

A regular meeting of the Athens Town Board was called to order on November 19, 2018 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 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; Tina DeBellegarde; Barbara Trembacz; Fran McCusker; Theresa Cardinale; Diane Michener; Josh Hodor; Larry Styles; Patrick Doyle; Mary Garvey and Denis Jean.

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

General Abstract #20, vouchers #403 through #421 inclusive for \$97,777.78.

Highway Abstract #19, vouchers #226 through #233 inclusive for \$11,381.69.

**Supervisor Butler** continued the Public Hearing on the 2019 Proposed Budget.

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

**Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr.** read the Notice of the Public Hearing as it appeared in the Official Newspaper:

*Please take that a public hearing will be held by the Town Board of the Town of Athens on November 19, 2018 at 7:05 pm local time, at the Athens town Hall, 2 First Street, Athens, New York 12015 to hear all interested parties on proposed Local Law No. 3 of 2018. The proposed purpose of this Local Law is to override the Tax Levy Limit for Fiscal Year 2019.*

*PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that copies of said proposed Local Law is available for review at the Town Hall, 2 First Street, Athens, New York, 12015. By order of the Town Board of the Town of Athens. dated November 8, 2018.*

**Councilman Richard M. Surrano Jr.** made a motion seconded by Councilman Anthony Paluch **to close the public hearing for the 2% Cap Override**. Ayes-5(Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

**Councilman Anthony Paluch** made a motion seconded by Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr. **to approve the minutes of October 15, 2018** as read. Discussion on followed. Councilwoman Brandow would like a section rewritten. (She will come in and listen to the tape.) This motion wasn't carried.

**Councilman Anthony Paluch** made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow to **approve the minutes of November 8, 2018 as read**. Ayes-5(Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

**Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow** made a motion seconded by Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr. **authorizing the Supervisor to sign the 2019 Columbia Greene Humane Society Shelter Contract for our dogs**. Ayes-5(Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

The Board reviewed the 2019 proposed budget page by page.

**Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr. made a motion** *to change the budgeted amount for the Cultural Center from \$1000 to \$0* seconded by Councilman Michael Ragaini. Ayes-2 (Ragaini; Surrano) Noes-3 (Butler; Brandow; Paluch) Absent;-0 Abstentions-0 **This motion did not carry.**

**Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr. made a motion** seconded by Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow *to change to the budgeted amount for the Cultural Center from \$1000 to \$500.* Ayes-3 (Brandow; Ragaini; Surrano) Noes-2 (Butler; Paluch) Absent-0 Abstentions-0

**Councilman Michael Ragaini** made a motion seconded by Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr. *to change the budgeted amount of the Street Festival from \$1000 to \$500.* Ayes-2(Ragaini; Surrano) Noes-3 (Butler; Brandow; Paluch) Absent-0 Abstentions-0 **Motion not carried.**

Councilman Anthony Paluch made a motion that the retirees keep the medical insurance that they have. **There was no second.**

**Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow** made a motion seconded by Councilman Anthony Paluch to *take the newspaper line item out of the budget for \$300 for Historian, as she can use the newspaper that comes to the Town office.* Ayes-2 (Brandow; Paluch) Noes-3 (Butler; Ragaini; Surrano) Absent-0 Abstentions-0 **Motion not carried.**

**Attorney Virginia Benedict** informed the Board that there were two engineering firms that they could choose from to act on their behalf for the Preliminary Scoping Statement (“PSS”) on the impacts associated with Flint Mine Solar LLC’s application before the New York State Board on Electric Generation Siting and the Environment (the “Siting Board”) to construct a 100 megawatt (“MW”) solar electric generating facility in the Towns of Athens and Coxsackie. These two (2) firms are: **Barton & LoGuidice of Syracuse, NY** and **Tighe & Bond of Rhinebeck, NY.** The firm that the Board chooses would also apply for intervenor funds.

**Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr.** made a motion seconded by Councilman Michael Ragaini *to hire the Engineering Firm of Tighe & Bond of Rhinebeck, New York.* Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

As per the New York State Board on Electric Generation Siting and the Environment, **Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. nominated** the following four candidates to potentially serve as ad hoc public members of the Siting Board: Michael Pirrone; Joshua Lipsman; Christopher Janikowski and Karen Dudley. (This is due to Flint Mine Solar LLC submitting a Preliminary Scoping Statement to the New York State Siting Board.)

Patrick Doyle is scheduled for a presentation for the next meeting.

**On the motion of Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr.** seconded by Councilman Michael Ragaini the following **RESOLUTION #2018-40** to adopt the Preliminary Budget with changes as the **2019 Annual Budget.** 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 for a personnel issue.* Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0 (time 8:02 pm)

**Councilman Michael Ragaini** made a motion seconded by Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr. *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 8:28 pm)

As there was no further 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 8:29 PM