

REGULAR MEETING – ATHENS TOWN BOARD – May 2, 2016

The regular meeting of the Athens Town Board was called to order on May 2, 2016 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 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 Michael Strenka; Interim Assessor Carol McBride; Code Enforcement Officer George Holsopple and Joseph Iraci.

The following bills were audited and ordered paid:

Escrow TA 1009- NE Treaters Abstract #9, voucher #213 for \$2,164.50.

General Abstract #9, vouchers #214 through #240 inclusive for \$11,523.05.

Highway Abstract #8, vouchers #81 through #85 inclusive for \$847.62.

Assessor Carol McBride came before the Board and reported that the last Article 7 case has been resolved and settled due to cost effectiveness for the Town. The assessor's office will be filing a complaint to the NYS District Attorney's Office regarding the same, as an attempt to correct future filings of Certified Grievance Applications.

Field Review has been completed. The Tentative Roll has been completed and the Notice has been published.

She will be sitting with the Roll to meet with property owners informally in addition to regular office hours as follows: Monday May 9th 9:00 to 1:00; Saturday, May 14th, 9:00-1:00 PM Monday May 16th, 12:00- 2:00 and in the evening 5:00 to 7:00; Tuesday May 17th, 9:00-1:00. This information has been posted, and is on the Town website as well.

Mrs. McBride stated that 123 changes were made in the Town for a net change in assessed value \$8,631,876 and 83 changes were made in the Village for a net change of \$2,642,413. These changes are variable and changes may still be made to the tentative roll through grievances and petitions for corrections.

Grievance Day will be May 24, 2016 from 3-5 and 6-8 PM, at the Town clerk's Office.

Grievances will be heard on a first come first serve basis. (Signup sheet will be available.)

Final Roll is Due July 1, 2016.

STAR Transition: Assessor McBride explained to the Board that NYS Department & Finance notified all assessors, just before they were to file the Tentative Roll, that a Law had been passed changing the requirements of both the basic and enhanced star programs. She explained further what that would mean. There was discussion followed with Town Attorney Benedict.

Assessor McBride- requested the Attorney to meet with Laurel Mann and the APO's Attorney and herself, to discuss Sleepy Hollow Lake and the APO Common Areas, on Friday May 6th at 10:00 PM.

Assessor Carol McBride recommended Michaela Anderson as Temporary Assessor Clerk to the Town Board for approval to work in her office for 18 hours a week. Suggested hours would be Tuesdays 8:00AM-1:30PM, Wednesdays 8:00AM to 1:30 PM and Thursdays 9:00 AM to 4:00PM. She would like her to start May 17th.

Code Enforcement Officer George Holsopple reported that Mary DiStefano of 51 Thorpe Road had filed a complaint with him about An Air B & B near her, leaving the garbage cans overflowing. Discussion followed. There are several of these online home rentals: Air B & B; Home Away Etc. Board was advised that Deputy Supervisor is working on a law with our Attorney so we have some means of control.

Mr. Holsopple also reported that the building permits have started to pick up.

Highway Superintendent John J. Farrell reported that the Highway Crew was tree trimming. He also reported that Lynn Brunner was going to meet with the Bicentennial Committee this week to start planning and placing orders for Green Lake Park.

Mr. Farrell advised the Board that three (3) local people had applied for the open highway position. He will be setting up interviews in June.

Bookkeeper Michael Strenka advised the Board that a resolution for the chipper needed to be made in the amount of \$39,109.00 and that a resolution for the first Phase of Engineering costs for the Highway Garage Expansion in the amount of \$24,340.00 also needed to be made.

Mr. Strenka the presented the Monthly Supervisor's Report.

Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr. 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

On the motion of Councilman Michael Ragaini seconded by Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow the following **RESOLUTION #2016-20** was adopted as follows:

Whereas, the Town of Athens has approved a comprehensive study of possible plans to expand the highway garage, and

Whereas, the General Fund has an unreserved fund balance as of December 31, 2015 of \$1,782,546, and

Whereas, it is the intention of the Town Board of the Town of Athens to fund the costs of the building study through unreserved fund balance and to recognize such study for budget purposes;

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved that the Town Board of the Town of Athens hereby Authorizes increasing General Fund Appropriated Fund Balance by \$24,340 and increasing General Fund Appropriations line item A5132.4 Highway Garage Contractual by \$24,340. This was adopted as follows: Ayes-5(Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

On the motion of Councilman Anthony Paluch seconded by Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr. the following **RESOLUTION #2016-21** was adopted as follows:

Whereas, the Town of Athens Highway Fund has an unreserved fund balance on December 31, 2015, of \$251,819, and

Whereas, that total is comprised of the following two components:

DA unreserved fund balance of \$85,755 and DB unreserved fund balance of \$166,064, and

Whereas, the Highway Superintendent has requested authorization to purchase a new chipper off of New York State Contract at a cost of \$39,109, and,

Whereas, it is the intention of the Town Board of the Town of Athens to recognize such expenditure for budget purposes;

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Town Board hereby authorizes increasing Highway Fund appropriated fund balance DB-599 by \$39,109 and increasing Highway Fund appropriations DB 5130.2 by \$39,109.

This resolution was adopted as follows: Ayes-5(Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

The Town Clerk report was reviewed by the Board.

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

Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. Informer the Board that he had received Assignment of Enforced Rights for Hewitt's house at 10 So. Franklin Street. (So now it can be legally demolished by the Town on behalf of the Village.)

Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr. made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow authorizing the Supervisor to sign the LED Street Lighting Agreement for Central Hudson, giving them permission to change the lights to LED lights at the Green Lake Park. Ayes-5 Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. made a motion seconded by Councilman Michael Ragaini to approve the minutes of April 18, 2016 as read. Ayes-5(Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

A mine application was received for William Buck, for .10 acre to be used for parking and storage. Blasting will be permitted. (From 30 of receipt of the letter.) This is the former Van Valkenburg Shale bank.

Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. made a motion seconded by Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr. **to go into Executive Session for Labor Negotiations**. Ayes-5(Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0 Time: 8:35 PM.

Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. made a motion seconded by Councilman Michael Ragaini to close Executive Session and reconvene the regular meeting. Ayes-5(Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0 Time: 9:15 PM.

As there was no further business to come before the meeting a motion to adjourn was made by **Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr.** seconded by Councilman Michael Ragaini.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:16 PM.