

She REGULAR MEETING – ATHENS TOWN BOARD

March 4, 2024

The regular meeting of the Athens Town Board was called to order on March 4, 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.

There was a moment of silence in memory of our long time resident and Town Historian Lynn Brunner that passed away February 29, 2024.

The following Board were present: Supervisor Pirrone, Council Members Bone and Pine.
Absent: Board member Brandow, Paluch

The following were present: Town Clerk Dinkelacker, Deputy Supervisor Lasher, Town Attorney McHugh.

The following people were in attendance: Nancy Poylo, Theresa Baker, Judy Cimmino, Tony Cimmino, Robyn Lutz, Ed Lutz, Karen Dudley, Alyson Pou, Hailee Dickson, George Greiner, Mike Ragini, Russ Nadler, Margaret Muenkel, Chris Ames, MK Garvey, Robert Brunner

A motion was made by Becky Pine and second by Tami Bone to open the Public Hearing at 6:04pm

The following spoke and were in favor of the moratorium: Karen Dudley, George Greiner, Mike Ragini, John J. Farrell, Russ Nadler, Chris Ames, Terry Baker, Judy Cimmino,

A motion was made by Becky Pine and second by Tami Bone to close the Public Hearing at 6:28pm

	<i>Present</i>	<i>Absent</i>	<i>Aye</i>	<i>Nay</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
Michael Pirrone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mary Brandow	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Anthony Paluch	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rebecca Pine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tami Bone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Total</i>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>

I, Council member Becky Pine offer the following resolution and move its adoption:

WHEREAS the Town Board of the Town of Athens has introduced a proposed Local Law to authorize the establishment of a six (6) month moratorium to temporarily halt the processing and issuing of any applications, permits, certificates of occupancy, approvals, denials, determinations or interpretations for any land use relating to Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) facilities, and

WHEREAS, a public hearing upon proper notice was held on March 4, 2024, and

WHEREAS, the proposed adoption of the moratorium is a Type II action pursuant to SEQRA 6 N.Y.C.R.R. § 617.5 (c) (36) and therefore not subject to further review under SEQRA part 617,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Athens does hereby enact the proposed Local Law attached hereto and made a part hereof, which shall be numbered Local Law # 1 of the year 2024.

Seconded by Council member Tami Bone, offered for discussion and duly put to a vote, the results of which appear above.

Public Item: Alyson Pou is an independent artist seeking to get a grant from “CREARE” which requires the Grantee to have a community partner. She explained her project to the board and requested that the town be partnered up with her so she could apply for the grant.

A motion was made by Becky Pine and seconded by Tami Bone to be Ms. Pou’s partner for this “CREATE” grant. Motion carried. Aye – 3, Nos – 0, Absent/Abstain - 2

VOUCHERS

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

<u>General 2024</u>	<u>Abstract # 5</u>	Vouchers 82 – 108	\$14031.89
<u>Highway 2024</u>	<u>Abstract # 5</u>	Vouchers 29 – 37	\$ 9276.46
<u>Trust & Custodian Deschaine</u>	<u>Abstract #1</u>	Voucher 1 – 2	\$ 197.08
<u>Trust & Custodian 9071 Rt 9W</u>	<u>Abstract #2</u>	Voucher 3	\$ 560.00

PRIOR MEETING MINUTES: The minutes from February 21, 2024, were distributed to the Town board. A motion was made by Becky Pine and second by Tami Bone to accept the minutes. Motion carried. Ayes – 3, Nos – 0, Absent /Abstain – 2.

Supervisor Pirrone reported that the annual audit of the Town Clerk’s book and the Town Courts books were postponed to a later date to be determined. Supervisor Pirrone

Town Clerk’s Report for the month of February was presented to the Supervisor. A total of \$1466.00 was collected, Dog licenses, Marriage Licenses, Building permits, etc. A total of \$1410.00 was turned over to the supervisor.

SUPERVISOR REPORT: LEGAL ITEMS: See attached agenda.

SUPERVISOR REPORT: GENERAL ITEMS: See attached agenda.

TOWN ACTION:

A motion was made by Becky Pine and seconded by Tami Bone to approve The Town Board to solicit letters of interest for a special committee to be formed to review the Town code and identify where we are vulnerable and needs to be reworked with closer attention to the elements of the Comprehensive Plan.

Motion carried. Ayes – 3, Nos – 0, Absent/Abstain – 2.

A motion was made by Tami Bone and seconded by Becky Pine to notify and reaffirm to all planning board and Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) of attendance, participation, and training requirements for their continued membership in their board. Must attend a minimum of three out of every five scheduled meetings. Must do 4 hours of training per year.

Motion carried. Ayes – 3, Nos – 0, Absent/Abstain – 2.

A motion was made by Becky Pine and seconded by Tami Bone to authorize the Supervisor to coordinate Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals training classes with Delaware Engineering. This will be free training.

Motion carried. Ayes – 3, Nos – 0. Absent/Abstain – 2.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION: See attached agenda.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Becky Pine Liaison to the planning board and she is recommending the following:

- The fees & fine schedule should be updated to Code
- A committee should be formed to do codes
- There should be additional alternate members for the planning board
- Suggested that they should have a hard copy of the code
- Suggested that the members should be reminded of the attendance & training requirements.
- We should verify that we have the most updated zoning map.

The Town Attorney recommended that the alternates should attend every meeting and get paid for it, so they are up to date on any issues.

TOWN COUNCIL CONCERNS: None

PUBLIC CONCERNS:

-Margaret Muenkel inquired how long can moratorium be extended. Attorney McHugh answered, it can be extended 6 months. If more time is needed after that the board would have to start the process for a new local law.

-Karen Dudley asked if the solar committee could meet before meeting with Delaware Engineering? Discussion followed and was decided committee should meet with Delaware engineering (Adam) so he can see which way the committee wants to go.

-Hailee Dickson asked about the Telecommunications moratorium extension. She was advised that the moratorium expired January 2024.

Being no other business to come before the Board.

A Motion was made by B. Pine and second by T. Bone to adjourn the meeting at 7:12pm.
Motion passed. Ayes –3, No's – 0, Abstentions/Absents – 2.

Respectfully Submitted,

Phyllis Dinkelacker
Athens Town Clerk