**Highway Superintendent John J. Farrell** announced that the utility truck bids were opened on Friday, February 16, 2018, at 10:00 am. He received 8 bids. He recommended the bid of Crossroads Ford, of Ravenna with a bid price of \$65,142.00.

**On the motion made by Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr.** seconded by Councilman Michael Ragaini the following **RESOLUTION #2018-17**, authorizing the Highway Superintendent to select Crossroads Ford as the lowest responsible bidder, and purchase a 2018, 19,500 GVW crew cab and Chassis and a steel 9' utility body, with a front tunnel, from them. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

**Highway Superintendent Farrell** reported that the electric was hooked up at the new garage. He also reported that he would have the 2018 Road Agreement for the next meeting. He has a couple of large culverts to replace and is looking for possible Grants from Cornell Cooperative Extension.

**Attorney Benedict reported** that the State Tax Department will be contacting Jeanne Townley regarding tax exemption papers for West Athens Lime Street Fire District.

**Councilman Anthony Paluch made a motion** seconded by Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow *to accept the minutes of February 5, 2018 as read, with a spelling correction.* Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Received a letter of request from Greene County Council on the Arts for a donation to Greene County Children SPROUTS Program,

**The Board set the date of March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018,** at 7:05 p.m. for the public hearing on a proposed Local Law entitled “*A Local Law Amending Chapter 159 of the Code of the Town of Athens Entitled ‘Taxation’ in its Entirety.*”

**Attorney Benedict** advised the Board that the Tax Law Rules are changing. A plan must be submitted to Orps by September.

Councilman Surrano stated that boarding up of Budget Inn has been started.

**Supervisor Butler** informed the Board that State Route 385 and Howard Hall Road, (a County Route) intersection is currently being designed by NYS DOT. Trees have already been cut down.

**Supervisor Butler** stated that the Architect for this building is supposed to contact the current office personnel about the space needed for offices.

Councilman Ragaini and Councilman Surrano are to start meeting for this building.

**On the motion of Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr.** seconded by Councilman Michael Ragaini that the following **RESOLUTION #2018-18** was offered and adopted:

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Athens Highway Department seeks to purchase a new 2018 or newer 19,500 GVW crew cab and chassis and a steel 9’ utility body with a front tunnel subject to the specifications listed in the Invitation for Bids dated January 22, 2018; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town caused a Notice to Bidders to be published in the official newspaper of the Town and posted on the New York State Contract Reporter website; and

**WHEREAS**, sealed bids were accepted until 10:00 a.m. on February 16, 2018, at which time eight (8) bids were publicly opened and read; and

**WHEREAS**, the bids received by Sawyer Motors, including Options 1, 2, and 3, did not meet the minimum specifications listed in the Invitation for Bids; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board has reviewed the recommendations of the Highway Superintendent, recommending award on the basis of lowest total cost to Crossroads Ford, a responsible and responsive bidder, in the amount of \$65,142.00 for a Ford with a Warner body, and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the Highway Superintendent’s order, the procurement is to be funded from the Highway Equipment Reserve Fun.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT**

ATHENS TOWN BOARD – REGULAR MEETING – February 19, 2018

**RESOLVED**, THAT THE Town Board of the Town of Athens, hereby consents to and authorizes the expenditure of \$65,142.00 from Town of Athens Highway Equipment Reserve Fund, said appropriation being pursuant to section 6-c of the General Municipal Law; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that this resolution shall be subject to a permissive referendum pursuant to section 6-c of the General Municipal Law; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, the upon the effective date of this resolution, that the Highway Superintendent is hereby authorized to accept Crossroads Ford's bid in the amount of \$65,142.00 and do all things necessary to carry out the intent of this resolution.

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

The proposed Resolution having been approved by a majority of the Board, the same was declared duly adopted by the Athens Town Board.

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 8:10 p.m.