

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING – ATHENS TOWN BOARD – JANUARY 2, 2024,

The organizational meeting of the Athens Town Board was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Supervisor Michael N. Pirrone on January 2, 2024 with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag at the Athens Volunteer Fire Department.

Judge Constance Pazin swore in the following elected officials:

Michael N. Pirrone, Supervisor, wife Anne held the Bible.

Rebecca Pine, Councilmember, mother Nancy held the Bible.

Tami Bone, Councilmember, Ed Bloomer held the Bible.

Phyllis Dinkelacker, Town Clerk, grandchildren held Bible.

John J. Farrell, Highway Superintendent, John Farrell held the Bible.

David G. Cole, Town Justice, granddaughters held the Bible.

6:15 Break for Refreshments.

6:40 meeting was called to order with the following members present: Supervisor Michael N. Pirrone; Councilmember Becky Pine; Councilmember Tami Bone. Absent: Councilmember Mary H. Brandow and Councilmember Tony Paluch. Also present: Gail M. Stacey, Deputy Town Clerk.

The following people were also present: Town Clerk Phyllis Dinkelacker, Highway Superintendent John J. Farrell; Bookkeeper/Budget Officer Don Pierro; Assessor Dawn DeRose; Town Attorney George McHugh; Alison Dooley, Assessor Assistant; Mark Dinkelacker; Bill and Nancy Pine; Peggy Pieruzzi; Kat and Kyle Garland; Backy and Olive Baccaray; Terry Baker; Karen Dudley; Cheryl Alberti; John and Marilyn Farrell; Ed Bloomer; Robert Brunner; Michael Campbell; Chris Sharpe; Andy Sharpe; Patrick Doyle; Tiffany Greenwaldt-Simen; Michael Black; Anne Pirrone; Constance Pazin; Joshua Lipsman; Jessica Sorge; Joe and Suzanne Marra; Amylee Columbus; Madison Dinkelacker; Shane Dinkelacker Jr.

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

2023 General Abstract #24, vouchers #604 through #624 inclusive for **11,730.95.**

2023 Highway Abstract #23, vouchers #239 inclusive for **\$746.17.**

2023 Trust & Custodian: 9071 Rt. 9W Abstract #7, vouchers #10 inclusive for **\$150.00.**

Camp Catskill Abstract #8, vouchers #11 inclusive for **\$2469.50.**

Culpeper Wood Preservers Abstract # 2, Vouchers 2 through 3 inclusive for **\$621.86.**

2024 General Abstract #1, vouchers #1 through #7 inclusive for **\$6029.60.**

2024 Highway Abstract #1, vouchers #1 inclusive for **\$1857.26.**

Councilmember Becky Pine made a motion seconded by Councilmember Tami Bone to approve the minutes of December 18, 2023 as written and read. Ayes-3 (Pirrone; Pine; Bone) Absent-2 (Paluch; Brandow) Noes-0 Abstentions-0.

Councilmember Becky Pine made a motion seconded by Councilmember Tami Bone to approve the Town Clerk's Report for the month of December 2023. Ayes-3 (Pirrone; Pine; Bone) Noes-0 Absent-2 (Paluch; Brandow) Abstentions-0.

RESOLUTIONS

On the motion made by Councilmember Becky Pine and seconded by Councilmember Tami Bone the following **Resolution #2024-1** to adopt the **Rules of Procedure for 2024** for Town Board Meetings is as follows:

- 1: Upon entering the site of the Athens Town Board meeting, all cellular phones, non-emergency service pagers & other such electronic devices shall be set to function in a way imperceptible to any other person present.
- 2: All meetings will begin at the same, routine, and normal time, as legally posted in compliance with New York State Public Officer's Law, following a routine agenda as adopted, both by tradition & vote of the Town Board.
- 3: No additional matters are to be considered until each matter on the prepared agenda has been acted upon by the Town Board. Therefore, all department heads are encouraged to remain until the adjournment of the meeting.
- 4: To foster an element of sincere mutual respect, no demonstration, inappropriate applause, or verbal support, booing or such disruptive response, which would interrupt the civility and formality of a Town Board meeting will be tolerated.
- 5: Anyone wishing to be placed on the agenda to address the Town Board on a particular issue shall contact the Town Clerk at least two (2) business days prior to the meeting, giving their name, address & the topic wished to be discussed. Citizens are encouraged to limit their presentation to seven (7) minutes & to present to the Town Board supporting documentation as deemed appropriate to their position. Not allowing a petitioning citizen to address the Town Board is recognized as a serious matter, and if deemed appropriate, shall only be agreed to by a majority vote of the Town Board.
- 6: Any person addressing the Town Board shall direct his/her comment to the Supervisor & Town Board & not engage any Town Board Member, Department Head, or any other member of the audience in a debate.
- 7: A time will be allotted at each meeting for the assembled public to comment upon or to ask further questions of the Supervisor regarding any of the discussions which had taken place at this meeting. A 15-minute limit per topic from the floor.
- 8: At no time may any of this provision, as adopted, be modified without a majority vote of the Town Board.

