

REGULAR MEETING – ATHENS TOWN BOARD – November 7, 2019

The regular meeting of the Athens Town Board was called to order by Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. on Thursday November 7, 2019 at 7:00 pm 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 Don Pierro; Assessor Carol McBride; Code Enforcement Officer Albert Gasparini; James H. Robinson, Jr.; David LaVoie; Michael Pirrone; Barbara Trembacz; Claudia and Patrick Doyle.

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

**General Abstract #21**, vouchers #406 through #422 inclusive for **\$30,564.31**.

**Highway Abstract #20**, vouchers #200 through #209 inclusive for **\$9,173.09**.

**Supervisor Butler read the Notice of Hearing on Preliminary Budget** as it appeared in the Official Newspaper. Supervisor Butler had copies of the Budget made for the public to look at. He announced that the public hearing would remain open until the November 18, 2019.

**Councilman Michael Ragaini made a motion** seconded by Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. to **override the 2% tax cap for 2020**. Ayes-4 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Surrano) Noes-1 (Paluch) Absent-0 Abstentions-0

**Attorney Virginia Benedict stated** that the notice regarding overriding the 2% cap will be held at 7:05 pm on November 18, 2019 and her office would publish it.

**Bookkeeper Donald A. Pierro** presented two resolutions to the Board for renewal.

**On the motion of Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow** seconded by Councilman Michael Ragaini the following **RESOLUTION #2019-30** was adopted as follows:  
Resolution to Re-Invest a Certificate of Deposit for the Town of Athens:

WHEREAS, the Town Board of Athens hereby determines that it is in in the public interest and purpose to re-invest idle funds, and

WHEREAS, in order to achieve such appropriate reinvestment the Town of Athens must authorize said reinvestment at a public meeting of the Town Board, and

WHEREAS, the current Certificate of Deposit is duly held at the National Bank of Coxsackie, Athens, New York, and said Certificate document is numbered 50560 wherein all restricted funds will be re-invested until Tuesday December 1, 2020, and

WHEREAS, the amount of restricted funds are comprised of \$136,533.42 reserved for Economic Development and \$180,451.71 reserved for the Building Reserve for a total of \$316,985.13.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED that the Town Supervisor is hereby authorized to execute any documents necessary to complete the re-investment transaction with the National Bank of Coxsackie for a sum not to exceed \$316,985.13, and it is further

RESOLVED that the foregoing resolution shall become effective this 7<sup>th</sup> day of November in the year 2019.

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

**On the motion of Councilman Michael Ragaini** seconded by Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow the following **RESOLUTION #2019-31** was adopted by the Board:  
Resolution to Re-Invest A Certificate of Deposit For the Town of Athens:

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Athens hereby determines that it is in the public interest and purpose to re-invest idle funds, and

WHEREAS, in order to achieve such appropriate reinvestment the Town of Athens must authorize said reinvestment at a public meeting of the Town Board, and

WHEREAS, the current Certificate of Deposit is duly held at the National Bank of Coxsackie, Athens, New York, and said Certificate document is numbered 50520 wherein all restricted funds will be re-invested until Tuesday December 1, 2020, and

WHEREAS, the amount of restricted funds amount to \$48,065.41 reserved for Economic Development.

NOW, THEREFOR BE IT

RESOLVED that the Town Supervisor is hereby authorized to execute any documents necessary to complete the re-investment transaction with the National Bank of Coxsackie for a sum not to exceed \$48,065.41, and it is further

RESOLVED that the foregoing resolution shall become effective this 7<sup>th</sup> day of November in the year 2019.

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

Bookkeeper Pierro went over the Supervisor' Report for October 2019 with the Board.

**Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow** made a motion seconded by Councilman Michael Ragaini to accept the Supervisor's Report as presented. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

**Assessor Carol J. McBride** reported she is waiting for the Judge's decision on the pending Article 7 case: SHL vs. Town/Village of Athens.

She also reported that all exemption renewals will finalized and mailed to all those participating in the various exemption programs.

Data Files have been sent to the County so that tax bill can be printed for County/Town-January tax bills.

**Code Enforcement Officer Albert Gasparini** reported there were 3 new building permits; 14 building inspections; 4 building inquiries;

Abandoned home at 73 Lisa Lane in Sleepy Hollow finally has a buyer.

1 Temporary Cert. of Occupancy; 1 Certificate of Compliance; 4 Certificate of Occupancy Search Requests were done.

Mr. Gasparini also reported that he is working with the Zoning Board on the following items:

1. The Catskill Masonic Lodge #468 A&MF Tax Map ID #139.6-12.1 located in MUC (Mixed Use Commercial Zone) is for sale. A potential buyer would like to build a shop with a garage, and use the property for his trucking business which will not be open to the public.

2. Tax Map ID #104.00-1-3 zoned as open space (OS) located on Old Kings Road: Asking if property can be zoned for a gun range.

3. Tax Map ID #103.00-4-33 (Green Lake Watershed Overlay) 605 Green Lake Road. A potential buyer is asking if property can be used as a Religious Camp for boys – 6<sup>th</sup> grade thru 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

**Highway Superintendent John J. Farrell** reported that they are ready for snow.

He also reported that they have a bidder for the 1995 Alamo Super Heavy Flail Mower on Auctions International for \$1550.00.

**Supervisor Butler brought up the letter** he had received from Stanley Russell whose property borders the Town Highway property. He is disgruntled because this small piece of land is not black topped. The area where his mail box is, is on old Kings Road. He feels that the rest of the area is blacked topped, his should be too. They will look at the deed.

**Councilman Michael Ragaini** made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow to approve and accept the bid of \$1550.00 for the Super Heavy Duty Flail Mower advertised on Auctions International. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Cleanup Day went well.

**Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow** made a motion seconded by Councilman Michael Ragaini to approve the minutes of October 21, 2019. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

**Councilman Michael Ragaini** made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow to accept the Town Clerk's report as presented. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Report received from NYS Agriculture and Markets. It was a Municipal Shelter Inspection Report which was completed on October 25, 2019. The dog shelter services were rated Satisfactory.

**Dog Control Officer Sherry Vieta** was also visited by the NYS Agriculture & Markets Dog Control Officer on October 30, 2019. Her report was rated unsatisfactory due to catch poles provided were NOT in good working order and must be replaced or replaced. Another inspection will be done in 30 days to see if these deficiencies have been corrected.

Board reviewed the Columbia-Greene Humane Society Shelter Agreement with the Town of Athens. Attorney Benedict reviewed it also. There were no changes from last year.

**Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow** made a motion seconded by Councilman Michael Ragaini authorizing the Supervisor to sign the Columbia –Greene Shelter Agreement for 2020. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent- 0 Abstentions-0

**Councilman Michael Ragaini** made a motion seconded by Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. to approve the Stipulations for Flint Mine Solar. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent- 0 Abstentions-0

Board members received a copy of letter sent to resident **Tami Bone**, in response to her questions from the public hearing on September 23, 2019, from **Flint Mine Solar**

**Patrick Doyle told the Board** that when he started the process 11/2/2018 with Flint Mine Solar, his goal was to get the application in by the end of the year. So he was excited that we signed the stipulations tonight, it has been almost one year exactly.

As there was no further business to come before the meeting **a motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Michael Ragaini** seconded by Councilman Anthony Paluch. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent- 0 Abstentions-0

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 pm.