

REGULAR MEETING – ATHENS TOWN BOARD – February 18, 2019

A regular meeting of the Athens Town Board was called to order on February 18, 2019 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; Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr. and Town Clerk Linda M. Stacey. (Councilman Michael Ragaini and Highway Superintendent John J. Farrell were absent.)

These people were also present: Attorney Virginia Benedict; Silas Basham; Lawrence Styles; Barbara Trembacz and Fran McCusker.

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

**General Abstract #4**, vouchers #70 through #79 inclusive for **\$17,513.49**.

**Highway Abstract #4**, voucher #31 for **\$6,981.40**.

**Resident Silas Basham** came before the Board to inform them that Air B & B's in Greene County took in \$7 million in income in 2018. There was no sales tax collected. The Counties of Schenectady and Rensselaer are collecting sales tax and are sharing with Towns. Would Greene County be willing to do something like this? Discussion followed.

He also reminded Board members of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Woodstock is this year.

**Councilman Anthony Paluch** made a motion seconded by Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr. *to approve the minutes of February 4, 2019 as read and corrected.* Ayes-4 (Butler; Brandow; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Ragaini) Abstentions-0

**Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr.** made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow to move Barbara Trembacz from an alternate on the Planning Board to a regular member to take Kathi Wagner's vacant spot. (Term expires 12/31/2024.) Ayes-4 (Butler; Brandow; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Ragaini) Abstentions-0

**Supervisor Butler informed** the Board that the Joint Village – Town Cleanup Day is scheduled for April 20, 2019. A letter is being sent to Greene County Highway and Solid Waste Department Superintendent Robert Van Valkenburg for confirmation.

**The Town received notification from NYS DOT** that the speed limit reduction request for County Route 49 between Schoharie Turnpike and Route 9W in the Towns of Athens and Coxsackie has been reviewed by them and granted. DOT has written a Notice of Order for a 45 mph speed limit on this CR on the area mentioned above.

**Letters of interest** were received for the Planning Board, Zoning Board, Board of Review and Athens Community Foundation Advisory Board. Town Clerk was asked to call several of the interested parties to see if they would like to run for the Zoning Board, as they received the least amount of letters.

**Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr.** made a motion seconded by Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr. to go into Executive Session to discuss the Assessor issue. Ayes-4 (Butler; Brandow; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Ragaini) Abstentions-0 Time: 7:20 pm

**Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr.** made a motion seconded by Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr. to adjourn the Executive Session and reconvene the regular meeting.

Ayes-4 (Butler; Brandow; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Ragaini) Abstentions-0  
Time: 7:40 pm

Board reviewed the proposed changes to the Handbook.

**Councilman Anthony Paluch** made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow to give \$3,000 for all insurance buyouts. Ayes-2 (Brandow; Paluch) Noes-2 (Butler; Surrano) Absent-1 (Ragaini) Abstentions-0

The Board will vote again when there is a full Board.

**Supervisor Butler** informed the Board that Code Enforcement Officer Albert Gasparini has been working on Shakespeare on the Hudson. There are open building permits.

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 Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow.

Ayes-4 (Butler; Brandow; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Ragaini) Abstentions-0

Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.