This resolution was adopted as follows: Ayes-3 (Pirrone; Pine; Bone) Noes-0 Absent-2 (Paluch; Brandow) Abstentions-0.

On a motion made by Councilmember Becky Pine and seconded by Councilmember Tami Bone the following **Resolution #2024-2** to adopt the **Salary Schedule for 2024** was adopted:

Brandow	Town Council	A1010.1	4,800
Paluch	Town Council	A1010.1	4,800
Pine	Town Council	A1010.1	4,800
Bone	Town Council	A1010.1	4,800
Pazin	Justice	A1110.1	19,588
Cole	Justice	A1110.1	18,088

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Puorro	Justice Clerk 1	A1110.11	42,390
	Justice Clerk II	A1110.11	28,080
Pirrone	Town Supervisor	A1220.10	14,000
Pierro	Financial/Budget Specialist	A1220.11	48,000
Lasher	Deputy Supervisor	A1220.12	1,500
	Confidential Secretary	A1220.13	7,280
DeRose	Assessor	A1355.1	30,000
Sprague	Assessor' Clerk	A1355.11	28,611
Dooley	Consultant	A1355.12	10,988
Dinkelacker Stacey	Clerk/Tax Coll/Dep Reg	A1410.1	42,000
	Deputy Clerk/Tax Coll/Reg	A1410.11	39,003
	Assistant to Clerk	A1410.12	7,280
McHugh	Attorney	A1420.1	40,000
Farrell	Highway Supt	A5010.1	73,000
Gasparini	Code Enforcement	B3620.1	26,208
Pieruzzi	Code Enforcement Clerk	B3620.11	10,608
	CEO/Bldg. Safety	B3620.12	18,720
Brunner	Historian	B7510.1	320
P. Alberti	Highway	DA5142.1	
C. Hendricks	Highway	DA5142.1	
J. Robinson, III	Highway	DA5142.1	
Fred Vail, IV	Highway	DA5142.1	
Fuentes, A.	Highway	DA5142.1	

On a motion made by Councilmember Becky Pine seconded by Councilmember Tami Bone the following *Resolution #2024-3 Establishing & Authorizing the position of Deputy Town Supervisor; in accordance with NYS Town Law 42, in consultation with Town Attorney McHugh* was adopted. Ayes-3 (Pirrone; Pine; Bone) Noes-0 Absent-2 (Paluch; Brandow) Abstentions-0.

On a motion made by Councilmember Becky Pine seconded by Councilmember Tami Bone the following *Resolution #2024-4 Authorizing Highway Superintendent the ability to expend the necessary funds for the purchase of small tools and parts without prior Board approval per Town of Athens Resolution #2021-42, dated August 2, 2021* was adopted. Ayes-3 (Pirrone; Pine; Bone) Noes-0 Absent-2 (Paluch; Brandow) Abstentions-0.

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On a motion made by Councilmember Becky Pine seconded by Councilmember Tami Bone the following *Resolution #2024-5 Adoption of mileage reimbursement rate of \$.67 per IRS rules for use of employees own vehicle for Town business* was adopted. Ayes-3 (Pirrone; Pine; Bone) Noes-0 Absent-2 (Paluch; Brandow) Abstentions-0.

On a motion made by Councilmember Becky Pine seconded by Councilmember Tami Bone the following *Resolution #2024-6 Authorizing Petty Cash Funds in the amount of \$100 each for: Town Justice Pazin, Town Justice Cole, Highway Superintendent Farrell, and Town Clerk* was adopted. Ayes-3 (Pirrone; Pine; Bone) Noes-0 Absent-2 (Paluch; Brandow) Abstentions-0.

