

REGULAR MEETING – ATHENS TOWN BOARD – April 17, 2023

The regular meeting of the Athens Town Board was called to order on April 17, 2023, at 7:00 p. m. by Supervisor Michael N. Pirrone, with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, at the Athens Community Center at 2 First Street, Athens, NY.

The following people were present; Supervisor Pirrone; Councilmember Mary H. Brandow; Councilmember Michael Ragaini; Councilmember Shannon Spinner; Highway Superintendent, John J. Farrell, and Town Clerk Linda M. Stacey. (Councilmember Anthony Paluch was absent.)

These people were also present; Highway Superintendent John J. Farrell; Financial Off. /Budget Officer, Don Pierro; Fran McCusker; Mike Campbell; John P, Farrell, Jr.; Karen Dudley; Karen Haas and Robert Brunner.

**Councilmember Shannon Spinner** made a motion seconded by Councilmember Mary H. Brandow *to approve the following vouchers that were audited by the Board.*

**General Abstract #8**, vouchers #172 through #190 inclusive for **\$11,143.43**.

**Highway Abstract #7**, vouchers #60 through #70 inclusive for **\$20,624.02**.

**Trust and Custodian:**

**ARX Wireless: Abstract #6**, vouchers #6 through #7, for **\$265.06**.

Ayes-4 (Pirrone; Brandow; Ragaini; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-1(Paluch) Abstentions-0

**The minutes of April 3, 2023** were approved as read by **Councilmember Michael Ragaini** seconded by Councilmember Shannon Spinner. Ayes-4 (Pirrone; Brandow; Ragaini; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-1(Paluch) Abstentions-0

**Highway Superintendent John J. Farrell** reported that the Town has received a letter, from the State DOT, (which was also sent to the Greene County Highway Superintendent) stating that the Speed Limit for **Howard Hall Road** (CR 53) between NYS Route 385 and Schoharie Turnpike (CR 28) has been reduced from 55 mph to 45 mph. The County Highway Department is responsible for installing the appropriate signs.

He reminded the Board and those present that **Cleanup Day is scheduled for April 29, 2023**, from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm, behind the Village DPW Building (behind the Village Fire House).

The highway crew has been cutting trees on Sandy Plains Road.

They have hauling Stone.

The **2011 International has a bad injector**, (Truck #6) which will cost \$8500. There are six injectors. The cost to get them all fixed is \$11,623.68.

He reported that he sold surplus sand to another municipality for \$7,000.

**Councilmember Shannon Spinner** made motion seconded by Councilmember Mary H. Brandow authorizing the Highway Superintendent **to have Truck #6 repaired** at a cost of \$11, 623.68. Ayes-4 (Pirrone; Brandow; Ragaini; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-1(Paluch) Abstentions-0

**Mr. Farrell stated** that the highway Department stockpiles Salt. They will need 700 loads, either from the County, or will need to make a commitment to the Office of General Services. (OGS).

**Assessor Dawn DeRose reported** that approximately 167 Informal Review Requests from property owners have been received. The Staff continues their efforts to fine tune the Town's roll as added information is presented. **Grievance Day is scheduled for May 23, 2023**, from 9:00 am to 8:00 pm.

**Code Enforcement Officer Albert Gasparini's** written report showed the following:

There were seven building permits.

Fourteen building inspections. There were many building permit inquiries.

There were 2 Certificates of Occupancy. There was 1 Temporary Certificate of Occupancy issued.

There was 1 Certificate of Compliance. There were 3 Certificate of Occupancy search requests.

There was 1 Demolition Permit issued.

Notes: **FreePoint Solar** for Potic Mountain Road on going with the Zoning Board of Appeals.

**Stop Work Order** still in effect for: 686 Green Lake Road.

New engineered plans have been submitted. Review with contractor is being scheduled.

**Financial/ Budget Officer Don Pierro** reported that the Annual Financial Report for the Fiscal year ending December 31, 2022, for the Town of Athens is completed and was filed March 31, 2023.

