

REGULAR MEETING – ATHENS TOWN BOARD – November 16, 2020

The regular meeting of the Athens Town Board was called to order by Deputy Supervisor Michael Ragaini on November 16, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, at the Athens Volunteer Fire on Third Street, in the Village of Athens, due to COVID and social distancing.

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

The following people were also present: Attorney Virginia Benedict; Bookkeeper/Budget Officer Don Pierro; Robert Brunner; Town Justice Connie Pazin; Theresa Cardinale; Fran McCusker and Court Clerk Marcia Puorro.

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

General Abstract #22, vouchers #401 through #414 inclusive for \$10,391.57.

Highway Abstract #22, vouchers #200 through #209 inclusive for \$2,766.69.

Highway Superintendent John J. Farrell reported that one of his highway crew had turned his resignation in. John wants to advertise in the newspaper and would like to put it on the website as well.

The Board continued the public hearing on the 2021 Preliminary Budget, left open from November 5, 2020.

Deputy Supervisor Michael Ragaini asked if there were any questions or changes.

As there were no questions Councilwoman Shannon Spinner made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow to close the public hearing.

On the motion of Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow seconded by Councilwoman Shannon Spinner the following RESOLUTION #2020-39 to adopt the 2021 Preliminary Budget as the 2021 Annual Budget for the Town of Athens was adopted. Ayes-4 (Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-1(Butler) Abstentions-0

Councilman Anthony Paluch made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Shannon Spinner to approve the minutes of October 19, 2020 as read. Ayes-4 (Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-1(Butler) Abstentions-0

Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow made a motion seconded by Councilman Anthony Paluch to approve the minutes of November 5, 2020 as read. Ayes-4 (Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-1(Butler) Abstentions-0

On the motion of Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow seconded by Councilwoman Shannon Spinner the following RESOLUTION #2020-40 approving the Public Hearing for the Comprehensive Plan Update was adopted as follows:

**WHEREAS** the Town and Village of Athens are completing the update to the 2007 Comprehensive Plan, and

**WHEREAS** as part of this process, the Town and Village of Athens are required to hold a Joint Public Hearing, and

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**WHEREAS** Wednesday, December 2, 2020 at 6:30 pm is a convenient day and time for the required Joint Public Hearing, and

**WHEREAS** due to current public health circumstances, a virtual meeting format is the most expedient for the Joint Public Hearing,

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town of Athens Board hereby does set a Joint Public Hearing with the Village of Athens via Zoom technology for purposes of completing the update to the 2007 Comprehensive Plan for Wednesday, December 2, 2020 at 6:30 pm, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Town of Athens Board understands that the Village of Athens will handle the legal notice and set up the Zoom meeting for the Public Hearing.

This Resolution was adopted as follows: Ayes-4(Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-1(Butler) Abstentions-0

**On the motion of Councilwoman Shannon Spinner** seconded by Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow the following **RESOLUTION #2020-41 to Revise Reserve Fund Balances** was adopted as follows:

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board of the Town of Athens hereby determine that it is in the public interest and purpose to revise Reserve Fund Balances based on revised recommendations in July and again in November 2020 and increase and decrease various reserve items based on Town needs and

**WHEREAS**, in order to achieve such revisions, the finance staff met with the Finance Board Liaison to examine appropriate Reserve Fund balances as a continuation of earlier Board Discussions and that said revisions will be voted on at the November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Board meeting when Town Board shall authorize said revisions 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 and may only be revised by the Town Board as of November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020 and,

**WHEREAS**, the amount of the newly restricted Reserved Funds for this matter will be \$1,207,014.05 based on the October 31, 2020 Bank Reconciliations and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

**RESOLVED** that the Town Board hereby authorizes the revisions of the Reserve Funds per the Finance Worksheet distributed and voted on by the Board on November 16, 2020, and it is further

**RESOLVED** that the foregoing resolution shall become effective this 16<sup>th</sup> day of November in the year 2020. Dated: November 16, 2020

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

**The Town Board received the Basic Life Support Agreement from the Town of Catskill Ambulance.** The proposed agreement is for a two (2) year period starting January 1, 2021 to continue to December 31, 2022.

