

REGULAR MEETING – ATHENS TOWN BOARD – November 10, 2016

Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. called the Public Hearing on the Preliminary Budget for 2017 for the Town of Athens to order at 7:00 P.M. on November 10, 2016 with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The following people were present; Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow; Councilman Michael Ragaini; Councilman Anthony Ragaini; Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr.; Highway Superintendent John J. Farrell and Town Clerk Linda M. Stacey.

These people were also present: Attorney Virginia Benedict; Bookkeeper/ Budget Officer Michael Strenka; Code Enforcement Officer George Holsopple; Deputy Supervisor Joseph Iraci; John P. Farrell, Jr.; Barbara Trembacz; Fran McCusker; Judge Connie Pazin.

Supervisor Butler read the Notice of Public Hearing as it appeared in the Official Newspaper. He asked three (3) times if there were any questions, concerns or comments.

As there were none Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr. made a motion to close the public hearing and reconvene the regular meeting. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

On the motion of Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr. seconded by Councilman Michael Ragaini the following **RESOLUTION #2016-33** to adopt the Preliminary Budget for 2017 with no changes as the **2017 Annual Budget for the Town of Athens**. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

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

General Abstract #20, vouchers #492 through #524 inclusive for \$34,531.27.

Highway Abstract #19, vouchers #191 through #204 inclusive for \$8,367.13.

Highway Superintendent John J. Farrell gave his monthly report.

1 snow event.

Tree work was finished on Schoharie Turnpike and started on Vosenkill Road.

A new tire was purchased for vehicle #4- Ford tractor and front tires for Vehicle #2.

Unit #1 went to Cross Roads to have front crank seal replaced, braked booster, serp, belt and idler pulley.

Unit #5 went to W & W truck repair to have front pinion seal replaced.

Serviced Unit #6.

Septic Tank and Holding tank behind building were pumped out.

Buried conduit on 10/17 & 10/18 and hooked up electric with Electrician.

Installed LED lights with Electrician at a cost of around \$1,000.00. (Exterior lights)

CHIPS: NYS CHIPS roll over balance possible purchase of excavator and trailer.

Work with Village: Removed docks with Village- 3 guys for ½ day.

They have been loading 2 dumpster a day for the Village at the water plant with town loader.

Village has their salt stored at town shop. Town crew helped calibrate their spreaders with 2 guys for ½ day. Also spoke with Village Mayor. He gave a set of gate and salt shed keys to Anthony Proper for salt access if needed.

Supervisor Butler stated that an intermunicipal agreement is needed for this.

Mr. Farrell asked if he should renew the service contracts for the furnaces at the town barn or wait. He was told to go ahead and renew them and not take a chance.

Mr. Farrell and the Town Board went over the garage addition prints, and discussed what he needs to complete before Biggs moves forward.

Highway superintendent Farrell returned \$85,000 to the State for CHIPS reimbursement and rollover. He asked the Town Board to think about a CHIPS purchase of a mine excavator at a cost of \$68,000, with 2 buckets, over the next month. He said that we could get rid of the old backhoe- we would only get \$5 or \$6 thousand for it.

He explained that it is the first year for the Village to use salt, and he and his crew showed the Village guys how to set the spinners on the vehicles etc.

Michael Strenka Bookkeeper/Budget Officer went through the monthly Supervisor’s Report with Board members.

Mr. Strenka then presented a resolution for the Board’s consideration, and explained why he felt it was needed.

On the motion of Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr. seconded by Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow the following **RESOLUTION #2016-34** was adopted as follows:

Whereas, the Town of Athens received \$444.77 from the Village of Athens for personal services costs for the 4th quarter 2016 Animal Control Officer relating solely to the Village; and

Whereas, it is the intention of the Town Board to fund this position in the Town Budget relative the functions performed throughout the Town and the Village both together thus integrating the position;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the Town Board of the Town of Athens hereby recognizes the financial transaction for budget purposes by increasing General Fund estimated revenues A-2268, Animal Control Services to Other Governments, by \$445 and increasing General Fund Appropriations A3510.1 Animal Control Personal Services by \$445.

Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Bookkeeper Strenka then handed out the following Budget Transfers for Board review:

On the motion of Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr seconded by Councilman Michael Ragaini the following **RESOLUTIONS #2016-35** to make the following budget transfers was adopted:

BUDGET TRANSFERS

FROM	TO	AMOUNT
A1010.4 Town Board- consultant	A1010.1 Town Board – Advertisement	300
A1010.4 Town Board Consultant	A1010.1 Town Board –Office Supplies	300
A1110.4 Justice Seminars	A1110.4 Justice Cable	150
A1110.4 Justice Seminars	A 1110.4 Justice Security	500
A 1110.4 Justice Seminars	A1110.4Justice Service Contracts	1000
A 1990.4 Contingency	A1220.1Supervisor Personal Service	2000
A 1990.4 Contingency	A1330.4 Tax Collector Postage	100
A 1990.4 Contingency	A1330.4 Service Contract	200
A 1990.4 Contingency	A 1355.4 Assessor Postage	50
A 1990.4 Contingency	A 1355.4Assessor Service Contracts	1500
A 1990.4 Contingency	A 1355.4Assessor Mileage reimb.	200
A 1410.1 Town Clerk Personal	A 1410.4 Town Clerk Cable	50
A1410.1 Town Clerk Personal	A1410.4 Town Clerk Service Contracts	500
A 1990.4 Contingency	A 1420.4 Attorney other costs	4000
B1990.4 Contingency	B 8010.4 Zoning Attorney	1000

Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Councilwoman made a motion seconded by Councilman Richard Surrano, Jr. to accept the Supervisor’s Monthly Financial Report. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Code Enforcement Officer George Holsopple informed the Board that the Court date for the contaminated water (pigs) has been changed to December 10th.

Mr. Holsopple also reported that the Starlight Motel, on Route 9W has opened back up. It is being rented out to Department of Social Service people. He will find out who is living there and re- red tag it. He will also find out who the new owner is.

Attorney Benedict advised him to take the Sheriff with him and have the electric turned off. Discussion followed.

The problems that existed with the building were never taken care, so it was red tagged.

Mr. Holsopple informed the Board that he had received his certificate from the school he attended.

After review of the Town Clerk's report **Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr. made** a motion seconded by Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow to accept the Town Clerk's Report as presented. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Councilman Michael Ragaini made a motion to accept the following minutes as read: minutes of Budget Workshop of October 12, 2016, Regular meeting October 17, 2016 and Budget Workshop of October 26, 2016, seconded by Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Surrano) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Councilman Richard M. Surrano, Jr. made a motion to reduce the Board of Assessment and Review from 5 members back to a 3 member Board, seconded by Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. Ayes-3 ((Butler; Brandow; Surrano) Noes-2 (Ragaini; Paluch) Absent-0 Abstentione-0 Both the County and the State needs to be notified of this change. (This is to be looked at in early summer.)

Attorney Virginia Benedict spoke about solar exemption. She informed the Board that the Court Conference of Sleepy Hollow v. Athens is scheduled to be heard on November 21, 2016 at Greene County Court House.

Deputy Supervisor Joe Iraci informed the Board that Paul Wais's son may have an eagle project coming up.

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

Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 P.M.