On a motion made by Councilmember Tami Bone seconded by Councilmember Becky Pine the following *Resolution #2024-7 Authorizing a Cash Drawer of \$100 for the Town Clerk and \$125 for Tax Collection* was adopted. Ayes-3 (Pirrone; Pine; Bone) Noes-0 Absent-2 (Paluch; Brandow) Abstentions-0.

On a motion made by Councilmember Tami Bone seconded by Councilmember Becky Pine the following *Resolution #2024-8 Adoption of Town meeting dates as follows: the first and third Monday of the month, beginning at 6:00 p.m. Exception #1, when a Holiday is Monday, the meeting will be held on Tuesday. Exception #2, November's first meeting will be held on the first Thursday following the General Election* was adopted. Ayes-3 (Pirrone; Pine; Bone) Noes-0 Absent-2 (Paluch; Brandow) Abstentions-0.

On a motion made by Councilmember Becky Pine seconded by Councilmember Tami Bone the following *Resolution #2024-9 Designation of the National Bank of Cossackie as the Official Depository* was adopted. Ayes-3 (Pirrone; Pine; Bone) Noes-0 Absent-2 (Paluch; Brandow) Abstentions-0.

On a motion made by Councilmember Tami Bone seconded by Councilmember Becky Pine the following *Resolution #2024-10 Designating the Daily Mail as the Official Newspaper* was adopted. Ayes-3 (Pirrone; Pine; Bone) Noes-0 Absent-2 (Paluch; Brandow) Abstentions-0.

On a motion made by Councilmember Tami Bone seconded by Councilmember Becky Pine the following *Resolution #2024-11 Establishing March 4, 2024 as the audit date for the Judicial Office Record of Accounts and the Town Clerk's Officers Record of Accounts* was adopted. Ayes-3 (Pirrone; Pine; Bone) Noes-0 Absent-2 (Paluch; Brandow) Abstentions-0.

On a motion made by Councilmember Becky Pine seconded by Councilmember Tami Bone the following *Resolution #2024-12 Designating Town Clerk Phyllis Dinkelacker as Deputy Registrar and Deputy Town Clerk Gail Stacey as Registrar of Vital Statistics, respectively*. Ayes-3 (Pirrone; Pine; Bone) Noes-0 Absent-2 (Paluch; Brandow) Abstentions-0.

On a motion made by Councilmember Tami Bone seconded by Councilmember Becky Pine the following *Resolution #2024-13 Adoption of a Sixty-Day Extension to send the Annual Financial Report to the State Comptroller, if necessary* was adopted. Ayes-3 (Pirrone; Pine; Bone) Noes-0 Absent-2 (Paluch; Brandow) Abstentions-0.

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On a motion made by Councilmember Becky Pine seconded by Councilmember Tami Bone the following *Resolution #2024-14 Designating Sickler, Torchia, Allen & Churchill as the Town's Certified Public Accounting Firm* was adopted. Ayes-3 (Pirrone; Pine; Bone) Noes-0 Absent-2 (Paluch; Brandow) Abstentions-0.

On a motion made by Councilmember Tami Bone seconded by Councilmember Becky Pine the following *Resolution #2024-15 to Adopt the Established and Amended Employee Handbook for the 2024 Year* was adopted. Ayes-3 (Pirrone; Pine; Bone) Noes-0 Absent-2 (Paluch; Brandow) Abstentions-0.

On a motion made by Councilmember Becky Pine seconded by Councilmember Tami Bone the following *Resolution #2024-16 Designating the Supervisor as Delegate & Mary Brandow as Alternate Delegate to the Annual Association of Town's Training School and Meeting scheduled for February 18-22, 2024* was adopted. Ayes-3 (Pirrone; Pine; Bone) Noes-0 Absent-2 (Paluch; Brandow) Abstentions-0.

Yearly Appointments

Supervisor Michael N. Pirrone appointed Gail Lasher as Deputy Town Supervisor and Donald Pierro as Town Bookkeeper/Budget Officer. Ayes-3 (Pirrone; Pine; Bone) Noes-0 Absent-2 (Paluch; Brandow) Abstentions-0.