The fees due from the Town of Athens for services rendered, during 2021 shall be \$101,957. The fees due from the Town of Athens for services rendered, during 2022 shall be \$109,105.

There was Board discussion on the increases being 7% and 8% respectively. The Board questioned the fact that we haven't received the backup sheets.

**On the motion of Councilwoman Shannon Spinner** seconded by Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow the following **RESOLUTION #2020-42** authorizing the Supervisor to sign the BLS Ambulance Agreement with the Town of Catskill for two (2) years commencing January 1, 2021 and continuing until December 31, 2022. Ayes-3 (Brandow; Ragaini; Spinner) Noes-1(Paluch) Absent-1(Butler) Abstentions-0

**On the motion of Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow** seconded by Councilwoman Shannon Spinner the following **RESOLUTION #2020-43**, was adopted to rescind Resolution #2020-42 adopting Catskill BLS Ambulance Agreement for two years and replace it with the following: To authorize the Supervisor to sign the Catskill Ambulance Agreement for one (1) year at the amount of \$101,967. Ayes-3 (Brandow; Ragaini; Spinner) Noes-1(Paluch) Absent-1 (Butler) Abstentions-0

**Bookkeeper /Budget Officer Don Pierro** talked to the Board about a new program for the Code Enforcement Department, which includes a zoning program and a planning program. The Code Enforcement Officer is due for a new computer w/ annual maintenance and Peggy needs one too. This new program that he spoke about can be purchased from Edmunds govTech which was formerly BAS, and also from Williamson Law Book.

**On the motion of Councilman Anthony Paluch** seconded by Councilwoman Shannon Spinner the following **RESOLUTION #2020-44** that Deputy Supervisor Michael Ragaini be granted final authority to select either BAS or Williamson Law Book for the purchase and upgrade of Code Enforcement Software & second license for new computer with annual maintenance was adopted. (This includes software for zoning and planning.) Ayes -4 (Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Butler) Abstentions-0

**On the motion made by Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow** seconded by Councilwoman Shannon Spinner the following **RESOLUTION #2020-45** to hire a Law Firm For the Negotiation of The Town Highway Union Contact:

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board of the Town of Athens hereby determines that it is in the public interest and purpose to procure Negotiation Services for the Highway Union Contract which expires May 31, 2021.

The Town received two proposals from firms in the Albany area. The first proposal was received in July 2020 (Roemer Wallens Gold & Mineaux LLP) with a total of \$7,500.00 with an add-on for Arbitration at the posted hourly rates. The second proposal received from Principal Robert Manfredo from BST was priced at \$15,000.00 without the add-on for Arbitration.

**WHEREAS**, in order to meet such financial requirements the Town Board shall authorize the funding in the 2021 Budget which will be confirmed by the Budget Officer at a public meeting of the Town Board, and

**WHEREAS**, the current funds to meet this obligation are duly held at the National Bank of Coxsackie, Athens, New York, and said funds are currently un-restricted funds and available within the Annual Budget, and

**WHEREAS**, the amount for this re-negotiation was successfully quoted at a prices of \$7,500.00 for the basic advisory & negotiation services and if additional analysis is necessary those funds will also be charged to GL Account #1420.4 B Fund – Town Outside and,

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

**RESOLVED** that the Town Board hereby authorizes the hiring of Roemer Wallens Gold & Mineaux and it is further

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**RESOLVED** that the foregoing resolution shall become effective this 16<sup>th</sup> day of November in the year 2020.  
Ayes-4 (Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-1(Butler) Abstentions-0

**Councilman Anthony Paluch made a motion** seconded by Councilwoman Mary H. Brandow to accept the payroll calendar as presented for 2021. Ayes-4 (Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-1(Butler) Abstentions-0

**Bookkeeper/Budget Officer Don Pierro** informed the Board that he feels that the Seniors that are on AARP and United Health Care should really be on a common plan. He wants to meet with those seniors, Dave LaVoie and the Board.

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

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 P.M.