

ATHENS TOWN BOARD – REGULAR MEETING – September 8, 2020

The regular meeting of the Athens Town Board was called to order on September 8, 2020 by Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. at the Athens Volunteer Fire House on Third Street, Athens, at 7:00 pm with the Pledge to the Flag.

The following people were present: Supervisor Butler; Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow; Councilman Michael Ragaini; Councilwoman Shannon Spinner; Highway Superintendent John Farrell and Town Clerk Linda M. Stacey. (Councilman Anthony Paluch was absent.)

These people were also present: Attorney Virginia Benedict; Finance Officer/ Budget Officer Don Pierro; Code Enforcement Officer Albert Gasparini; Dan Boyd of Potic Mt. Solar; Robert Brunner; Laura Darling of Flint Mine Solar; Lynn Brunner; Larry Styles and Rick Meryman.

The following bills were audited and ordered paid:

**General Abstract #17**, vouchers #297 through #319 inclusive for **\$84,284.90**.

**Highway Abstract #17**, vouchers #161 through #174 inclusive for **\$26,063.89**.

**Laura (Bomyea) Darling of Flint Mine Solar** gave handouts to the Board members to look at as she reviewed it with them. It showed the Project timeline for the Article 10 Application Summary.

Mrs. Darling informed the Board that the Article 10 Application was Filed May 22, 2020 and Deemed Complete August 12, 2020.

Public Statement Hearings are tentatively scheduled for October 22, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. and 6:00p.m. Via WebEx.

This Project is 1/3 in Athens and 2/3s in Coxsackie.

**Highway Superintendent John J. Farrell** reported that the highway crew has been doing field work.

They are doing sealing work weather permitting.

They have blacktopped Schoharie Turnpike.

**Supervisor Butler** announced that he had the Sheriff's Department coming to Clean up Day September 19, 2020 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon to collect unused and out dated prescriptions that anybody wishes to dispose of.

Mr. Farrell also advised the Board that he is weighing over 2 (two) projects:

One is to put sealant on the shop floor: the second one is to ~~repair~~ <sup>replace</sup> a box culvert on Schoharie Turnpike.

**Code Enforcement Officer Albert Gasparini** reported that he has received complaints that Rustic Cabin at Potic Creek Road, had people staying there after violation was issued. The Notice of Violations contained (website advertisement and 3 pictures of cars on the property) was sent on 9/3/2020 according to the Short Term Rental Law, Operating without Valid Rental Registration Certificate. In the notice it is stated the fine is \$350.00.

69 Old Travis Road building without a Permit. Property owner was building on an existing manufactured home frame.

**STOP WORK ORDER**: 69 Old Travis Road, building without a permit.

Notes: 1651 Schoharie Turnpike, LLC Licensed Shooting Preserve by the State. Talked with property owner, DEC Officer Arp and Zoning Chairman Kevin Parks. September 15<sup>th</sup> is the start date of State permit.

A Cease and Desist Order will be issued before start date and will contact property owner.

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Code Enforcement Continued:

There were 5 building permits  
7 Building inspections  
2 Building permit inquiries  
16 Certificates of Occupancy Search Requests  
1 Septic Permit

**Finance Officer/ Budget Officer Don Pierro** went over the Supervisor's Report for August with the Board. He spoke about all fund balances. We are getting to the point where we can't pay for items that are not budgeted. He said he wants to make things clear and transparent for the new CPA firm.

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

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

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

**Assessor Cheryl Kaszluga** handed in her report: she has been working on SCAR (Small Claim Assessment Reviews) Petitions that have been received. She is waiting to hear from the hearing officer to schedule a meeting. School Taxes have gone out. She has been receiving a lot of e-mails and calls wanting an estimated value for new homes.

**Supervisor Robert F. Butler made a motion** seconded by Councilman Micheal Ragaini to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue. Ayes: 4 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-1(Paluch) Abstentions-0 Time 8:10 p.m.

**Councilwoman Shannon Spinner made a motion** seconded by Councilman Michael Ragaini to come out of Executive Session and reconvene the regular meeting. Ayes: 4 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-1(Paluch) Abstentions-0 Time 8:41 p.m.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.