

REGULAR MEETING – ATHENS TOWN BOARD – July 18, 2016

The regular meeting of the Athens Town Board was called to order on July 18, 2016 at 7:00 pm by Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The following people were present: Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr.; Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow; Councilman Michael Ragaini; Councilman Anthony Paluch; Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr. and Town Clerk Linda M. Stacey. (Highway Superintendent John J. Farrell was absent.)

These People were also present: Attorney Corinne Smith; Bookkeeper / Budget Officer Michael Strenka; Code Enforcement Officer George Holsopple; Deputy Supervisor Joseph Iraci; Residents: Michael Pirrone; Kurt Andernach; Susi Graf; Ellen Haben; Kenneth Hartberg; Lois Ferraro; Paul Ferraro; and Mr. Campbell.

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

TA Escrow Account 1009- North East Treaters Abstract #13, voucher #327 for \$1,123.50.

General Abstract #13, voucher #328 through #361 inclusive for \$39,026.78.

Highway Abstract #12, vouchers #123 through #136 inclusive for \$48,087.11.

Supervisor Butler called on **Code Enforcement Officer George Holsopple** who reported that he had issued Certificated of Occupancy to Hudson River Bulk and to Peckham.

Mr. Holsopple also reported that Mary DiStefano had contacted him saying that on June 10th, 13th, and July 16th there were seven cars parked at 51 Thorpe road and loud noise.

Discussion followed on Building Permits: Peckham, doing more than their building permit called for, but it didn't do a site plan. Supervisor Butler informed the Board he had discussed this issue with the Town Attorney and Joe Wildermuth of Peckham. The Site plan will be supplied by Peckham and they have no objection to this request.

Air B& B's: Councilman Surrano, Jr. asked if we had sent out fines in Mary DiStefano's case? Councilman Ragaini suggested that we get hold of the State, as this is not covered in our Codes. Resident Mr. Campbell stated that the Town has to pass a local law.

Councilman Surrano stated that each incident should have been issued a separate fine, and she should have called the Sheriff's Department each time.

Code Enforcement Officer Holsopple replied that Miss DiStefano was supposed to get a copy of the report.

Bookkeeper/ Budget Officer Michael Strenka reviewed the June monthly Supervisor's Report with the Board.

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

Resident Mr. Campbell spoke of the Quarry Road property owner- Andrew Peck and his renting his cabin out as an Air B & B. The cabin has no running water, and an outhouse.

Discussion followed: It is unsanitary; the neighbors are afraid that the renters are going to set the place on fire, and fire trucks can't get through the private road as it is too narrow. It is also in the NY State Watershed. One of the neighbors has an animal sanctuary. This private road has been deeded to all of the neighbors to their properties. Now Mr. Peck is using this road as a commercial road.

Attorney Corinne Smith stated that she would talk to Attorney Virginia Benedict; She told them that letters of complaint have to be written, signed and submitted by all the neighbors who are in agreement.

The Board members reviewed the Town Clerk's report at this time.

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

After reviewing the minutes **Councilman Anthony Paluch** made a motion seconded by Councilman Michael Ragaini to approve the minutes of June 20, 2016 as read. Ayes: 5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Need to advertise for three (3) new members for Athens Community Foundation Advisory Board.

Shared Services:

A letter will be drawn up by Attorney Benedict to send to the Village, regarding compensation for our Highway Superintendent, for his time over and above on Village issues.

Selective Bargaining Agreement; (Union Contract for the Highway Employees) is almost finalized.

Councilmen Michael Ragaini and Anthony Paluch talked about changing the zoning on route 9W back to what it was, highway commercial. Discussion followed.

Councilman Anthony Paluch made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow to have the Attorney look into rezoning the south portion of route 9W. Ayes-3(Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch) Noes-2 (Butler; Surrano) Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Discussion followed: Supervisor Butler stated that at this current time there are no businesses trying to move into this zone and it would cost \$10,000 at a minimum. This is not covered under our retainer and we would need to hire an Engineer and archeologist as well as DEC costs. Councilman Ragaini stated if it gets too expensive we can stop the review.

Deputy Supervisor Joe Iraci informed the Board that he had contacted three (3) firms, with 2 responding. Regarding interest in finding us Companies to come in to Athens. Discussion followed.

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 was adjourned at 8:35 P.M.