

BUDGET WORKSHOP – ATHENS TOWN BOARD – October 26, 2016

A budget workshop was called to order by Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. on October 26, 2016 at 6:05 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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 Supt. John J. Farrell was absent).

These people were also present; Bookkeeper/ Budget Officer Michael Strenka; Deputy Supervisor Joseph Iraci; Patricia McLoughlin; John P. Farrell; Marilyn Farrell; Madelyn Brandow and Connie Pazin.

Resident Pat McLoughlin asked what the true up was for Athens Gen. Supervisor Butler advised her that there wasn't one. He has the report.

Mrs. McLoughlin continued asking questions of various parts of the budget.

She asked how much of an increase everyone is getting.

Bookkeeper Strenka told it was 1.5 %

She then asked about the Town Clerk's increase. Bookkeeper Strenka explained.

Discussion followed.

Town Clerk's job is elected but it also includes the appointed position of Tax Collector.

Two separate positions, being done by one person and her deputy.

Supervisor Butler explained the changes he made after the last budget workshop meeting.

1. Added \$2,500 to the Tax collector personal Service line- for deputy's hours as it was not in the tentative budget.

2. Added \$1,000 to the assessor's line item for consultant making it \$3,000.

3. Reduced the Town Clerk's proposed salary \$500 to help make up #1.

4. Reduced Attorney's Retainer by \$1,000.

5. ALS Ambulance- Reduced by \$2,186.

6. BLS Ambulance – increased by \$2,500.

7. Health Ins. Employees- Reduced by \$-2,314.

The Totals worked out exactly the same, so no dollar amount change to budget.

New people on Athens Community Foundation Advisory Board are:

Rick Surrano for the Town Board

Jennifer Petramale

Marjorie Clark

Mick Pirrone

The Town is not increasing taxes.

Justice A1110.1-Insurance Opt Out: One Justice opts out and one gets insurance. Supervisor Butler stated he is preparing to increase Judge Pazin's buy-out to \$3,000.

Supervisor Butler has heard from the Town of Coxsackie, regarding Sleepy Hollow Lake Common Areas. Mr. Butler spoke of the Contract that the Town of Athens and Coxsackie-Athens Central School are going together on for an Attorney- Jones, Hacker & Murphy.

Discussion followed on Fire Districts and how spending should come under control and a discussion of the contract.

Discussion was held on offering assistance to the village.

Discussion on expansion of the garage.

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Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr. made a motion seconded by Councilman Michael Ragaini to accept the changes to the tentative budget. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

On the motion of Councilman Richard M Surrano, Jr. seconded by Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow the following **RESOLUTION #2016-32** to *adopt the 2017 Tentative Budget as the 2017 Preliminary Budget, and that the public hearing be held on Thursday November 10, 2016 at 7:00 P.M. at the Athens Town Hall, was adopted.* Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

As there was no further business to come before the meeting a motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Michael Ragaini seconded by Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 P.M.