

REGULAR MEETING – ATHENS TOWN BOARD – November 8, 2018

A regular meeting of the Athens Town Board was called to order on Thursday November 8, 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 Anthony Paluch; Highway Superintendent John J. Farrell and Town Clerk Linda M. Stacey. (Councilman Michael Ragaini and Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr. were absent.)

These people were also present: Attorney Virginia Benedict; Bookkeeper/Budget Officer Michael Strenka; Assessor Carol McBride; Code Enforcement Officer Albert Gasparini; Barbara Trembacz; Sharen Paluch; Theresa Cardinale; Fran McCusker; Melissa Beck; Larry Styles and Karen Dudley.

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

General Abstract #19, vouchers #385 through #402 inclusive for \$29,272.92.

Highway Abstract #18, vouchers #209 through #225 inclusive for \$9,924.11.

Supervisor Butler read the Notice of the Public Hearing on the Preliminary Budget, as it appeared in the Official Newspaper.

He informed those present that there was no increase. The public hearing would remain open until the meeting of November 19th.

He said if there are any questions, leave them with the Town Clerk and they will be compiled for the next meeting.

Code Enforcement Officer Albert Gasparini reported that there were 11 building permits for October. These included new roof shingles; new additions; new modular homes; new decks; a finished basement w/bathroom,, upgrade electric & new heating system; an in ground pool; and a garage.

There were 5 inspections; (2 foundations, garage addition and modular home.)

There was one Certificate of Occupancy and 3 Certificate of Occupancy Searches.

(On Going)

Mr. Gasparini reported that in order to get hold of someone to take care of the tall weeds and vegetation at Dollar General he had to contact Primax.

Highway Superintendent John J. Farrell reported that a culvert on Thorpe Road that was scheduled to be replaced in 2019, collapsed, and was replaced on Wednesday, November 7, 2018, and blacktopped today.

They took unit #2 to Gallagher's garage for an oil leak from the pump; it is going to cost about \$1,600 to fix.

They cleaned up trees that were along all Town roads. They had multiple calls out for trees down.

They helped the Village of Athens remove their docks from the park.

They spent a week rebuilding the sander for unit #1.

They used grad all on Vosenkill Road for 6 days.

Mr. Farrell had a meeting with Soil & Water & NYS DEC on culvert inventory & one w/ State to push for more CHIPS funding.

The sweeper was used in the Village for a day cleaning catch basin.

They poured headwalls on all culverts they put in this year.

They cut trees for the Village on day.

They did 2 driveway pipes that needed to be replaced: one on Schoharie Turnpike and one on Leeds Athens Road.

Clean up Day went very well.

The surplus equipment value \$869.00.

Councilwoman Mary H Brandow made a motion seconded by Councilman Anthony Paluch *to approve the value of the Surplus Equipment at \$869.00.* Ayes-3 (Butler; Brandow; Paluch) Noes-0 Absent-2 (Ragaini; Surrano) Abstentions-0

The highway department had to replace the starter on the loader; bell housing had a lot of oil in it working with dealer on possible problems.

Bookkeeper/Budget Officer Michael Strenka went over the Supervisor's Report for October. He advised the Board that there was a projected deficit of -\$45,000 for 2018. The 2018 revenues were \$909,000 and the expenditures were \$954,000. He presented two resolutions; 1 for \$82,000 for the lawsuit and the 2nd for \$25,000 for the engineering firm for the floor plans of this building.

Discussion followed;

Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow made a motion seconded by Councilman Anthony *Paluch to accept the Supervisor's Report as presented.* Ayes-3 (Butler; Brandow; Paluch) Noes-0 Absent-2 (Ragaini; Surrano) Abstentions-0

On the motion of Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow seconded by Councilman Anthony Paluch the following **RESOLUTION #2018-38** was adopted:

WHEREAS, the Town of Athens has accumulated several attorney bills from the legal firm which has been representing the Town of Athens, the Coxsackie-Athens School District and the Town of Coxsackie in an ongoing lawsuit with Sleepy Hollow, and

WHEREAS, these services have been directly associated with a grievance as to the assessed value of property in Sleepy Hollow, and

WHEREAS, this transaction has not yet been recognized in the 2018 Town of Athens Budget, and

WHEREAS, it is the intention of the Town Board to recognize the necessary expenditures regarding the ongoing lawsuit;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Athens hereby authorizes increasing General Fund Appropriated Fund Balance A-599 by \$82,000 and increasing General Fund Appropriations Line Item A 1420.4 Other Legal Costs by \$82,000.

Ayes-3 (Butler; Brandow; Paluch) Noes-0 Absent-2 (Ragaini; Surrano) Abstentions-0

On the motion of Councilman Anthony Paluch seconded by Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow the following **RESOLUTION #2018-39** was adopted:

WHEREAS, the Town of Athens has paid two invoices from an engineering firm and architects totaling almost \$25,000, and

WHEREAS, these services have been directly associated with the evaluation of the structural soundness of the Town Hall building as well as plans detailing the rooms layout of the new town hall, and

WHEREAS, this transaction has not yet been recognized in the 2018 town of Athens Budget, and

WHEREAS, it is the intention of the Town Board to recognize the necessary expenditures regarding the feasibility study;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Athens hereby authorizes increasing General Fund Appropriated Fund Balance A-599 by \$25,000 and increasing General Fund Appropriations Line Item A 1620.4 Building & Grounds by \$25,000. Ayes-3 (Butler; Brandow; Paluch) Noes-0 Absent-2 (Ragaini; Surrano) Abstentions-0

Assessor Carol McBride reported that Greene County Legislature is reviewing sliding scale increase to senior citizens and disability exemptions.

Mrs. McBride said there is a Verizon tablet available for \$579.99;

Supervisor Butler advised her that he was going to propose an amendment to the budget for data collecting.

The Board reviewed the Town Clerk's Report.

Councilman Anthony Paluch made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Mary H. *Brandow to approve the Town Clerk report as presented.* Ayes-3 (Butler; Brandow; Paluch) Noes-0 Absent-2 (Ragaini; Surrano) Abstentions-0

Notice from the Association of Towns regarding two upcoming planning and zoning schools one scheduled for November 10th in the Town of Schoharie and one in the Town of Minetto for November 17th.

There will be a public hearing on November 19th on the 2% tax cap.

The Columbia –Greene Shelter Agreement for 2019 has come. Attorney Benedict will review it be it is approved.

New York Municipal Insurance Reciprocal is sponsoring a *Free Webinar on November 28, 2018, at 2:00 (1hr long) on Understanding Recent Changes to New York State Sexual Harassment Legislation.*

October 1, 2018 NYS Dept. of Labor released the final draft of the Sexual Harassment model policy and training requirements for all employers. These new regulations will require employers to make changes to their current policies, training programs and investigation process to comply with the amended regulations. The webinar will provide an overview of the new regulation and the steps employers need to take now for compliance.

Sharon Paluch approached the Board for rezoning of her 28 acres of land from residential to mixed use or light industrial.

As there was no further business to come before the meeting a motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Anthony Paluch seconded by Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow. Ayes-3 (Butler; Brandow; Paluch) Noes-0 Absent-2 (Ragaini; Surrano) Abstentions-0

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.