

ATHENS TOWN BOARD – REGULAR MEETING – May 3, 2021

The regular meeting of the Athens Town Board was called to order on May 3, 2021 at 7:00 pm, in the Athens Community Center Gym 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 and Town Clerk Linda M. Stacey. (Highway Superintendent John Farrell was absent.)

These people were also present: Bookkeeper Don PIERRO; Chris Pfister; Barbara Trembacz; Fran McCusker; Michael Pirrone; Theresa Cardinale; Sheila Brady; Tom Satterlee; Merrill & Ellen Roth; Nancy Poylo; Annika Vogt; Robert Brunner; Marla Butler and Patrick Doyle.

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

General Abstract #9, vouchers #176 through #202 inclusive for \$19,799.96.

Highway Abstract #9, vouchers #68 through #79 inclusive for \$6,043.81

Trust & Custodian (was Agency)

Abstract #1, voucher #1- Packham Industries \$390.00

Abstract #1, voucher #1- Verizon \$715.00

Abstract #1, voucher #1 – Freepoint Solar \$715.00

The Notice of Public Hearing for the Proposed Local Law #1 of 2021 was read by Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. as it appeared in the Official Newspaper.

Councilmember Anthony Paluch made a motion to open the public hearing seconded by Councilmember Micheal Ragaini. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Councilmember Michael Ragaini made a motion to close the public hearing seconded by Councilmember Anthony Paluch. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

On the motion of Councilmember Michael Ragaini seconded by Councilmember Anthony Paluch the following RESOLUTION #2021-29 Adopting Local Law No. 1 for 2021 was adopted as follows:

Local Law No. 1 of the Year 2021

A local law Amending Chapter 159 of the Athens Town Code, by replacing Section 159-3 (entitled “Grievance Day”) in its entirety.

Be it enacted by the Town Board of the Town of Athens as follows:

Town Code Chapter 159, Section 159-3 (entitled “Grievance Day”) is hereby amended and replaced in its entirety as follows:

Section 159-3. Grievance Day.

All grievances addressed to assessments of real property within the Town of Athens shall be heard by the Board by of Assessment Review of the Town of Athens on the fourth Thursday in May each year.

Final adoption May 3, 2021, designated as local law No. 1 of 2021.

Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. read the Notice of Public Hearing for the Comprehensive Plan as it appeared in the Official Newspaper.

Councilmember Shannon Spinner made a motion seconded by Councilmember Mary H. Brandow to open the public hearing. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Resident Michael Pirone, a member of the Village/Town Comprehensive Committee stated that it is very important to the Town. We should approve it.

Joshua Lipsman, Village Trustee and member of the Village/Town Comprehensive Committee said that this update is intended to be a vision for the future. He further stated that the Village Implementation Committee had five (5) business people contribute.

Resident Maria Butler asked the Board members how they felt. What did they think the Pros and cons were? No one from the Board spoke.

Supervisor Butler stated that people's issues have to change.

Committee Member Chris Pfister said that the Committee will pick and choose the issues, and set some aside for later.

Committee Member Ellen Roth said that this Implementation Committee has a good chance of completing what they start.

Councilmember Michael Ragaini made a motion seconded by Councilmember Mary H. Brandow to close the public hearing. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Patrick Doyle of Flint Mine Solar came before the board to give an update.

Mr. Doyle gave new maps to the Town Clerk for the Board. (Article 10 maps.)

In August the Siting Board is required to give them what they asked for. Quite a few changes were made to their layouts. They need to make a choice between Host Agreement or Pilot. IDA or Not? Before Article 10.

Town Board Members and the Bookkeeper reviewed and discussed engineer submittals, from MJ Engineering; Delaware Engineering and Ryan Biggs.

Councilmember Anthony Paluch made a motion seconded by Councilmember Mary H. Brandow to choose Delaware Engineering. Ayes-4 (Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-1 (Butler) Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Court Schedule: Court Clerk Vee Carl submitted her two week notice, and this will leave the court clerk staff shorthanded until a new clerk is hired.

It was suggested that Senior Court Clerk Marcia Pourro come in ½ hour earlier (8:30 am), or leave a little later.

Open Board Items: Permit fees were reviewed and discussed.

Councilmember Michael Ragaini made a motion seconded by Councilmember Anthony Paluch to approve the minutes of April 19, 2021 as read. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0

On the motion of Councilmember Michael Ragaini seconded by Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. the following **RESOLUTION #2021-30** to adopt the Village/Town Comprehensive Plan was adopted as follows:

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Athens hereby determines that it is in the public interest and purpose to review and approve the final Comprehensive Plan after the Public Hearing on May 3, 2021 and,

WHEREAS, the Town and Village of Athens undertook a project to update their 2007 Joint Comprehensive Plan. This new plan, initially begun in 2020 and referred to as the Village/Town Comprehensive Plan (“The Plan”), reflects the issues, trends, and needs of the current community. It is based in part on data, analysis, and public input conveyed to a volunteer Village/Town Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee, (“Committee”). This Plan should be considered as a collective community vision that provides a roadmap to guide future projects, programs, and decision-making and,

WHEREAS, it is true that Community input was very important to the development of this Plan. Although developed in the middle of a Covid-19 Pandemic, a great deal of public input was still collected from a Town Wide survey, a joint Village/Town Board Workshop, input from the Committee, and public hearings and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Town Board of the Town of Athens hereby held a public hearing on Monday May 3, 2021, closed the public hearing and voted to approve the Comprehensive Plan this date May 3, 2021 and that the foregoing resolution shall become effective this 3rd day of May in the year 2021.

Ayes-3 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini) Noes-2 (Paluch; Spinner) Absent-0 Abstentions-0

Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. made a motion to go into Executive Session seconded by Councilmember Shannon Spinner to discuss a personnel issue. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0 (7:44 pm)

No decisions were made.

Supervisor Robert F. Butler, Jr. made a motion to adjourn the Executive Session and reconvene the regular meeting, seconded by Councilmember Shannon Spinner. Ayes-5 (Butler; Brandow; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-0 Abstentions-0 (8:00 pm)

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

