

REGULAR MEETING - ATHENS TOWN BOARD – December 20, 2021

The regular meeting of the Athens Town Board was called to order on December 20, 2021 by Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag at 7:00 pm at the Village of Athens Volunteer Fire House.

The following people were present: Supervisor Butler; Councilmember Mary H. Brandow; Councilmember Michael Ragaini; Councilmember Anthony Paluch; Councilmember Shannon Spinner; Highway Superintendent John J. Farrell and Town Clerk Linda M. Stacey.

These people were also present; Attorney George McHugh; Bookkeeper/Budget Officer Don Pierro; Code Enforcement Officer Albert Gasparini; Judge Tim Mercer; Court Clerk Ruth Wittlinger; Robert Brunner; Court Clerk Marcia Puorro; Fran McCusker; Terry Cardinale; Kris Garvey and Michael Pirrone.

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

General Abstract #23, vouchers #540 through #561 inclusive for **\$39,913.29**.
Highway Abstract #22, voucher #177 for **\$5,548.68**.

Trust & Custodian: Abstract #1, Voucher #1 for **\$11,500.00**.

General Abstract #24, vouchers #562 through #567 inclusive for **\$568.15**.

Highway Abstract #23, vouchers #178 through #186 inclusive for **\$16,994.77**.

General Abstract # 25, vouchers #568 through #590 inclusive for **\$21,322.06**.

Highway Abstract #24, vouchers #187 through #192 inclusive for **\$3,371.32**.

Highway Superintendent John J. Farrell reported that the vehicles were ready to go for any snow event.

He also reported that the parts for the grad all have been ordered.

Code Enforcement Officer Albert Gasparini reported on the septic system located at Black Horse Farm: Leach field has been covered and everything has been approved. Mr. Gasparini has been working on the things (517 of them) that Mr. Dowd, the Attorney has asked for. Mr. Dowd is representing the Town, against the Article 78 Proceeding that Freeport Solar has served on the Town. This goes in front of the Supreme Court.

Code Enforcement Officer Gasparini reported that he had inspected the three Junk Yards that expire December 31.

He stated that a visual inspection was done in the month of December of the registered Junkyards in the Town of Athens. The three registered junkyards have been maintained and are recommended for renewal for operation for the 2022 calendar year.

These Junkyards are: **Scott Fischer**, property location Flats Rd Ext. Currently has no cars.

B & B Garage; -292, Rte. 385, Catskill; currently has 45 cars/ 30 tires.

He takes Junk cars to J & B car crushing, and junk tires to Casings in Catskill.

Kayla Rexford: 62 So. Mud Lane: currently has 14 cars and 47 tires.

Bookkeeper/Budget Officer Don Pierro informed the Board he was working on year end reports. He is preparing for the AUD. received 3 RFQ's. The Fund Balance is dwindling. Mr. Pierro stated that he, Councilmember Brandow and the new Supervisor Mike Pirrone will be working on this.

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Mr. Pierro went over the following Budget Transfers with the Board:

Budget Transfers	Townwide	2021	2021	2021	Modified
	General-A	Increase	Decrease	Budget Balance	
Office Supplies	1010.4		1,000	2,250	
Outside Auditing AUD	1010.4		3,750	7,750	
Appraisals	1010.4		2,000	0	
Books	1010.4		1,000	500	
Misc. Exp.	1010.4		350	50	
P. P. E.	1010.4		750	0	
Seminars & workshops	1010.4		500	0	
Consult/steno	1110.4		600	150	
Seminars/Workshops	1110.4		1,250	250	
Dues & Subscriptions	1110.4	50		2,050	
Postage	1110.4		1,600	1,400	
Seminars/Workshops	1220.4		500	0	
Court Security	1110.4		1,000	4,000	
Tax Collector	1330.1		1,000	0	
Postage	1330.4			2,250	
Office Supplies	1330.4	1,600		2,350	
Books	1355.4		400	0	
Dues & Subscriptions	1355.4	100		275	
Data Collectors	1355.4	500		6,500	
Misc. Prop Appraisals	1355.4		3,500	0	
Postage	1355.4		600	100	
Reval – Consult	1355.4		750	2,250	
Office Supplies	1410.4		750	150	
Postage	1410.4		400	550	
Seminars & workshops	1410.4		700	100	
Software	1410.4		800	100	
Other Legal	1420.4		3,000	64,500	
Elec. & Water	1610.41		2,000	10,250	
Copy Mach. Main/Supp.	1610.42	1,600		4,500	
Build Exp	1610.43	40,325		45,325	
Office Water	1610.44		700	800	
Postage Meter-Main & ser	1610.45		1,000	800	
Copy Paper- All Dept.'S	1610.46		2,000	1,000	
Generator Main.	1610.48		1,000	2,250	
Central DP= Server Parts	1680.4		2,750	16,000	
Unallocated Ins	1910.4		3,000	30,750	
Judgements & claims	1950.4		2,500	0	
Contingency Exp.	1990.4		5,750	0	
License & fees	5010.4	300		500	
Equip. Repair & Main.	5130.4	3,000		50	
Social Security	9010.8			50,000	
Disability ins	9030.8			33,000	
	9055.8	325		1,115	
Total		47,800		47,800	

On the motion of Councilmember Mary H. Brandow seconded by Councilmember Michael Ragaini the following **RESOLUTION #2021-51** to adopt the suggested Budget Transfers listed above was adopted as follows. Ayes- 5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Bookkeeper/Budget Officer Pierro informed the Board that the Supervisor elect Michael N. Pirrone is interested in having a newsletter.

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

The Town Board discussed the payment of the lease. It was suggested that a portion of the 2019 lease be paid, as well as the 2020 and 2021 and 2022.

Councilmember Mary H. Brandow made motion seconded by Councilmember Anthony Paluch to pay \$57,789 on the lease. Ayes-4 (Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes- 1(Butler) Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. made a motion to pay \$71,816 on the lease, there was no second.

Councilmember Michael Ragaini made a motion seconded by Councilmember Shannon Spinner to sign the one-year Contract between the Town of Athens and (GCEMS) Greene County Emergency Medical Systems, Inc., at a total of \$24,226.00; accordingly, 1/3 on January 1st, 1/3 on April 1st, and 1/3 on July 1st. Ayes- 5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Court Clerk Ruth Wittlinger asked the Supervisor if there was a Town Covid 19 Protocol for employees.

Supervisor Butler informed her that we did not have our own written procedure.

Almost everyone in the building wears masks, sanitizes their hands on their own. If they get sick they quarantine at home, after being tested and telling their immediate Supervisors.

Councilmember Shannon Spinner made a motion seconded by Councilmember Mary H. Brandow to approve the minutes of November 15, 2021 as read. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

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

Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss a personal issue. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0 (8:19)

Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. made a motion seconded by Councilmember Michael Ragaini to come out of Executive Session. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0 (8:45)

Councilmember Michael Ragaini made a motion seconded by Councilmember Mary H. Brandow to offer the extra Code Enforcement position to John Cashin starting January 3, 2022, at \$21.50 (and 1950 to current person). Ayes-4(Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Spinner) Noes-1(Paluch) Abstentions-0

As there was no further information to come before the meeting a motion to adjourn was made by Councilmember Shannon Spinner and seconded by Councilmember Mary H. Brandow. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0 Meeting adjourned at 8:51 pm.