

REGULAR MEETING – ATHENS TOWN BOARD – June 1, 2020

A meeting of the Athens Town Board was held electronically via Zoom on Monday June 1, 2020 with Board members at his or her own property location due to the Covid-19 Social Distancing order by the Governor.

Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the following people in attendance: Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow; Councilman Michael Ragaini; Councilman Anthony Paluch; Councilwoman Shannon Spinner; Highway Superintendent John J. Farrell; Town Clerk Linda M. Stacey; Attorney Virginia Benedict; Finance/Budget Officer Don Pierro and Code Enforcement Officer Albert Gasparini.

These people attended to listen only: Robert Brunner; Karen Krawczyk; Dan Boyd; Angela Colavito and Tim Miller.

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

**General Abstract #11**, vouchers #190 through #206 inclusive for **\$26,863.39**.

**Highway Abstract #11**, vouchers #88 through #101 inclusive for **\$6,335.67**.

**Highway Superintendent John J. Farrell** spoke with the owner of Pleasant Acres. He has added a new gate on part of the Town road which the Town maintains. Mr. Farrell gave him until June 15<sup>th</sup> to remove the gate.

**Highway Superintendent Farrell** and the owner came to an agreement, that the gate would only be locked to secure their property if needed.

**Mr. Farrell reported** that the bid price he received for the sale of the pickup truck was \$2,900.00 and the bid price received for the New Holland loader was \$15,700.00. He asked for a motion to accept these bids.

**Highway Superintendent Farrell** reminded the Board that the Highway Department had received a grant from the Athens Community Foundation to replace the roof on the salt/sand shed or to paint that shed.

Discussion followed. This building is in need of work.

The box culvert on Schoharie Turnpike where it crosses Vosenkill Creek needs to be replaced, the existing one is 6'x6'.

**Highway Superintendent John** said that he has an issue with Kings Road. (Road to Highway garage.) For several years, even though his 911 address is listed as Rt. 9W, Mr. Russell insists that this Town right of way (easement) is where he should get his mail, etc. Now Mr. Farrell has requests for easements from another property owner. He thinks it is going to snowball out of control.

Discussion followed.

**Attorney Virginia Benedict replied** that she is waiting to get into the County Clerk's Office to get copies of deeds. She needs more time to get the records.

**John replied** that Mr. Russell says he has right of way. Two week ago another mailbox was added. So he called Greene County 911.

**Councilwoman Shannon Spinner** made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow to accept the bids of the surplus items sold on Auctions International as follow: 1) the bid of \$2,900 for the 2003 Ford 250 Super Duty Utility Truck w/plow and 2) the bid of \$15,700 for the 2001 New Holland LW 110 Front Bucket Loader. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

**Code Enforcement Officer Albert Gasparini** reported he issued 3 building permits. He had one Certificate of Occupancy Search Request. He reported he had a 911 fire call he had to attend on Route 9W.

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It should be put on the website that data collectors are going around.

Councilman Paluch asked how someone became an assessor. Supervisor Butler advised him that it was a lot of courses with testing and you had only a year to pass the courses.

Court Clerks are back to work on a five (5) day schedule.

**Councilman Anthony Paluch** made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Shannon Spinner to approve the minutes of the April 27, 2020 meeting as read. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

**Councilwoman Shannon Spinner** made a motion seconded by Councilman Michael Ragaini to approve the minutes of May 4, 2020 as read. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

**Councilman Anthony Paluch** made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow to approve the minutes of May 18, 2020 as read. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

**Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr.** made a motion seconded by Councilman Anthony Paluch to accept and approve the Town Clerk's Report as presented. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

**Supervisor Butler** explained that Leo Palmateer, Trustee to the Community Foundation wants to step down. Currently on there is Hank Tripp from the Generating Plant; Ed Bloomer and Leo Palmateer. He suggested Thomas Bruno as a replacement.

**Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr.** made a motion seconded by Councilman Michael Ragaini to fill Mr. Palmateer's empty seat with Thomas Bruno as Trustee on the Community Foundation Board. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

There will be no Cleanup day until September. Instead of being the usual 4hour day it will be for 6 hours.

August 8, 2020 will be the County's Hazardous Waste Day. (No time as yet.)

Our next meeting will be held on June 15<sup>th</sup>, via Zoom.

As there was no further business to come before the meeting a motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Anthony Paluch seconded by Councilwoman Shannon Spinner. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Meeting adjourned 7:45 p.m.