

REGULAR MEETING – ATHENS TOWN BOARD – September 20, 2021

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

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

These people were also present: Attorney George McHugh; Bookkeeper/ Budget Officer Don Pierro; Code Enforcement Officer Albert Gasparini; Barbara Trembac; Michael Pirrone; Joanne Higgins; Nelson Jr.; Lynn Brunner; Nancy Poylo; Gail Lasher; Gail Lasher; Susan Brady; Sheila Brady; Lawrence Styles; Timothy Mercer; Kathy Jackson; Robert Brunner; Susan Grilli; Patricia Fleming; Carol & Chris Pfister; Donald & Cari Gardner; Patrice Miller; M.K. Garvey; Mary Ann & Richard Peters and Josh Lipsman.

The following bills were audited by the Board and ordered paid.
General Abstract #18, vouchers #417 through #437 inclusive for **\$14,735.39**.

Resident Joanne Higgins of 429 Howard Hall Road (County Rte. 53) came to speak about vehicles speeding up and down this road. Her elderly father-in-law walks across the road to get his mail, and she is afraid he is going to get hit.

Supervisor Butler advised her that generally when a road is not posted, it is 55mph.

Highway Superintendent Farrell informed her that it is a County Road, and asked her if she had a copy of an e-mail or anything from the County. After speaking with Mrs. Higgins, Superintendent Farrell advised the Board that he had to speak with them at County tomorrow, so he would start the process.

Highway Superintendent John J. Farrell told the Board that they had worked on the drainage for, and had black topped Cold Spring Road.

John stated that he spoken with Greene County Solid Wasted about Clean-up Day and they are tentatively looking at the end of October: probably October 30, at the Town Highway Garage.

Code Enforcement Officer Albert Gasparini reported the following: Three (3) building permits were issued; 16 building inspections were done; Three (3) Certificates of Occupancies were issued: {2Pre-made cabins at Treetopia Adventure, LLC, Campground} (formerly Indian Ridge Campground) [House at 73 Lisa Lane in Sleepy Hollow] Certificates of Compliance- 3 for 1 garage 2 decks. Certificates of Occupancy Search Request-8

Notes: (Short Term Rental Certificate was not renewed) - **Rustic Cabin on Poetic Mountain Creek, Dresser Properties, Inc.** Athens Court Appearance Ticket date has been moved to October 16, 2021 because of Court date change for Dresser Properties, Inc. in filing an Article 78.

2) **House at 9567 Route 9W, 2nd Notice of Violation of Expiration of Temporary Certificate of Occupancy** was issued. He spoke w/Contractor that was to finish renovation of house.

Homeowner hasn't hired the new contractor yet.

Suspension of building permit BP 21-43 as no contractor has been hired yet.

Stop Work Order issued on 9567 Route 9W for no building permit, and for removing large front porch roof sheathing.

An inspection was done of the 9w Black Horse Farm stand's "waste holding tank." Farm Stand property is to be sub-divided from the Black Horse Farm land in the Sub-division of land for the Flint Mine Solar Project.

Discussion followed on septic systems.

Town Office: Councilmember Michael Ragaini stated that he would like to see the numbers from the last feasibility study.

Supervisor Butler informed him that with the original study, we met with the Board and answered questions.

We need an idea and scope of work before we get to involved.

Ambulance contract: Board members decided to accept the ambulance contract with Catskill for two (2) years.

Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. made a motion seconded by Councilmember Michael Ragaini to accept the ambulance contract with Catskill. Ayes-3 (Butler; Ragaini; Paluch Noes-0 Absent-2 (Brandow; Spinner) Abstentions-0

Supervisor Butler spoke about potential changes to be made to the Code Enforcement staffing.

The Board discussed an easement on Bambi Lane so electric cable can be buried for a homeowner.

Councilmember Michael Ragaini made a motion seconded by Councilmember Anthony Paluch that an easement be drawn up by our Attorney and that the Supervisor sign it so that a homeowner can bury his electric wire from the house to the electric pole, alongside of Bambi Lane. Ayes-3 (Butler; Ragaini; Paluch) Noes-0 Absent-2 (Brandow; Spinner) Abstentions-0

At this time the public was asked if they had questions, statements or discussion that they wished to make on the current building or a new building.

Several people spoke about renovating the current building, rather than spending the money for a new building, land, plans and all that goes into that.

They also didn't want to lose a piece of Athens history.

Most of those in attendance were interested in the cost differences between the "old" and the "new".

Supervisor Butler advised them, that in 2017 or 2018 the Town paid to have a feasibility study done of the building, including the structural integrity, along with a basic design.

As there was no further business to come before the meeting a motion to adjourn was made by Councilmember Michael Ragaini seconded by Councilmember Anthony Paluch. Ayes-3 (Butler; Ragaini; Paluch) Noes-0 Absent-2 (Brandow; Spinner) Abstentions-0

Meeting Adjourned at 8:03 pm.