

REGULAR MEETING – ATHENS TOWN BOARD – MARCH 2, 2020

The regular meeting of the Athens Town Board was called to order on Monday March 2, 2020 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; Councilman Michael Ragaini; Councilman Anthony Paluch; Councilwoman Shannon Spinner; Highway Superintendent John J. Farrell and Town Clerk Linda M. Stacey. (Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow was absent.)

These people were also present: Attorney Virginia Benedict; Bookkeeper-Budget Officer Don Pierro; Code Enforcement Officer Albert Gasparini; Robert Brunner; Lynn Brunner; Barbara Trembacz; Peggy Pieruzzi; Fran McCusker; Terry Cardinale; Vee Carl; Marcia Puorro; Connie Pazin and Tim Mercer.

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

**General Abstract #5**, vouchers #86 through #110 inclusive for **\$100,606.59**.

**Highway Abstract #5**, vouchers #39 through #54 **for \$17,759.97**.

**Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr.** made a motion seconded Councilman Michael Ragaini to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue. Ayes-4 (Butler; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Brandow) Abstentions-0 (Time- 7:01 p.m.)

**Councilman Anthony Paluch** made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Shannon Spinner to adjourn the Executive Session and reconvene the regular meeting. Ayes-4 (Butler; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Brandow) Abstentions-0 (Time-7:25 p.m.)

**Code Enforcement Officer Albert Gasparini** reported that he had one building permit for February.

**His List**

There were 14 building inspections.

5 requests for Certificates of Occupancy.

1 request for a Demolition permit, at 373 Farm to Market Road.

**Mr. Gasparini informed** the Board that the Short Term Rental Property Shakespeare on the Hudson has a new property manager, Jason Gabriel. Albert needs to meet with him to go over the Short Term Rental Law Limits for number of people that are allowed.

A homeowner is interested in making and selling fishing lures from his home on Route 9W.

Jacqueline Murray Esquire inquiring for a small solar farm on Potic Mountain Road, but going through the proper channels.

**Highway Superintendent John J. Farrell** reported that all six guys went for their DOT exams and passed.

The Highway crew finished tree work on Cross Road and Center, and started working on Black Lake Road.

The Sweeper and truck number 5 were serviced.

Starting hauling #1 stone for this year's paving jobs.

Shared Services Agreement with NYS DOT was renewed for 4 years at a cap of \$25,000.

The Town Road Agreement will go to the Board at Aprils meeting.

**Highway Superintendent Farrell** asked Attorney Benedict if the Town Highway Garage Property can be posted. There have been several young people hanging out there. Currently he has asked them to leave, and they have, but they shouldn't be there. He now locks the doors every time he leaves.

**Attorney Benedict** advised him she would find out for him.

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**Mr. Farrell presented a resolution** to the Board for the purchase of the Hyundai LH940 wheel loader.

**On the motion of Councilwoman Shannon Spinner** seconded by Councilman Michael Ragaini the following **RESOLUTION #2020-22** was adopted:

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board of the Town of Athens has authorized the Highway Superintendent to Purchase a Hyundai LH940 wheel loader off of Sourcewell contract #032119-HCE: and

**WHEREAS**, the truck has been ordered from Tracey Road Equipment Inc. at a price not to exceed \$142,610.80: and

**WHEREAS**, it is the intention of the Town Board of the Town of Athens to recognize such authorization for budget purposes;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Town Board hereby authorizes increasing Highway Fund Appropriations Equipment Reserve Account 9950.9 by \$72,610.80 and \$70,000.00 from NYS CHIP's funding.

Ayes-4 (Butler; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Brandow) Abstentions-0

**Supervisor Butler informed** the Board and Highway Superintendent that the Trooper Brinkerhoff race date had been corrected to March 24th and April 4<sup>th</sup>.

**The Joint Village and Town Cleanup Day** will be held on April 18<sup>th</sup> at the Athens Fire House from 8:30 am to 12 noon. They will be taking more than 4 tires a person and the Sheriff will be there taking old unused medicines.

**Senior Court Clerk Marcia Puorro** handed out copies of the **2019 report** for the Town of Athens Court. Mail received in Court office for 2019 was 2,024 pieces. Tickets received in Court Office for 2019 – 1,231. Number of faxes sent and received 4,823. Total small claims & evictions were 28; Total Criminal Cases received were 87; Total DWI Cases received were 39 and total unlicensed operator cases were 30. Total amount of revenue taken in by the Court from January 2019 to December 2019 was \$291,059.00, with \$155,278.00 going to the State of New York and \$128,334.00 remaining in the Town.

**Supervisor Butler** asked why the County gets a portion of the money turned in. **Justices Pazin and Mercer** both explained.

**Bookkeeper/Budget Officer Donald Pierro** reviewed the Supervisor's Report with the Board. He then went over the cost for the AUD end of year Report. He gave the prices for the Pitney Bowes Postage meter and asked the Board which option they wanted. They chose option #2.

**Councilman Michael Ragaini** made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Shannon Spinner **to go with option #2 which is on NYS Contract at a purchase price of \$1,481.03; with maintenance at \$21.00 per year; (The first year of maintenance is included.)** Ayes-4 (Butler; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Brandow) Abstentions-0

**Councilwoman Shannon Spinner** made a motion seconded by Councilman Michael Ragaini **to approve the Supervisor's Report as presented.** Ayes-4 (Butler; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Brandow) Abstentions-0

**From Assessor's Report:** Data Collector's are out in the field, in the Village. 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday in May – the 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020 is Grievance Day 6-8 pm in Town Clerk's Office.

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**On the motion of Councilwoman Shannon Spinner** seconded by Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. the following **RESOLUTION #2020-23** was adopted: The Town Board certifies that it has examined the accounts and dockets of Justice Constance J. Pazin and Justice James H. Robinson, Jr. for the Year 2019 for the Town of Athens Court and have found them to be True and accurate. Ayes-4 (Butler; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Brandow) Abstentions-0

**Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. made** a motion seconded by Councilwoman Shannon Spinner to approve the Town Clerk's cash book as presented. Ayes-4 (Butler; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Brandow) Abstentions-0

**Councilman Michael Ragaini** made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Shannon Spinner to approve the **minutes of February 17, 2020 as read**. Ayes-4 (Butler; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Brandow) Abstentions-0

**Supervisor Butler informed the Board** that West Athens Lime Street Fire District no longer wishes to use their District building voting. The Town will need to find another voting place. John will reach out to the County first. (Highway building.)

**Councilman Anthony Paluch** made a motion seconded by Councilman Michael Ragaini to approve the Town Clerk Report as presented. Ayes-4 (Butler; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Brandow) Abstentions-0

There will be a joint meeting with the Village and the Town at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday March 5<sup>th</sup> at EJ Arthur Elementary School. This is for the Comprehensive Plan.

As there was no further business to come before the meeting a motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Michael Ragaini seconded by Councilwoman Shannon Spinner. Ayes-4 (Butler; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Brandow) Abstentions-0

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.