- All financial activity for January 1<sup>st</sup> through March 31, 2023. has been recorded in the General Ledger with no exceptions.
- Payroll Taxes were completed for the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter ending 3/31/23 and filed with Department of the Treasury and New York State.
- The summary of Cash and a Combining Balance Sheet are updated and attached to the rear of the monthly Statement of Activities report.
- All Bank Statements and Cash Reconciliations were completed for the month ending March 2023 with no exceptions noted.
- All Quarterly informational reports were timely filed without exception including but not limited to PERMA, Greene County Civil Service and NYS Open Book Foil request.
- The next annual payment of \$65,137.15 including principal and interest will be made in September 2023 for the single piece of bonded indebtedness.
- Three medical insurance policies have been renewed and applicable staff contributions have been updated accordingly.
- Medical insurance reimbursement for Retirees with coverage with United Health and AARP has started for the first quarter ending 3/31/20.

Mr. Pierro informed the Board that he has a draft of the **Tentative Budget for 2024**.  
(Councilmember Brandow left at this time.)

**Financial Officer Don Pierro informed** the Board that Supervisor Michael N. Pirrone and Attorney George McHugh met with Patrick Doyle and the Principals of Flint Mine Solar. They received a major benefit to the Town in the form of \$120,000 as an Impact Fee for the Town of Athens that is in addition to the \$200,000 that we will be getting, separate from the PILOT amount.

**Supervisor Pirrone informed the Board** that an alternate is needed for the Zoning Board of Appeals. He has a volunteer for the position, Ann Krause who is the ZBA Secretary.

**Supervisor Michael N. Pirrone** made a motion seconded by Councilmember Shannon Spinner to appoint the ZBA Secretary, *Ann Krause as an Alternate to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a one (1) year term. (4/17/23 to 3/31/24.)* Ayes-4 (Pirrone; Brandow; Ragaini; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-1(Paluch) Abstentions-0

**Supervisor Pirrone brought up** Governor Hochul’s for “ New York Housing Compact” Proposal. He asked for a Resolution of Objection to this Proposal.

**On the motion of Supervisor Michael N. Pirrone** seconded by Councilmember Shannon Spinner the following **RESOLUTION #2023-28** in *Objection to Governor Hochul’s “New York Housing Compact” Proposal*, was adopted: In determining the Town’s path, the Supervisor carefully reviewed and considered the elements of the proposal, including but not limited to, “... this Board is not opposed to the general goal of creating more affordable housing, especially where independent and reliable data establishes such a need, but cannot condone the State interference in zoning and land use issues...” Thereby, the Supervisor, on April 14, 2023, advised all Town Board members of the likelihood that the issues may be on the next meeting agenda. Further consultation with the Town Attorney, on April 14, 2023, was sought and aided the Supervisor’s thought process. Subsequent communication with a Board member on April 15, 2023, indicated their disagreement with the proposal.

Finally, after careful thought, advice and hopeful support, the Supervisor placed the issue on the meeting agenda for Town Board discussion and possible action.

Ayes-4 (Pirrone; Brandow; Ragaini; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-1(Paluch) Abstentions-0

**Mr. Carl Ublacker, NYSDOS, Local Efficiency Grant Program** will be here, May 15 to explain the program. The Local Government Efficiency (LGE) Program, administered by the New York Department of State, provides technical assistance and competitive grants to local governments for projects that will achieve savings and improve municipal efficiency through shared services, cooperative agreements, consolidations, and dissolutions. The Department of State is committed to working with our partner municipalities to control costs while maintaining the quality of local service delivery.

**Patrick Doyle of Flint Mine Solar** thanked the Supervisor and Attorney for working with them (Flint Mine Solar). He also reported that there are still final permits to be filed.

As there was no further business to come before the meeting a motion to adjourn was made by **Councilmember Michael Ragaini** seconded by Councilmember Shannon Spinner.

Ayes-4 (Pirrone; Brandow; Ragaini; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-1(Paluch) Abstentions-0

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.