

REGULAR MEETING – ATHENS TOWN BOARD

January 16, 2024

The regular meeting of the Athens Town Board was called to order on Tuesday January 16, 2024, by Supervisor Michael Pirrone at 6:00pm and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. The meeting was held at the Athens Municipal Building, 2 First St.

The following were present at the meeting: Supervisor Pirrone, Council Members Bone, Paluch & Pine. Town Clerk Dinkelacker. Highway Superintendent Farrell. Financial/Budget Officer Pierro. Deputy Supervisor Lasher. Town Code Enforcer Gasparini.

Absent: Council member Mary Brandow

The following people were in attendance: Aileen Kenney, P. Doyle, A. Serrago, M. Garvey, L. Palmateer,

Patrick Doyle was asked to introduce Aileen Kenney as she will be taking over as project manager for Flint Mine Solar.

Aileen updated us on the project. The supply line is better. Will be starting construction fall of 2024 and hoping to be operational Spring of 2026.

-The public hearing for Local Law #5, Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS), waiting for any additional comments from the public.

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

<u>General 2023 Abstract # 25</u>	Vouchers 618-627	<u>\$15,968.61</u>
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<u>Highway 2023 Abstract # 24</u>	Vouchers 240-246	<u>\$ 2,263.94</u>
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<u>General 2024 Abstract # 2</u>	Vouchers 8-17	<u>\$38,206.01</u>
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<u>Highway 2024 Abstract # 2</u>	Vouchers 2-6	<u>\$17,471.79</u>
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The minutes from January 2,2024 were distributed to the Town board and motion by Paluch and seconded by Pine, the minutes were approved. AIF

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

CODE ENFORCEMENT – Albert Gasparini

Mr. Gasparini report on his activities for December which includes 1 building permit, 15 Building inspections, 1 Certificate of compliance, 3 Certificates of Occupancy, Annual Junkyard inspection completed 12/20/23, followed up on 2 complaints.

He also attached his 2023 activity report.

2023 JUNKYARD REPORT FOR

Mr. Gasparini reported that he has done a visual inspection of the 3 registered junkyards in the Town of Athens, they have been maintained and he is recommending for renewal for operation for the 2024 calendar year.

He also has included, in his report, the 2024 Code Enforcement fee schedule. See attached.

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT – John Farrell

Mr. Farrell reported on the highway activity over the last month. Which included 2 snow events. They have been doing tree work on Thorpe Rd. Washed the trucks off after each snow event. Truck 6 has been in the shop to replace oil pan and hydraulic tank, along with a full service being done on it.

Truck 5 needs a new cutting edge on front plow at a cost of \$3000.00.

The crew attended a webinar on highway dept. duties and are signed up for NYMIR harassment and discrimination annual training on 2/14/24.

Has received the agreement for radio tower use with the county. The lease indicated a rate increase from \$1.00 a year to \$10.00 a year.

Was awarded an AFC grant to put back up cameras on the 6 Town highway trucks.

ASSESSOR – Ms. Dawn DeRose

Ms. DeRose reported that in the last month she has processed, 1 Village permit/CO/CC for 2021, 1 Town permit/CO/CC for 2023, 16 village deeds, 20 Town deeds, 3 Village E-911 number revisions, and 4 Town -911 number revisions.

Her office is continuing to update their files for the 2024 assessment rolls. However, they are not receiving the Village/Town building permits. It was asked of the Town code enforcer and Village Mayor Amy Serrago to make sure that permits are turned into the Town Assessors office.

The residents are coming in filing for exemptions. The deadline to file for exemptions is March 1st.

They have not heard from the village nor the school districts on the Senior Citizens/Persons with Disability increasing their income levels, but they have until March 1st to pass a local law/resolution, to be effective for the 2024 assessment roll.

They are still waiting for a certified list from the Fire Districts for the Volunteer Firefighter/Ambulance workers for the renewals from 2024. Exemption renewals are also due by March 1st.

FINANCIAL/BUDGET OFFICER – Mr. Don Pierro

He reported that reserve Cash must mirror the Reserve equity.

All Payroll taxes have been done for 2023.

He is moving forward with the 2023-year end process.

TOWN SUPERVISOR – Mr. Michael Pirrone

Mr. Pirrone signed off on the financial report for December 2023.

Please see agenda for other items that were reported on.

Mr. Pirrone's activities for the last month, see the agenda.

-Town Action: Motion to reappoint Ken Fuller to the Town Planning Board for a seven-year term, ending September 30, 2030.

Motion by A. Paluch and second B. Pine. Motion passed. Ayes – 4, No's – 0, Abstentions/Absents – 1.

-Town Action: Motion to reappoint: Alison Dooley as Assessor's office assistant for a one-year term.

Motion by A, Paluch and second B. Pine. Motion passed. Ayes – 4, No's – 0, Abstentions/Absents – 1.

-Town Action: Motion to reappoint Chris Pfister to the Town Zoning Board of appeals for a four-year term, ending September 30, 2027.

Motion by A. Paluch and second B. Pine. Motion passed. Ayes – 4, No's – 0, Abstentions/Absents – 1.

-Town Action: Motion to extend moratorium on Telecommunications Facilities for six months, until July 17, 2024.

Motion by A. Paluch and second B. Pine. Motion passed. Ayes – 4, No's – 0, Abstentions/Absents – 1.

-Town Action: Motion to adopt the Code enforcement dept. schedule of fees for the year 2024.

Motion by T. Bone and second B. Pine. Motion passed. Ayes – 4, No's – 0, Abstentions/Absents – 1.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION: See attached agenda.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: meeting was opened to the public for questions.

- Lee Palmateer, After Athens Gen was given a tax cut, they are selling it. Did anyone know this?? The board's reply was NO.
- Lee Palmateer started a discussion on term change for the supervisor.

Being no other business to come before the Board.

A Motion was made by A. Paluch and second by T. Bone to adjourn the meeting at 7:02pm.
Motion passed. Ayes – 4, No's – 0, Abstentions/Absents – 1.