

AATHENS TOWN BOARD – REGULAR MEETING – May 17, 2021

The regular meeting of the Athens Town Board was called to order on May 17, 2021 at 7:00 pm, at the Village of Athens Volunteer Fire House, 39 Third St., by Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. 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; 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; Barbara Trembacz; Francis McCusker; Michael Campbell; Kurt Andermach; Theresa Cardinale; Linda Ferrucci and Robert Brunner.

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

General Abstract #10, vouchers #203 through #204 inclusive for \$20,887.99.

Highway Abstract #10, vouchers #73 through #79 inclusive for \$3,547.58.

Abstract #9, voucher #196 paid 5/18/21, check 17681; (It was on hold.)

Code Enforcement Officer Albert Gasparini informed the Board that he sent a Notice of Violation Letter registered mail to a home owner for building a deck without a building permit, on Gypsy Point Road.

Short Term Rental: Albert advised the Board that Mr. Peck's Cabin on Potic Mountain Road, (which he has one certificate for) he has had since 2017. Mr. Peck has sent e-mails, checks, letters etc. to renew this illegal Short Term Rental, but has only received violation letters in return. Mr. Gasparini will be getting these records together for the Supervisor and the Attorney.

Highway Superintendent John J. Farrell reported that there was a good showing for Cleanup Day.

The Highway crew has been black topping; patching; and prepping roads for work.

The Engineer has been building the culvert structure, however Mr. Farrell thinks that it won't be ready in time, he suggested that we purchase it this year and store it for installation next year.

Highway Superintendent Farrell suggested selling the mower this year on Auctions International; he stated he would bring the paperwork in on June 7th.

Bookkeeper/Budget Officer Don Pierro presented proposals from Sickler, Torchia Allen & Churchill, CPA's PC for the following: The Tax Collecting Officers; Fiscal Oversight Responsibility of the Town Clerk; and the Annual Financial Report. (AUD) This will require 2 departmental reviews. Estimates will be given at the next meeting.

Mr. Pierro reported that Councilmember Anthony Paluch, Councilmember Mary H. Brandow and our Negotiator Elayne Gold ~~met~~^{will} to work on the Highway Union Contract. They made some language changes. They added in longevity periods of 10, 15, 20, 25 and 30 years. They also changed the Contract to a calendar year Jan-Dec.

Discussion followed.

On the motion of Councilmember Tony Paluch seconded by Councilmember Mary H. Brandow the following RESOLUTION #2021-31 was adopted as follows:

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE TOWN OF ATHENS HIGHWAY UNIT CONTRACT;

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Athens hereby determines that it is in the public interest and purpose to ratify and approve the Town of Athens Teamsters Highway Unit Contract from June 1, 2021 to May 31, 2024 and,

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WHEREAS, the Town of Athens team undertook the process of negotiating a new contract which currently expires on May 31, 2021 and,

WHEREAS, this Board Resolution provides as back up a Memorandum of Agreement agreed to by all parties participating, along with a detailed letter from the Town of Athens Counsel for this Union contract negotiation and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Town Board of Athens hereby ratifies the Teamsters Highway Unit Contract commencing from June 1, 2021 through May 31, 2024 on this date May 17, 2021 and that the foregoing resolution shall become effective the first day (1st) of June in the year 2021. This resolution was adopted as follows: Ayes-4 (Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-1 (Butler) Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Councilmember Mary H. Brandow made a motion seconded by Councilmember Anthony Paluch to make the following Memorandum of Understanding proposing to change the Union Contract ending period from May 31, 2024 to December 31, 2024 to coincide with the Town of Athens Calendar year end December 31, 202X. 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 approve the minutes of May 3, 2021 as read. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

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

A new list of potential building permit fees was presented. This will be brought up again at the next meeting.

Residents Michael Campbell and Kurt Andermach asked about 911. They also handed out a letter from a resident who couldn't make it to the meeting. Their concern is with condition of the road. According to them, it is in very bad shape, and ^{Ays} feels that a fire truck or emergency vehicle would not be able to navigate this road without damage. They are looking for someone to fix this road. Also asked who was responsible for 911.

Mr. Campbell's main concern is the Peck cabin, which is in violation of the Short Term Rental because there is no water, electric or bathroom facility. He feels it is a health hazard. People park out on the main road and nobody can get past them. Discussion followed.

As there was no further business to come before the meeting a motion to adjourn was made by Councilmember Anthony Paluch seconded by Councilmember Shannon Spinner. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Meeting adjourned at 8:03 pm.