Councilmember Becky Pine made a motion seconded by Councilmember Tami Bone to appoint **Gail M. Stacey** as Deputy Town Clerk for a term of one year. Ayes-3 (Pirrone; Pine; Bone) Noes-0 Absent-2 (Paluch; Brandow) Abstentions-0.

Councilmember Becky Pine made a motion seconded by Councilmember Tami Bone to appoint **Michael N. Pirrone, Supervisor & Gail Lasher, Deputy Supervisor** as Bank Signatories and **Rebecca Pine, Councilperson** as Alternate Signatory. Ayes-3 (Pirrone; Pine; Bone) Noes-0 Absent-2 (Paluch; Brandow) Abstentions-0. Formal *Resolution #2024-17* attached.

Councilmember Tami Bone made a motion seconded by Councilmember Becky Pine to appoint **Phyllis Dinkelacker as Tax Collector and Gail Stacey as Deputy Tax Collector.** Ayes-3 (Pirrone; Pine; Bone) Noes-0 Absent-2 (Paluch; Brandow) Abstentions-0.

Councilmember Tami Bone made a motion seconded by Councilmember Becky Pine to appoint **Albert Gasparini as Code Enforcement Officer.** Ayes-3 (Pirrone; Pine; Bone) Noes-0 Absent-2 (Paluch; Brandow) Abstentions-0.

Councilmember Becky Pine made a motion seconded by Councilmember Tami Bone to appoint **Albert Gasparini as Dog Damage Officer.** Ayes-3 (Pirrone; Pine; Bone) Noes-0 Absent-2 (Paluch; Brandow) Abstentions-0.

Councilmember Becky Pine made a motion seconded by Councilmember Tami Bone to appoint **Supervisor Michael N. Pirrone as Consolidated Health Chairperson.** Ayes-3 (Pirrone; Pine; Bone) Noes-0 Absent-2 (Paluch; Brandow) Abstentions-0.

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Councilmember Becky Pine made a motion seconded by Councilmember Tami Bone to appoint **Albert Gasparini as Consolidated Health Secretary.** Ayes-3 (Pirrone; Pine; Bone) Noes-0 Absent-2 (Paluch; Brandow) Abstentions-0.

Councilmember Tami Bone made a motion seconded by Councilmember Becky Pine to appoint **Dr. Stephen Hassett as Consolidate Health Officer.** Ayes-3 (Pirrone; Pine; Bone) Noes-0 Absent-2 (Paluch; Brandow) Abstentions-0.

Councilmember Becky Pine made a motion seconded by Councilmember Tami Bone to appoint **Mayor Amy Serrago as Consolidated Health Member.** Ayes-3 (Pirrone; Pine; Bone) Noes-0 Absent-2 (Paluch; Brandow) Abstentions-0.

Councilmember Tami Bone made a motion seconded by Councilmember Becky Pine to appoint **Marcia Puorro as Senior Court Clerk.** Ayes-3 (Pirrone; Pine; Bone) Noes-0 Absent-2 (Paluch; Brandow) Abstentions-0.

Councilmember Tami Bone made a motion seconded by Councilmember Becky Pine to appoint **Lynn J. Brunner as Town of Athens Historian.** Ayes-3 (Pirrone; Pine; Bone) Noes-0 Absent-2 (Paluch; Brandow) Abstentions-0.

Councilmember Tami Bone made a motion seconded by Councilmember Becky Pine to appoint **Sherry Vieta as Dog Control Officer.** Ayes-3 (Pirrone; Pine; Bone) Noes-0 Absent-2 (Paluch; Brandow) Abstentions-0.

Councilmember Becky Pine made a motion seconded by Councilmember Tami Bone to appoint **Kathy Sprague as Assessor's Clerk.** Ayes-3 (Pirrone; Pine; Bone) Noes-0 Absent-2 (Paluch; Brandow) Abstentions-0.

Councilmember Tami Bone made a motion seconded by Councilmember Becky Pine to appoint **Margaret Pieruzzi as Code Enforcement Clerk.** Ayes-3 (Pirrone; Pine; Bone) Noes-0 Absent-2 (Paluch; Brandow) Abstentions-0.

Councilmember Tami Bone made a motion seconded by Councilmember Becky Pine to appoint **Scott Fischer as Town Planning Board Chairperson.** Ayes-3 (Pirrone; Pine; Bone) Noes-0 Absent-2 (Paluch; Brandow) Abstentions-0.

Councilmember Becky Pine made a motion seconded by Councilmember Tami Bone to appoint **Eric J. Nelson as Town of Athens Zoning Board of Appeals Chairperson.** Ayes-3 (Pirrone; Pine; Bone) Noes-0 Absent-2 (Paluch; Brandow) Abstentions-0.

Councilmember Becky Pine made a motion seconded by Councilmember Tami Bone to appoint **Gail Stacey as Town Planning Board Secretary.** Ayes-3 (Pirrone; Pine; Bone) Noes-0 Absent-2 (Paluch; Brandow) Abstentions-0.

Councilmember Tami Bone made a motion seconded by Councilmember Becky Pine to appoint **Ann Krause as Zoning Board of Appeals Secretary**. Ayes-3 (Pirrone; Pine; Bone) Noes-0 Absent-2 (Paluch; Brandow) Abstentions-0.

Town Board Committee Appointments- One Year Term
Committees:

Assessor: Mary Brandow & Michael Pirrone
Code Enforcement: Tami Bone & Becky Pine
Collective Bargaining: Don Pierro & Michael Pirrone
Town Court: Mary Brandow & Becky Pine
EMS/Ambulances: Mark Dinkelacker & Don Pierro
Employees Committee: Tami Bone & Mary Brandow
Fire Dept. Contracts: Tami Bone & Becky Pine
Handbook Employee: Tami Bone & Don Pierro
Highway Committee: Gail Lasher & Michael Pirrone
Insurance General: Mary Brandow & Becky Pine
Landfill Joint Towns: Mary Brandow & Becky Pine
Medical health Insurance: Don Pierro & Michael Pirrone
Planning Board: Becky Pine & Michael Pirrone
Reserve Funds: Mary Brandow & Tami Bone
Special Projects: Gail Lasher & Michael Pirrone
Village/Town: Gail Lasher & Michael Pirrone
Zoning Board: Tami Bone & Michael Pirrone

Councilmember Becky Pine made a motion to appoint the above mentioned seconded by Councilmember Tami Bone. Ayes-3 (Pirrone; Pine; Bone) Noes-0 Absent-2 (Paluch; Brandow) Abstentions-0.

Supervisor Pirrone stated that Town Attorney George McHugh was working on the Battery Storage Law and also the Cell Tower Law. He also stated that he has been in touch with Delaware Engineering regarding the sensitivity study. The study would help determine what Zones solar, cell towers, battery storage, etc. would best be suited.

Supervisor Pirrone advised the Board and audience of the upcoming meetings and holidays for January and February.

Karen Dudley asked what will happen when the railroad crossing are closed due to the Hudson-Champlain project digging along the tracks. Attorney McHugh stated that there will be no disruption and digging will not be done on the surface (directional bore).

With nothing further to come before the Board, Supervisor Pirrone called to go into Executive Session.

Councilmember Becky Pine made a motion to enter into Executive Session seconded by Supervisor Pirrone. Ayes-3 (Pirrone; Pine Bone) Noes-0 Absent-2 (Paluch; Brandow) Abstentions-0.

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Councilmember Becky Pine made a motion to exit Executive Session seconded by Councilmember Tami Bone. Ayes-3 (Pirrone; Pine; Bone) Noes-0 Absent-2 (Paluch; Brandow) Abstentions-0.

Councilmember Tami Bone made a motion seconded by Councilmember Becky Pine to appoint **George McHugh as Town Attorney, part-time status, for a two-year term effective January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2025.** Ayes-3 (Pirrone; Pine Bone) Noes-0 Absent-2 (Paluch; Brandow) Abstentions

Councilmember Becky Pine would like the agenda and meeting materials to be posted on the website.

With nothing further, Councilmember Becky Pine made a motion to adjourn the meeting seconded by Councilmember Tami Bone. Ayes-3 (Pirrone; Pine; Bone) Noes-0 Absent-2 (Paluch; Brandow) Abstentions-0.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:55 p.m.

Respectively Submitted,

Gail Stacey, Deputy Town Clerk