

REGULAR MEETING – ATHENS TOWN BOARD – November 18, 2019

The regular meeting of the Athens Town Board was called to order on November 18, 2019 at 7:00 pm by Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. with the Pledge 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 Don Pierro; Michael Pirrone ; Nancy Poylo; Barbara Trembacz; Jean Earnhart; Theresa Cardinale; Robert Brunner and Shannon Spinner.

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

**General Abstract #22**, vouchers #423 through #437 inclusive for **\$11,876.48**.

**Highway Abstract 21**, vouchers #210 through #214 for **\$35,397.01**.

At 7:05 pm Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. read the following Notice of Public Hearing, as it appeared in the Official Newspaper.

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that a public hearing will be held by the Town Board of the Town of Athens on November 18, 2019 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 2019. The purpose of this Local Law is to Override the Tax Levy Limit for Fiscal Year 2020.

**PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE** that copies of said proposed Local Law are 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 7, 2019.

Resident Mike Campbell asked who sets the 2% cap rate. He was told the State does.

**Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr. made a motion** seconded by Councilman Michael Ragaini to close the public hearing on the public hearing for proposed Local Law #3 of 2019 to Override the Tax Levy Limit for Fiscal Year 2020. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent- Abstentions-0

**On the motion of Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr.** seconded by Councilman Michael Ragaini the following **RESOLUTION #2019-32** , was adopted:

**WHEREAS**, General Municipal Law Sec. 3-c (the “Property Tax Cap Law”), expressly authorizes the Town Board to override the Tax Levy Limit established pursuant to General Municipal Law Sec. 3-c, for Fiscal Year 2020, and to adopt a budget for Fiscal year 2020 that requires a real property tax levy in excess of the amount otherwise prescribed in General Municipal Law Sec. 3-c;

**NOW, THEREFORE , BE IT**

**RESOLVED**, that the Town of Athens adopts the tax levy limit override as provided in the annexed Local Law.

Upon the question of the adoption of this Resolution, the following Board members voted “Aye” in favor of the Resolution: 4( Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Surrano)

The following Board members voted “No” in opposition of the Resolution: 1(Paluch)

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

Dated : November 18, 2019.

Supervisor Butler continued the public hearing on the 2020 Preliminary Budget that was left open at the November 7, 2019 meeting, by asking if there were any questions.

Bookkeeper Pierro said that the auditor finds holding the public hearing over as reasonable. Councilman Paluch asked if CD's were always brought before the Board. He was told that these types of funds have to be voted on at a public Board meeting and a Resolution has to be made, and they have been brought before the Board on other occasions.

**Councilman Michael Ragaini made a motion** seconded by Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow to close the public hearing on the 2020 Preliminary Budget. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Supervisor Butler and Bookkeeper Pierro asked if there were any questions regarding the budget. Councilman Surrano asked about the ReVal.

Bookkeeper Pierro explained that the Village will be done first. There is \$9900 for data collection. travel; postage and envelopes.

**On the motion of Councilman Michael Ragaini** seconded by Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow the following **RESOLUTION #2019-33** to adopt the 2020 preliminary budget as the 2020 Annual Budget. Ayes-4 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Surrano) Noes-1(Paluch) Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Bookkeeper Pierro stated that the next time Nicole comes from the Auditor's, Joe from ITS will also be here to convert QuickBooks over to a new platform. This keeps the records more up to date with state and auditor.

He also reported that he had made up a new Holiday list and pay Day list for Board approval, including sick time and vacation time for Town employees.

**Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr.** made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow to approve the minutes of November 7, 2019 as read. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstention-0

Building Update- Still waiting on Attorneys.

As there was no further business to come before the meeting a motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Richard Surrano, Jr. seconded by Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 P.M.