

REGULAR MEETING – ATHENS TOWN BOARD – April 18, 2016

The regular meeting of the Athens Town Board was called to order on April 18, 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 Deputy Cathy Lyden, and Highway Superintendent John J. Farrell. (Town Clerk Linda M. Stacey was absent-She was attending Town Clerk Conference.)

These people were also present: Attorney Virginia Benedict; Deputy Supervisor Joseph Iraci; resident Anthony Iacopelli; John J. Farrell and Michael Pirrone.

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

General Abstract #8, vouchers #196 through #212 inclusive for \$14,178.09.

Highway Abstract#7, vouchers #66 through #80 inclusive for \$14,963.20.

Anthony Iacopelli came before the board to see what the Town decided to do with his property. Attorney Virginia Benedict informed Mr. Iacopelli that she and Highway Superintendent John J. Farrell met at the property. A provision would be put in place to allow the Town to create drainage. The Town would need complete control of this area which would run 20 feet wide the entire length of the property. A discussion followed. Mr. Iacopelli asked about this affecting his road frontage since he is looking to sell the property in the future.

Highway Superintendent John Farrell came before the board to discuss what was going on at the highway garage. Mr. Farrell informed the board that there was 1 snow event and he is hoping it was the last. They have washed and greased trucks. The Sweeper has been down in the village sweeping for the last two weeks. All the Town roads are done w/sweeping and picked up 21 yards of debris. They have serviced roller, bucket truck and unit 4. Next week the highway crew will start working out on Green Lake Park for Lynn Brunner so the Bicentennial Committee can order benches. Mr. Farrell got prices off NJPA Contract hoping to sell old chipper for around \$3000. New chipper will be \$39,108.43.

Cleanup workers are all set for Saturday April 23rds cleanup day behind the firehouse. Mr. Farrell informed the board that he hasn't heard anything from the engineer for the highway building.

Mr. Farrell informed the board that the Town of Athens will be receiving \$73,000 in CHIPS money and another \$16,085 for Paving New York. Mr. Farrell is hoping to do Old Kings Road w/some of the money. A discussion followed about cutting trees down and the DEC regulations and how it will affect Green Lake Park. Lastly Mr. Farrell informed the board that he will be on vacation April 25th thru April 29th and Peter Alberti will be in charge if there are problems.

Supervisor Robert Butler informed the board of the standard workday for retirement purposes as well as public information. The following is the hours for each department:

Bookkeeper- 8:00AM – 1:00PM

Code Enforcement Officer-8:00AM-1:00PM

Assessor-8:45AM-4:45PM

Town Court-8:00AM-4:00PM

Town Clerk-9:00AM-4:00PM

Highway – Follows Contract

Councilman Anthony Paluch made a motion to approve April 4, 2016 minutes and was seconded by Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow, Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0.

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Councilman Michael Ragaini asked if we received a response back from the Village regarding taking over the building. We did receive a letter back but Board is not happy w/response.

Councilman Michael Ragaini made a motion to send a letter to the Legion Hall w/the same wording as we sent to the Village, seconded by Councilman Anthony Paluch Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

A discussion followed about money that the Town has for a new building.

A discussion followed about Northeast Treater.

Supervisor Robert Butler asked Councilman Anthony Paluch and Councilwoman Mary Brandow why they have foiled the “balance sheet”. Supervisor Butler informed the board that he spoke to the Association of Towns and was told he doesn’t have to give it to them. A discussion followed about the request. Supervisor Butler agreed to give Councilman Anthony Paluch and Councilwoman Mary Brandow the year end as well as quarterly. Supervisor Butler informed board that what they requested is not called “Balance Sheets”.

Supervisor Robert Butler informed the Board that Court will be closed on May 20, 2016 for education.

Supervisor Robert Butler informed the Board of a letter from Jennifer Metzger from Town of Rosendale to the DEC Commissioner regarding lead agency and Memorandum and understanding between DEC and the Thruway Authority.

Supervisor Robert Butler informed the Board of a letter received from APAC requesting money. Board agreed there is no money in budget to give them money at this time.

Supervisor Robert Butler continued discussion about Mr. Iacopelli’s property on 9W. Councilman Michael Ragaini made a motion to fix the issue and was seconded by Councilman Anthony Paluch Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

A discussion about the Highway buying a new chipper followed.

On the motion of Councilman Anthony Paluch seconded by Councilman Richard Surrano, Jr. **RESOLUTION #2016-18**, authorizing the Highway Superintendent to purchase the new chipper for \$39,108.43 and sell the old one for at least \$3000, was adopted. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0.

Deputy Supervisor Joseph Iraci approached the board and suggested spending a few hours w/the attorney to come up with a plan about the Air B&B issues the town is having. The board accepted the request for him to meet the lawyers to come up w/a plan about this issue.

John P. Farrell, Jr. came before the Board w/information regarding the issues that the Fire Districts have been facing. The money isn’t there anymore and the Fire Protection will have to raise taxes. They also don’t have as many young volunteers as they used to. All the younger generation is moving out of state for the jobs. A discussion followed.

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A discussion followed about the Hewitt House on South Franklin Street. The Board hasn't gotten a signed letter back from the Village yet. If they don't receive a signed letter by the May 2nd meeting the board is going to withdraw all projects the Town was offering to help the Village with.

Supervisor Robert Butler made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss labor negotiations seconded by Councilman Michael Ragaini. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0. Time 8:41pm

Supervisor Robert Butler made a motion to come out of Executive Session seconded by Councilman Richard Surrano, Jr. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0. Time: 8:41pm

Councilman Michael Ragaini 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. Time 8:47

Meeting adjourned at 8:47 PM