

REGULAR MEETING – ATHENS TOWN BOARD – April 4, 2016

The regular meeting of the Athens Town Board was called to order on April 4, 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. 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; Interim Assessor Carol J. McBride; Code Enforcement Officer George Holsopple; Deputy Supervisor Joseph Iraci; resident Anthony Iacopelli; Greene County Legislator Gene Hatton and Michael Pirrone.

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

General Abstract #7, vouchers #170 through #195 inclusive for \$38,789.79.

There were no Highway bills.

Interim Assessor Carol J. McBride reported that one article case from 2015 should be settled very soon. The case for Ding's Marina has been discontinued, by the owner and his Attorney.

She is still continuing field review, and will do so until the Tentative Roll is filed.

Mrs. McBride explained that Changes of Assessment Notices and Informals shall take place as the Tentative Roll is printed on May 1, 2016. The Equalization Rate and Residential Assessment Ratio will remain at 100% of market value. After the Tentative Roll is printed by May 1st, work plans & suggestions will be prepared by Bob Hilbert of Appraisal Services for 2017.

Mrs. McBride decided not to attend the training session for Commercial Data Collection scheduled for April 4 through the 8, 2016 in Castleton.

Assessor McBride reported that all Board of Assessment Review Members will be attending Training on Wednesday evening 4/29/2016 at RPTS in Catskill.

Grievance Day is scheduled for the 4th Tuesday in May (May 24th), 2016, and will be held in the Town Clerk's Office from 3:00-5:00p.m. and 6:00-8:00 pm.

Code Enforcement Officer George Holsopple asked the Board if there were any regulations on Drones. (He was advised that the Town currently has no regulations for or against drones.)

Mr. Holsopple asked the Board wished to entertain a local law for Drones, with air height no higher than 400 feet. Discussion followed.

Code Enforcement Officer Holsopple informed the Board that he had received an invitation to a Ribbon Cutting Open House for North East Treaters on May 7, 2016.

Bookkeeper Michael Strenka informed the Board that at the May meeting there will be a budgetary transfer for item A 5132.4 the Highway garage for funding the highway building study. Need to provide funding. Discussion followed. The Survey increased the line item to \$24,000.

JCAP Grant-The Court gave the Board a letter requesting a budgetary transfer to be taken out of the line item 'seminars' to be used for the installation of Upgrade Programming of the scanner device that the State awarded them on their Grant at about \$995.00, for the initial installation and first year maintenance. It will then cost \$240.00 every year after that for the renewal of the program.

Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow, who, with along Bookkeeper / Budget Officer Strenka was appointed to the **Reserve Fund Committee** by Supervisor Butler at the January Organizational meeting, requested a 'balance sheet'. She has requested them 3 times.

Supervisor Butler told her that he doesn't feel that she needs to see the reports, he also told her that she is no longer the Town Bookkeeper and that she needs to be able to separate her duties as a Councilperson and that of a bookkeeper. As Town Supervisor he feels that he is the only one who truly needs to see those reports since he is the only one who signs the checks and who is ultimately responsible for the money. The Accountant agrees with him. So no she cannot have it.

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Councilwoman Brandow informed him that she was advised by the Association of Towns to FOIL the Balance Sheet, which she said she would do.

Handbook Committee: Bookkeeper Strenka reported that he and Councilwoman Brandow met on March 9th. He suggested that after it is updated and current, it should be review every year.

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

Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow *to approve the Town Clerk's Report as presented and read for March.* Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr. made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow *to approve the minutes of March 21, 2016 as read.* Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Supervisor Robert F. Butler Jr. made a motion seconded by Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr. *to approve the minutes of 30, 2016 as read.* 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 donate **\$200 to the Greene County Council on the Arts SPOUTS Program, to Greene County 3 to 7 year olds.** Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Supervisor Butler gave the Board a Highway Garage and Building Update.

Supervisor Butler informed the Board Members the he has a folder containing e-mails from and pertaining to Pilgrims Pipeline.

Supervisor Butler reported that the Board members were invited to North East Treaters Ribbon cutting Ceremony on May7, 2016. (Supervisor Butler asked Deputy Supervisor Joseph Iraci if he would like to attend.

Supervisor Butler informed the Board and Mr. Iacopelli that Highway Superintendent Farrell and Attorney Benedict haven't been able to get together yet regarding Mr. Iacopelli's storm water problem. Mr. Butler spoke about a swale easement. Mr. Iacopelli wants to be present when Attorney Benedict and Highway Superintendent Farrell meet.

Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr made a motion seconded by Councilman Richard Surrano, Jr. *to into Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue.* Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0 Time: 8:00 pm

Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow to adjourn the Executive Session and reconvene the regular meeting. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0 Time: 8:30

Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. made a motion seconded by Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr. to adjourn the meeting. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM

