

REGULAR MEETING – ATHENS TOWN BOARD – September 19, 2016

A regular meeting of the Athens Town Board was called to order on September 19, 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 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 Farrell was absent.)

These people were also present: Attorney Virginia Benedict; Attorney Clotelle Drakeford; Planning Board Chairman Hal Brodie; Frances McCusker; John Regan and Michael Pirrone.

The following bills were bill were audited by the Board and ordered paid:  
General Abstract #17, vouchers #426 through #448 inclusive for \$4,891.13.  
Highway Abstract #16, vouchers #151 through #166 inclusive for \$28,963.23.

**Resident Frances McCusker** informed the Board that the Boy's Camp at Pleasant Acres opened late this year, and they had everyone come at once. The boys, their parents, and entire families. The overflow that did not fit at Pleasant Acres was put up at Green Lake Resort. Big green tarps were put up so people driving by couldn't see in from the road. There was garbage at the edge of and in Green Lake as well as all over the park. She stated that they were only here for the last two weeks of August. Her fear is that next year they will be here from July 1<sup>st</sup>. They are looking for a Camp for Girls. Discussion followed.

**Planning Board Chairman Hal Brodie** recommended that the Town Board consider amending the Zoning Law make large scale solar a permitted use. Cypress Creek Renewables would like to build large scale solar energy systems on two parcels in the Town of Athens. They need at least 20 acres. Discussion Followed. (Town can opt out of allowing exemption.)

**Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. made** a motion seconded by Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr. *to approve the minutes of September 6, 2016 as corrected.* ((The minutes stated on page 2, going into Executive Session that there were 5 Ayes- they should have read: Ayes-3 (Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch) Noes-2 (Butler; Surrano) This motion was carried: Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

**Supervisor Butler** stated that the Town of Catskill, Town of Athens and Leeds Hose Fire Co. Fire Contract will probably be a flat contract. Discussion followed on cleaning up the boundaries. The Catskill Town Clerk and Athens Town Clerk will set a date that is convenient for all parties.

**Supervisor Butler** reminded the Board that the tentative budget would be turned into the Town Clerk before September 30<sup>th</sup>.

**The Town Court** submitted a letter to the Board stating they were looking for a 2016-2017 JCAP Grant, to purchase a painted New York State Seal Plaque and two filing cabinets. They requested that the Town Board adopt a resolution to authorize the Court to apply for this grant.

**On the motion of Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr.** seconded by Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow the following **RESOLUTION #2016-30** *authorizing the Town of Athens Court to apply for a 2016-2017 JCAP Grant to purchase a painted New York State Seal Plaque and two filing cabinets was adopted.* 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 appoint the following people to the Athens Community Foundation Advisory Board for a term of 3 years; 9/19/2016 to 12/31/2018.: Michael Pirrone; Jennifer Petramale and Marjorie Clark. 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. that the Town Board sponsor a Community Foundation Grant application for the Cultural Center at no cost to the Town. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

**Supervisor Butler** reported that Code Enforcement Officer George Holsopple sent out an Order to Remedy Violation the day after our last meeting.

Cleanup Day will be October 15<sup>th</sup> out at the Town Garage.

Discussion followed: Solar currently doesn't fit our zoning.  
A local law can be adopted to opt out of tax exemptions for solar farms.

A Planning Board and Republican Committee member asked if North East Treeters (NET) would like to make a donation for the County Ad Book. The NET representative informed him that NET does not make political donations. *"He replied that it was unfortunate because now he was going to have to tell his board members not to jump through hoops, like they have been, for all of the projects going on."*

A motion was made by Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr. seconded by Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. to have the Planning Board Chairman write a letter of resignation for a certain person to sign. If he doesn't sign the resignation he can be taken in front of the DA. Ayes-3 (Butler; Ragaini; Surrano) Noes-2 (Brandow; Paluch) Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Board reviewed the Handbook.

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 Richard M. Surrano, Jr. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0  
Meeting Adjourned at 8:45 p.m.