

The regular meeting of the Athens Town Board was held on November 21, 2022, at 7:00 p. m., at the Village of Athens Volunteer Fire Department on 39 Third Street, Athens, NY and was called to order by Supervisor Michael N. Pirrone with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

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

These people were also present: Highway Superintendent John J. Farrell; Finance Officer/Budget Officer Don Pierro; Code Enforcement Albert Gasparini; Diane Eastwick; Lee Palmateer; Barb Trembacz; Merrill Roth; Robert Brunner; Richard Garvey; Mary K. Garvey; Paulette Miller-Travis and Michael Campbell;

Lee Palmateer addressed the Board on Flint Mine Solar's proposed PILOT Agreement. He advised those present, that in a draft Statement of Findings, the Greene County IDA ("GCIDA" or "IDA") proposes a PILOT Agreement for the Flint Mine Solar ("FMS") power generation plant. He stated reasons, and respectfully requested that the Town of Athens reject the IDA's proposal. He feels that the plant will have considerable negative impact and will bring virtually no benefit to Coxsackie or Athens, except one - tax revenue. He further stated that the IDA has no independent legal authority to grant the PILOT or other tax exemptions to FMS because it lacks requisite control of the project. FMS applied to the IDA for assistance. The IDA is negotiating with FMS, but formal approval must come from each Town.

Councilmember Anthony Paluch made a motion seconded by Councilmember Michael Ragaini to approve the following vouchers that were audited by the Board: **General Abstract #22**, vouchers #537 through #555 inclusive for **\$42,885.42**. **Highway Abstract #22**, vouchers #168 through #170 inclusive for **\$34,006.30**. Ayes- 3 (Pirrone; Ragaini; Paluch) Noes-0 Absent-2 (Brandow; Spinner) Abstentions-0

Councilmember Anthony Paluch made a motion seconded by Councilmember Michael Ragaini to accept the **minutes of September 6, 2022**, as read. Ayes- 3 (Pirrone; Ragaini; Paluch) Noes-0 Absent-2 (Brandow; Spinner) Abstentions-0

Highway Superintendent John J. Farrell reported that one member of the Highway Department is attending driving school. The shop floor is going to be sealed. Normal tree work continues to be done.

The Assessor's written Report was reviewed by the Board. There will be a public hearing in December, held by the Greene County Legislature to prepare to adopt a local option of the Senior Citizen and Persons with Disability with limited income the maximum increase level to \$34,000 for a 50% exemption to \$43,299.99 a 5% exemption based on the sliding scale.

Code Enforcement Officer Albert Gasparini reported that he had issued 8 Building Permits and did 18 Building Inspections. There were 4 Certificate of Occupancy Search requests Freeport Solar is currently before the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Finance Officer/ Budget Officer Don Pierro gave the Statement of Financial Activities (also referred to as the “Supervisor’s Report) for the month of October 2022. All Bank statements and Cash reconciliations were completed for the month ending October 2022, with no exceptions.

The General Long Term Debt Group of Accounts (Schedule W in the AUD) consists of Net Pension Liability (\$2,155), Compensated Absences (\$97,952) both set at 12/31/2021 per the Annual Financial Report. Additionally, the singular town of Athens debt Instrument (Bonds payable) shows a current balance of (\$566,857.70) for the Town Garage addition which runs through September 2032. We have completed our Budget Workshops. The Public Hearing is scheduled for November 10th And once the Public Hearing is opened and closed the Board will then adopt the 2023 Budget that same night in view of the November 20, 2022, New York State budget adoption deadline. The Special District Levy information has been received and reviewed from the D.R. Evarts Library, Leeds Hose Company #1, and we are still waiting for applicable information from West Athens Fire Protection District.

Don Pierro, Finance Officer/ Budget Officer went over the Town Handbook proposed changes. See below:

Section 701 - Set up Holiday Schedule for 2023.

Section 702 – readjust the chart lines in the vacation chart so that length of service descriptions line up with number of hours to be credited.

Section 704 – Personal Leave- A week employee will be credited with 18 hours of paid personal leave on the first day of January of each year for the subsequent year.

Supervisor Pirrone reminded Board members of Rick Rabideau’s presentation for LGE: Local Government Efficiency Grant Program (state money) which provides technical assistance & grants for intermunicipal projects targeting shared opportunities, cost savings, and delivery of efficient, quality services. The program helps to keep expenses down for municipalities. The Village and Town would be responsible for 25% each of the cost, which is \$50,000, which would be \$12,500 each. There is no deadline to apply. Mr. Rabideau would like the Town Board to invite a representative from the NYS Division of Local Government Services to attend a future meeting to explain the program. A possible webinar will be investigated.

The **Greene County Emergency Services** Contract was received in the amount of \$25,225.

Councilmember Ragaini made a motion to approve and sign Contract.

There was no second as Councilmember Paluch wanted time to review the contract

This was held over for the next meeting.

Resident Michael Campbell is waiting on a letter from our Attorney on an illegal Road.

Supervisor Michael N. Pirrone made a motion to go into **Executive Session to discuss litigation** between Sleepy Hollow v. the Town of Coxsackie and Town of Athens, et al., seconded by Councilmember Michael Ragaini. (Time- 7:49 pm.) Ayes-3 (Pirrone; Ragaini; Paluch) Noes-0 Absent-2 (Brandow; Spinner).

A motion to adjourn the Executive Session was made by Councilmember Anthony Paluch, seconded by Councilmember Michael Ragaini. Ayes-3 (Pirrone; Ragaini; Paluch) Noes-0 Absent-2 (Brandow; Spinner). (Time 8:30 pm.)

A motion to adjourn the regular meeting was made by Councilmember Michael Ragaini, seconded by Councilmember Anthony Paluch. Ayes-3 (Pirrone; Ragaini; Paluch) Noes-0 Absent-2 (Brandow; Spinner). Meeting adjourned at 8:31 pm.