

The regular meeting of the Athens Town Board was called to order at 7:00 P. M., by Supervisor Michael N. Pirrone, with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, at the E. J. Arthur Elementary School at 51 Third Street, Athens, NY.

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

These people were also present: Attorney George McHugh; Finance/ Budget Officer Don Pierro; George Greiner; Mary Finneran; Patrick Doyle (Flint Mine Solar; Bill Moore-Principal – (Flint Mine Solar); Robert Panasci- Attorney (Young /Sommers) for Flint Mine Solar; Cari and Donald Gardner; Tom Satterlee; Ellen and Merrill Roth; Karen Dudley; Robert Brunner; Richard Garvey; Mary K. Garvey; Helen and David Meier; Paula Butler; John Cameron; Nora Adelman; George Stacey and Dominic Multari.

Community Update – Flint Mine Solar: Patrick Doyle-Flint Mine Solar; William Moore-Principal of Flint Mine Solar and Robert Panasci Attorney for Flint Mine Solar made a brief presentation of the key elements of the Project & Host Community Agreement (HCA). They explained the extent and size of the project and various important details, maps, schedules, etc. A public handout is available for anyone that is interested, at the Town Office.

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

2022- General Abstract #27, vouchers #630 through #638 inclusive for \$19,558.68.

2023- General Abstract #3, vouchers #28 through #61 inclusive for \$16,886.95.

Highway Abstract #2, vouchers #2 through #13 inclusive for \$33,167.26.

Trust & Custodian:

Freeport Solar-Legal-ZBA Abstract #1, voucher #1 for \$2,427.42.

Freeport Solar-ZBA- Abstract #1, voucher #1 for \$1,812.50.

Camp Catskills-PB- Abstract #1, voucher #1 for \$151.00.

Michael Ragaini, Jr.- PB-Abstract #1, voucher #1 for \$398.75.

ARX Wireless- PB- Abstract #1, voucher #1 for \$217.50

Gas Station/Convenient Store –(Dawoodani)- PB- Abstract #1, voucher #1for \$36.25.

Special Districts: Abstract #1, vouchers #1 through #4 Inclusive for \$391,536.00. see below.

*D. R. Everts Library- voucher #1 for \$148,262.00.*

*Leeds Fire-Hose #1- voucher #2 for \$43,815.00.*

*Athens Fire (Village of Athens)-voucher #3 for 90,000.00.*

*WALS-(West Athens)- voucher #4 for109,159.00.*

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 January 17, 2023, approved as read. 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 Town Clerk's report as presented. Ayes-4 (Pirrone; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Brandow) Abstentions-0

Supervisor Pirrone informed the Board and public, that Town Tax Collection has gone quite smoothly, all owners' issues have been addressed and resolved.

Highway Superintendent Farrell negotiated the “Sale of Excess Materials” road sand, \$7600, to the Town of Catskill.

Supervisor Pirrone informed the Board members that they had copies of the Real Property Tax Exemptions for Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance Workers Pursuant to Section 466-A of the Real Property Tax Law: One from the County Legislature and one from County Real Property Tax Services.

Councilmember Michael Ragaini made a motion seconded by Councilmember Shannon Spinner to hold a Public Hearing on the proposed adoption of Local Law No.1 granting a partial real property tax exemption pursuant to Real Property Tax Law section 466-a for the primary residence of volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambulance workers will be held for the Town of Athens on Tuesday February 21, 2023, at 7:00 PM at the E. J. Arthur Elementary School at 51 Third Street, Athens, NY.  
Ayes-4 (Pirrone; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Brandow) Abstentions-0

Supervisor Pirrone received a letter from the Greene County Administrator advising the Town of an article in “CountryHouseRealty.com” regarding short term rentals. This article outlines how municipalities in the surrounding regions have enacted laws that regulate short-term Rentals. As stated in the article, “Local Laws often include features like: Limits on the number of permitted non-owner-occupied rentals, residency requirements, health and safety inspections, special use permits, fees ranging from trivial to prohibitive, and in more than one instance, the number of rental days allowed per year.”  
The Town adopted Local Law #1 on April 3, 2017, Chapter 147, the Town Code that addresses the items mentioned in the article.

Town of Catskill Monitoring, Maintenance & Financials under DEC Part 360 Regulations: There is a tentative meeting on February 28, with Municipal Stakeholders Finch, Grasse, Ruso, Watts, Serrago & Pirrone and Engineer Jordan to discuss the future for the landfill.

Mary Finneran spoke about the Iroquois Enhancement by Compression Project. Ms. Finneran presented information, maps and opinions regarding Iroquois Gas Transmission System LP, Article 19, Air State Facility Permit Modifications request for their Athens, New York facility.

Ms. Finneran’s concerns centered on air quality, safety & environmental issues.

The Town of Athens is seeking a Data Collector for the Assessor Office.

The Town and Village joint meeting with NY Dept. of State, Local Service, LG Efficiency Program: They are awaiting availability of Local Area Representative.

Financial/Budget Officer, Don Pierro introduced some changes that need to be made to the Employee Handbook, that will be voted on February 21<sup>st</sup>.

Councilmember Shannon Spinner made a motion seconded by Councilmember Michael Ragaini to go into Executive Session for Legal purposes and a personnel issue. Ayes-4 (Pirrone; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Brandow) Abstentions-0 **Time: 8:20 PM**

Councilmember Michael Ragaini made a motion seconded by Councilmember Shannon Spinner to adjourn the Executive session and reconvene the regular meeting. Ayes-4 (Pirrone; Ragaini; Paluch; Spinner) Noes-0 Absent-1 (Brandow) Abstentions-0 Time: **8:56 PM**

REGULAR MEETING – ATHENS TOWN BOARD – February 6, 2023

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

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The meeting was adjourned at Time: 8:57 PM.

Community Information:

February 8: Zoning Board Meeting- EJ Arthur Elementary School.

February 20: Holiday- Office Closed.

February 21: Town Board Meeting- EJ Arthur Elementary School.

February 23: Planning Board Meeting- Municipal Building.

February 28: Landfill Stakeholders Business Meeting.

March 6: Town Board Meeting-Place to be determined.

March 8: Zoning Board Meeting- EJ Arthur Elementary School.

April 22 &29L Trooper David Brinkerhoff Memorial Race series.