

REGULAR MEETING – ATHENS TOWN BOARD

February 5, 2024

The regular meeting of the Athens Town Board was called to order on February 5, 2024, by Supervisor Michael Pirrone at 6:00pm and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. The meeting was held at the Athens Municipal Building, 2 First St.

The following were present at the meeting: Supervisor Pirrone, Council Members Bone, Paluch & Pine. Town Clerk Dinkelacker. Deputy Supervisor Lasher, Town Attorney McHugh

Absent: Council member Mary Brandow

The following people were in attendance: P. Peruzzi, FM, Mike Ragini, G. Greiner, N. Scaramwuzzino, N. Scaramwzzino, G. Dugan, B. Tremlbacz, N. Poylo, C. Pazzin, K. Dudley, V. Sherman, R. Sherman, C. Sherman, M. Black, M. Garvey.

TOWN ACTION:

A motion to appoint Virginia Sherman as Court Clerk was made by B. Pine and seconded by T. Bone. Motion passed. Ayes – 4, Noes – 0, Abstentions/Absents – 1

Virginia was introduced to the Town Board.

A motion to appoint Chris Sprague to the Zoning Board of Appeals as Alternate for the term of 6 months beginning February 6th was made by M. Pirrone Seconded by B. Pine. Discussion followed about Mr. Sprague's qualifications. Was he interviewed? What is the procedure in appointing one to the planning board and/or ZBA? The Supervisor explained due to there being a chance of not having a quorum that it would be in the best interest of ZBA and the ability to have a meeting by appointing Mr. Sprague for 6 months.

Motion passed, Ayes – 4, Noes – 0, Abstentions/Absents – 1.

VOUCHERS

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

<u>General 2023 Abstract # 26</u>	Vouchers 628 – 632	\$ 4,912.34
<u>General 2024 Abstract # 3</u>	Vouchers 18 - 47	\$ 26,683.16
<u>Highway 2024 Abstract # 3</u>	Vouchers 7 – 18	\$ 23,603.06
<u>Trust & Custodian Abstract # 1</u>	Vouchers 1 - 4	\$756,243.00

Special Districts. Athens Fire Dept., Leeds FD, WALs, DR Evarts Library

<u>Camp Catskill</u>	Abstract # 1	Voucher	1	\$ 2,816.00
<u>Culpeper</u>	Abstract # 1	Voucher	1	\$ 675.00
<u>9071 Rt 9W</u>	Abstract # 1	Voucher	1	\$ 262.00 (Stay at Lina)

The minutes from January 16, 2024, were distributed to the Town board, a motion by Bone and seconded by Pine, to accept the minutes. Motion passed, Ayes – 4, Noes – 0, Abstentions/Absents – 1.

The Town Clerk presented her report, for receipts of various fees, licenses & services, for the month of January, to the Supervisor. A motion was made by Paluch and seconded by Bone to approve the Clerks report. Motion passed. Ayes – 4, Noes – 0, Abstentions/Absents – 1.

SUPERVISOR REPORT - Legal items: See agenda.

SUPERVISOR REPORT – General items: See agenda.

Supervisor Pirrone also reported that there is a bill from I.T.S. for an extended warranty for 1 year on our server, for \$575.00. Motion by Pine and seconded by Bone to pay for the extended warranty was made. Motion passed. Ayes – 4, Noes – 0, Abstentions/Absents – 1.

PUBLIC HEARING

A motion to open for Public Hearing for BESS (Battery Energy Storage Systems), was made by Pine and seconded by Bone. Motion passed. Ayes – 4, Noes – 0, Abstentions/Absents – 1.

Discussion followed; several people stated that the law should be passed ASAP.

A question was asked about the intervener process. It was explained that would happen in the application process.

A motion to close the public hearing was made by Bone and seconded by Paluch. Motion passed. Ayes – 4, Noes – 0, Abstentions/Absents – 1.

Supervisor Pirrone reported that the draft law must be out to the board members for 10 days before voting it into Law.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION: See attached agenda.

The Next ZBA meeting will be held on 2/14 at EJA elementary school at 7pm.

The next Town Board meeting will be **Wednesday** February 21, 2024, starting 6pm

ZBA Meeting Thursday 3/14 at 6pm at EJA elementary school.

TOWN COUNCIL CONCERNS:

Council member Pine inquired about the webpage. She feels that it needs to be updated and has offered her help.

Town Clerk Dinkelacker thanked Ms. Pine for her offer but explained to her that she has been in the office for a little over a month, it is on her to do list and will get to the webpage ASAP. Also, she has reached out to ITS for help.

PUBLIC CONCERNS:

Supervisor Pirrone recognized.

-Gary Dugan to speak. Mr. Dugan voiced his concerns about a potential health hazard Limekill Rd. He said that this piece of property has a couple trailers on it and there are people living in them. They have no septic system nor running water. There also are quite a few animals on the property that may be being neglected.

Supervisor Pirrone let them know that he has reached out to Code Enforcer Gasparini and will talk to him on Wednesday about it again.

-George Greiner asked about missing minutes. He was informed that the minutes from 2021 to 2023 were on the website. He was informed to reach out to the Town Clerk for any minutes he wanted that are not online.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: Next meeting will be **Wednesday** February 21, 2024

Being no other business to come before the Board.

A Motion was made by A. Paluch and second by T. Bone to adjourn the meeting at 7:19pm. Motion passed. Ayes – 4, No's – 0, Abstentions/Absents – 1.