

REGULAR MEETING – ATHENS TOWN BOARD – October 18, 2021

Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. called the regular meeting of the Athens Town Board to order on October 18, 2021 at the Village Volunteer Fire House on Third Street, at 7:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

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

These people were also present; Attorney George McHugh; Bookkeeper/Budget Officer Donald Piero; Code Enforcement Officer Albert Gasparini; Michael Pirrone; Maureen Wilk; Cory Coager; Tim Mercer; Barb Trembacz; Theresa Cardinale; Fran McCusker; Lynn Brunner; Cari Gardner; Don Gardner; Robert Brunner; Carol Pfister; Henry M. Jaen; Giuseppina Agovino; L. Agovino; Patrick Doyle and Mary Garvey.

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

General Abstract #20, vouchers #471 through #494 inclusive for \$13,397.37.

Highway Abstract #19 Voucher #150 for \$516.86.

Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. called Kevin Park and Maureen Wilk forward.

Mr. Park spoke about an easement that has been granted on Bambi Lane, right where he says there is a wetland area. The man, who was granted the easement, had no paper work. Mr. Park felt that he should have been digging in the middle of the road not where it is always wet.

Supervisor Butler stated that he checked with the County and this is not considered a wetland.

Discussion followed. Highway Superintendent John Farrell reported that he was called by County Legislator Ed Bloomer, and went out to Bambi Lane to see what was going on. He in turn got in touch with the Town Attorney George McHugh.

Mr. Park stated that this hole was filled in with big rocks. Discussion continued. Mr. Park and Miss Wilk left soon after.

Patrick Doyle was called up next. He told everyone that that the Flint Mine Project is a two (2) Hundred million dollar project. They submitted the Pilot application in September, and it will be the same process as Cocksackie. Now they are going through the Sub-division process but they have a septic issue. They have hired Lamont Engineering which is going to cost another 10 to 15 thousand dollars.

Supervisor Butler stated that he wants to go over the Host Agreement with Rene' VanSchaack.

Department Heads:

Highway Superintendent John J. Farrell reported that he submitted the paperwork for the speed limit on Howard Hall Road. It could take up to a year to hear back from the State.

Clean up Day is all set for October 30 from 8:30 to 12:30 at the Town Highway Garage.

The new hire received his full class B CDL.

The drainage job in Lime Street Hamlet is completed.

They installed an under drain on Schoharie Turnpike West of Vosenkill Road.

They have done 2 driveway pipe upgrades.

They worked with the Village on a broken Sewer on Route 385.

Talked to Mr. Okonksi about cleaning up rock when it dries up.

New #1 waiting to hear back from OGS on when the dealer will send it to up fitter.

Old truck needed new power steering lines.

**Code Enforcement Officer Albert Gasparini** reported the following:

Issued 8 building permits. Did 14 Building Inspections.  
Issued 1 Certificate of Occupancy. Answered 11 Certificates of Occupancy Search Requests.  
**Rustic Cabin on Poetic Mountain Creek**, Dresser Properties, Inc. Athens Court Appearance Ticket date has been moved to December 2, 2021 from the request of property owner's attorney because of filing an Article 78.

**Attorney George McHugh** advised Albert and the Board that the Article 78 for the Dresser property was only an excuse.

**An inspection was done of the 9W Black Horse Farmstand's "Waste Holding Tank."**  
Subdivision of Farmstand property is on hold with **Flint Mine Solar Project** until septic system is brought into compliance because the system has failed.

Giuseppina Agovino asked Mr. Gasparini if this was going to happen to all farmstands. He explained again that this was happening because this system has failed.

**New owners of Budget In and Suites** have been before the Planning Board in July and haven't submitted the necessary papers to the Planning Board yet. Work has been done on the property buildings without approval from the Planning Board. Buildings have been retagged with "Order To Vacate" papers dated back to 10/12/2017. Manager of property has been notified to stop work on buildings and reattach sheathing to all building openings.

**The Assessor's written report was received as well:**

**Assessor's Clerk** has been very busy with the public answering questions on school taxes.

**She is still working** on organizing all the normal files along with exemption files and keeping them up to date, and this will be an ongoing process.

**They continue working** on all sales that they have received, also split and merges.

**The Assessor continues** to update their file with information from the previous data collector along with MLS listings and sales verification that they receive. She continues to receive emails and calls wanting an estimate of value for potential new construction.

**She is also reviewing** the new construction via the building permits and setting values thereon accordingly.

**Bookkeeper/Budget Officer Don Pierro** presented the payroll list and the Holiday list for 2022 to be voted on. There will be 12 holidays for 2022.

**Councilmember Michael Ragaini made a motion** seconded by Councilmember Mary H. Brandow to **approve the minutes of October 4, 2021 as read.** Ayes-4 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Spinner) Abstentions-0

**Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr.** made a motion seconded by Councilmember Mary H. Brandow to **remove David Levey from the Board of Assessment and Review.** Ayes-4(Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Spinner) Abstentions-0

**Councilmember Mary H. Brandow made a motion** seconded by Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. to hold the minutes of October 6, 2021. Ayes-4(Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Spinner) Abstentions-0

Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. made a motion seconded by Councilmember Anthony Paluch to appoint the following people to a three (3) year term each to the Athens Community Foundation Advisory Board as a member: Anita Miller; Lucy Michener; and Maureen Murphy. Ayes-4(Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Spinner) Abstentions-0

Councilmember Michael Ragaini made a motion seconded by Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. that Attorney George McHugh gives a written response to the Attorney for the Dresser Property (Peck) who filed an Article 78 against the Town of Athens. Ayes-4(Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Spinner) Abstentions-0

Councilmember Mary H. Brandow made a motion seconded by Councilmember Anthony Paluch to meet with the Village on money that is due. Ayes-2 (Brandow; Paluch) Noes-2 (Butler; Ragaini) Absent-(Spinner) Abstentions-0 No Vote

As there was no further business to come before the meeting a motion to adjourn was made by Councilmember Michael Ragaini seconded by Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. Ayes-4(Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Spinner) Abstentions-0

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 pm.