

REGULAR MEETING – ATHENS TOWN BOARD – December 19, 2022

The regular meeting of the Athens Town Board was held on December 19, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. at the Village of Athens Volunteer Fire Department, on 39 Third St., 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; Councilmember Shannon Spinner and Town Clerk Linda M. Stacey. (Councilmember Mary H. Brandow was absent.)

These people were also present: Attorney George McHugh; Highway Superintendent John J. Farrell; Financial Officer/ Budget Officer Donald Pierro; Paula Butler; Robert Brunner; Mary K. Garvey; Lee Palmateer and Patrick Doyle of Flint Mine Solar.

A motion was made by Councilmember Michael Ragaini seconded by Councilmember Shannon Spinner, to approve the following vouchers that were audited by the Board:

General Abstract #24, vouchers #572 through #605 inclusive for **\$69,441.50**.

Highway Abstract #24, vouchers #185 through #190 inclusive for **\$2,936.07**.

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 the minutes of December 5, 2022 as read. Ayes-4 (Pirrone; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-1(Brandow) Abstentions-0

Highway Superintendent John J. Farrell reported that there have been 2 snow events.

The Highway crew spent two weeks trimming trees on Indian Ridge Extension.

Snow plows were washed and greased in between snow events.

Spent one day checking all town roads.

They also watched three (3) training videos from Cornell Local Roads Program.

The Town Highway Department was awarded \$12,123 from Athens Community Foundation, for a plasma cutter and Diesel Laptop diagnostic tool.

The shop floors have been done.

Assessor's written report showed that the following has been processed: 4 Town permits; 6 Village deeds resulting with sales in the range of \$2,500-225,000; 8 Town deeds resulting with sales in the range of \$10-975,00; 7 Village tax map revisions; 3 Town tax map revisions. She is continuing to update her files with data changes received from the data collectors, property owners, and adding pictures for the 2023 systematic analytics.

The renewals for the Senior Citizens and Persons with Disability with limited income, all have a March 1st, deadline. The State now has new updated renewal forms to be used.

The Code Enforcement Officer reported that a visual Inspection was done in the month of December of the registered Junkyards in the Town of Athens. The three registered junkyards have been maintained and are recommended for renewal for operation for the 2023 calendar year. Junkyards listed below.

Scott Fischer: Junkyard location is Flats Road Ext. There are currently no cars and no tires.

Robert O'Connell (B & B Garage): Junkyard is located at 292 Route 385 currently has 75 cars and 40 tires. (He takes junk tires to Casings in Catskill.)

Kavla Rexford: Junkyard location is 62 S. Mud Lane: Currently has 14 cars and 7 tires.

Councilmember Anthony Paluch made a motion seconded by Councilmember Michael Ragaini to *approve the Code Enforcement Officer's report and to reissue the Junkyard Licenses to Scott Fischer, Robert O'Connell and Kavla Rexford for 2023.* Ayes-4 (Pirrone; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-1(Brandow) Abstentions-0

Financial/Budget Officer Don Pierro reported that the Appropriated Fund Balances of General A (\$229,749.00) and B (\$90,728.00) were used in the Budget Process.

The spending Plan for the Town is now 91.66% recorded and closed. The Town wide (A) Fund is 36.82% over budget in operational revenue and .84% over budget in expenditures; and as of November 30th, the fund requires zero dollars of the budgeted \$229,749.00 appropriated from fund balance year to date. The Part Town (B) Fund shows an eleven- month operational position of negative \$51,220.21 which is also absorbed by the budgeted Year End Appropriation of \$90,728.00 from the Fund Balance which would cause an operational break-even status as of December 31, 2022 projected. Thus far the B Fund needs to use \$51,220.21 of the \$90,728.00 budgeted appropriation to break even. The Highway Town wide (DA) is 8.46% over budget in revenue and 17.57% under budget expenditures. The Highway Part Town (DB) is 60.34% over budget in revenue and 58.35 over budget in expenditures due to the ARPA project work. There is a small balance due from New York State for NYS/Fed ARPA which we expect to be received in December.

The General Long Term Debt Group of Accounts 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.

The second half of Mortgage Tax for 2022 (\$97,553.04) should be received in December.

Sickler, Torchia, Allen & Churchill, CPA's, PC, Tax Collector Report for 2021 has been submitted and showed No Exceptions.

Supervisor Pirrone announced that he would like to appoint Mark Dinkelacker to the EMS/ALS Committee in January.

Councilmember Michael Ragaini made a motion seconded by Councilmember Shannon Spinner to approve of the Greene County Emergency Medical Systems, Inc. Paramedic Contract at the cost of \$25,225.00 for 2023. Ayes-4 (Pirrone; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Brandow) Abstentions-0

Councilmember Anthony Paluch made a motion seconded by Councilmember Michael Ragaini to execute the Village – Town Lease as follows: for 2023 it will be \$45,000: for 2024 it will be \$47,500: and for 2025 it will be \$50,000 which includes Annual Rent: Janitorial Fees and Utilities. Ayes-4 (Pirrone; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Brandow) Abstentions-0

An Engagement Letter was received from Sickler, Torchia, Allen & Churchill CPA's PC for the Town of Athens accounting services for 2023.

Councilmember Michael Ragaini made a motion seconded by Councilmember Shannon Spinner authorizing the Supervisor to sign the Engagement Letter for Sickler, Torchia, Allen & Churchill CPAs to perform accounting services for the Town of Athens for the Year 2023. Ayes-4 (Pirrone; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Brandow) Abstentions-0

A motion was made by Councilmember Anthony Paluch seconded by Councilmember Shannon Spinner to reappoint Lynn J. Brunner to the Board of Assessment Review from October 1, 2022, to September 30, 2027, a five-year term. Ayes-4 (Pirrone; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Brandow) Abstentions-0

Finance/Budget Officer Don Pierro spoke to the Board about three items in the Employee Handbook, that were typos or realignments on pages 22 through 24.

- 1) Section 700, page 22 the box at bottom, needed to be aligned so the hours matched the explanation of eligibility.
- 2) Section 704, page 24: Personal Leave Policy needed to be changed: Full Time 30-hour a week employees-will be credited for 18 hours of paid personal leave.
- 3) Section 701, page 22: for Part Time People with unassigned hours: Holiday Pay- A full-time employee or a part-time employee who does not work on a designated holiday but is scheduled to do so, will be paid for the day at the employee's regular daily rate of pay.

The changes to the Employee Handbook above were *approved by a motion from Councilmember Michael Ragaini* and seconded by Councilmember Shannon Spinner. Ayes-4 (Pirrone; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Brandow) Abstentions-0

Patrick Doyle of Flint Mine Solar reported that the IDA likes to work on the findings. The company reduced the acreage by 50 acres.

It was suggested to set up a citizen "Steering" (Advisory) Committee made up of two (2) or three (3) Board members from the Town, the same for the Village and the same from outside the two Boards.

Resident Lee Palmateer proposed changing the fixed percentage for inflation. You need to know the finances.

Discussion followed on the Steering Committee and the Town building. Resident Paula Butler asked who was going to pick the committee.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:56 P.M.