

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.

Codes Continued:

Mr. Gasparini reported the following Violations: Site visit to 286 Potic Mt. Road property to see if there were two small manufactured homes on property. Property had one cabin, large utility trailer and two sheds. One shed a recreation room and one a utility shed...

Did a follow-up site visit of Property Maintenance violation at 390 Leeds Athens Road. Most of the front yard has been cleaned up. Violation notice being sent to clean up rest of the front and all of the back yard.

He drafted a Notice of Violation for Property off of Quarry Road area, as a house has collapsed in.

He drafted a Notice of Violation for a Short Term Rental known as Rustic Cabin on Potic Mountain Creek. Cabin is off electric grid and is in violation of property maintenance code for use other than private.

Ongoing correspondence with Dan Boyd RE: proposed Potic Mountain Solar Farm for Freepoint Solar LLC.

**Supervisor Butler asked Code Enforcement Officer Gasparini** to take a look at the pile of garbage at the Gjergji property, on the left hand side of Leeds Athens Road going towards the railroad tracks. The owner is now putting on windows on the pile and we don't know what kind of paint is on them.

**Finance/ Budget Officer Don Pierro** reviewed the Supervisor's Report with the Board. He informed the members that he has been working on next year's budget with Mary, and has talked to most Department heads.

**Councilman Anthony Paluch** made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Shannon Spinner to accept the Supervisor's Report as presented. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Finance Officer Don Pierro prepared a resolution that he shared with the Supervisor and the Board regarding investing idle funds for a period of five months and three weeks. Discussion followed.

**On the motion of Councilman Michael Ragaini** seconded by Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow the following **RESOLUTION #2020-27** was adopted as follows:

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Athens hereby determines that it is in the public interest and purpose to invest idle funds, and

WHEREAS, in order to achieve such appropriate investment the Town of Athens must authorize said investment at a public meeting of the Town Board, and

WHEREAS, the current funds are duly held at the National Bank of Coxsackie, Athens, New York, and said funds are currently restricted funds to be invested for a period of five (5) months and three weeks expiring on December 30, 2020, and

WHEREAS, the amount of restricted funds for this investment total \$674,000.00 and NOW, THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED that the Town Supervisor is hereby authorized to execute any documents necessary to complete the investment transaction with National Bank of Coxsackie for a sum not to exceed \$674,000.00, and it is further

RESOLVED that the foregoing resolution shall become effective this 9<sup>th</sup> day of July in the year 2020.

The above resolution was adopted as follows: Ayes-5(Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

**Assessor- Grievance Day:** Supervisor Butler reported that there were less than 20 grievances received. We are still look for an Assessor.

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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.