

REGULAR MEETING – ATHENS TOWN BOARD – May 2, 2022

The regular meeting of the Athens Town Board was called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag on May 2, 2022, led by Supervisor Michael N. Pirrone, at the Village of Athens Volunteer Fire House located at 39 Third St.

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

These people were also present: Attorney George McHugh; Judge Constance Pazin; Judge Tim Mercer; Fran McCusker; Theresa Cardinale; Tom Satterlee; Robert Brunner; Mary K. Garvey and Mike Campbell.

Councilmember Michael Ragaini made a motion seconded by Councilmember Shannon Spinner to approve the following vouchers that were audited by the Board;

General Abstract #9, vouchers #185 through #208 inclusive for **\$27,596.77**.

Highway Abstract #9, vouchers #62 through #67 inclusive for **\$781.17**.

Ayes-4(Pirrone; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Brandow) Abstentions-0

Councilmember Shannon Spinner made a motion seconded by Councilmember Anthony

Paluch to approve the minutes of April 18, 2022, as read. Ayes-4 (Pirrone; Ragaini; Paluch;

Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Brandow) Abstentions-0

Councilmember Shannon Spinner made a motion seconded by Councilmember Michael

Ragaini to approve and accept the Town Clerk's monthly report for April. Ayes-4(Pirrone;

Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Brandow) Abstentions-0

Supervisor Pirrone shared a letter with the Board, that he sent to the Greene County

Administrator and Greene County Legislator Ed Bloomer, requesting ARPA Funds from the County. The letter involves two projects: Please see below:

The first is Flats Road Ext. with a length of 8,050 ft. x width of 20 ft. The estimated cost is \$161,616, consisting of \$114,302 for materials, and \$47,314 for equipment, labor and related.

The second project is smaller, Thorpe Road. The estimated cost is \$47,966 with materials at \$30,632 and \$17,334 in labor, equipment and related.

Climate Smart in the Town of Athens: This is a free support program called Local

Champions, which brings together a community volunteer with municipal government.

Paige Ruane and Nicole Sallèse are co-directors of this program, and they do this for up to ten towns/villages and bring them together as a cohort for trainings. They are backed by a non-profit, so there is no cost to the municipality. They partner with Cornell Cooperative Extension Columbia-Greene, so they bring in their technical assistance.

The point of the program is to give a leg-up into NYS's Climate Smart Communities program. They help the municipality to identify which climate related actions a municipality has already done, and which are most relevant to the municipality and could be put on a roadmap. They facilitate this, but it would be very much customized by the town's team, so it makes sense for Athens. They train up a volunteer, in this case Nicole Sallèse, who would be dedicated as a resource for Athens' climate work.

They developed this program because they know local municipalities are tight staffed and local officials have a ton on their plates. They saw a need to develop human capacity to tackle issues like flooding, making building more resilient and efficient, hazard mitigation with increasingly intense weather disturbances. Vanessa Bertozzi: E-mail:

vanessa@climateactionhv.org Local Champions Phone: 917-692-4564

Discussion followed on Climate Smart. The Local Champions can be anybody. We could put charging stations in, for electric vehicles. Grants are available.

Councilmember Michael Ragaini made a motion seconded by Councilmember Shannon Spinner to move ahead with the Climate Smart Project. Ayes-3 (Pirrone; Ragaini; Spinner) Noes-1 (Paluch) Absent-1 (Brandow) Abstentions-0
Supervisor Pirrone will contact the program leaders.

The Town Board held a preliminary discussion and review of the Celebration Venue proposal. Attorney George McHugh began going over the proposed local law.

Councilmember Anthony Paluch informed Attorney George McHugh that he agreed with Planning Board Chairman Scott Fischer's idea of a "special use permit."

Attorney McHugh continued to review the proposed local law.

Councilmember Anthony Paluch made a motion seconded by Councilmember Shannon Spinner to have Attorney McHugh redraft the proposed local law for the next meeting and then schedule a public hearing. Ayes-4 (Pirrone; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Brandow) Abstentions-0

Supervisor Pirrone brought up about the Town of Athens paying the Village of Athens Lease for 2022. The Board consensus was to wait until all Board members were present.

Resident Michael Campbell came before the Board, to talk about the status Quarry Road. Discussion followed.

Councilmember Anthony Paluch made a motion seconded by Councilmember Shannon Spinner to pay Nolan and Susan Pazin \$118,08, the cost for the ZBA mailings they had to complete. Ayes-4 (Pirrone; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Brandow) Abstentions-0

Councilmember Anthony Paluch asked about the Code of Ethics for the Town.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:43 P.M.