

ATHENS TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS  
October 26th, 2022 5 PM Regular Meeting

Chairwoman Tressa Heffron called the meeting to order at 5:01 PM. Supervisors present were Kirstie Lake, Christine Vough, Bonnie Petruschak, and Alan Burgess. Solicitor John Thompson and secretary Michelle Rude were also in attendance. Tressa led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Voice of the Residents:

Edward C. Barrett Jr. of 2674 Murray Creek Rd. expressed to the board his concerns should his road be taken from blacktop down to dirt. He shared that he worries about the safety of his family and other residents should emergency services need to get to their property and that the value of his property would diminish if the road was changed. Edward's son Zach, also in attendance, reiterated his concern for his property value as well. Edward stated that he was told by Robert Sullivan that his road was paved because of the twists and turns, to keep it safe to travel. Tressa asked the Director of Public Works, Chuck Wright, who was in attendance if he could address these concerns. Chuck informed the group that he doesn't have a plan for the road at this time as he is still in the process of evaluating the roads. He is working on a grading system to address the road concerns. Tressa thanked him and introduced him to the residents in attendance. Deb Buck of 213 Roosevelt St. wanted to know if the work on Roosevelt Street was complete. Tressa again deferred to Chuck who stated that Vestal Asphalt was done and the work was complete.

Richard Bean and Meade Murtland were unable to make the meeting so secretary Michelle Rude presented on behalf of the Parks Commission. They are resubmitting for the Bradford County Tourism grant. They are asking for \$1900.00 to place 2 park benches on the overlook. The Larson Design Group will be visiting Tozer's landing and our other parks on Thursday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Barry replaced nine posts on several pavilions on Round Top Park. His last day for the season will be on Friday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Their next meeting will be on Nov. 28th.

Marion Carling represented Planning Commission. She presented the board with the maps and documentation for:

- 1) **Prados, Ronald/Diana** – a 2-lot subdivision located on Hillcrest Drive. Recommend preliminary/final plan approval with one (1) deficiency
  - a. Need surveyor's signature after the remaining markers are set.

Marion stated that the deficiency had been met and Bruce Benish explained to the board the plan for the sub-division. On motion of Alan, second by Bonnie, motion passed to grant preliminary/final plan approval.

David Walter represented the ATVFC. He informed the board that they would be hosting a ham and turkey party on Nov. 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

Chuck Wright represented the Public Works department and reviewed the road report with the supervisors. He gave a run through of the work they have been doing and informed the board that Steve Kehoe from PennDOT would be meeting with him on November 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10 am to discuss funding options. He extended an invitation to the board members for that meeting.

Larry Alderson of Citizens and Northern Bank gave a brief overview of our 401A and 457 plans to the board and explained why the township has chosen to go with them. He presented the upcoming vendor change that will be taking place the day after Thanksgiving. He also explained the rate change that will be effective at the beginning of the year. The board asked him to come up with some additional options and agreed to hold a special meeting on Tuesday, November 15<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm for him to present them. They will readdress this in their November meeting.

Louis Spaciano from Borton Lawson discussed with the board the potential scrapping of the bridge remains from the Thomas Ave. Bridge project. He contacted Suttly's and spoke with the owner Tracy Sutton. Tracy informed him that he has the equipment to disassemble and haul away the bridge parts for scrap so the township wouldn't have to make arrangements to do that. There is some lead paint on the bridge that Tracy didn't feel would impact his ability to scrap it but it would impact the price he gives us for the metal. Tracy is looking into any special precautions that may need to be taken and he will get back to Louis once he has the answers he needs. Per Louis, there is roughly 135 tons of metal to be scrapped. At the quoted rate from Tracy of \$135/ton, the township stands to make roughly \$18,000. The bridge project is scheduled to be advertised in December with an 8-week advertisement period. Their goal is to complete the project within a year, however there is a state-wide wait time of 9 months for steel. The board will wait for Tracy to get clarification on his ability to scrap the bridge metal and readdress this in their November meeting.

On motion of Kirstie, second by Christine, motion passed to approve the renewal of our contract with Wiles Valley Weather for services from November 2022 through April 2023 at the rate of \$1295.

On motion of Kirstie, second by Alan, motion passed to approve Chuck Wright's credit card limit at \$1000. Bonnie didn't want a card at this time. The supervisors will reevaluate the need for supervisors to have township credit cards.

On motion of Alan, second by Kirstie, motion passed to adjust the quoted price from Schoonover's in the August meeting minutes from \$5975 to \$6125 to install a first floor, single zone system for the police department.

On motion of Christine, second by Kirstie, motion passed to approve the renewal of our annual subscription to the Daily Review at the rate of \$220.00.

Michelle presented the Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) for 2022. The MMO for the police pension plan is \$152,992 and for the non-uniform plan is \$76,757. This is an increase of \$39,535.99 from last year. On motion of Kirstie, second by Christine, motion passed to accept the MMO's.

On motion of Alan, second by Kirstie, motion passed to approve the proposed PPO Policy contingent up on designated purchasers being added.

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On motion of Kirstie, second by Alan, motion passed to move \$85,500 from account number 438.200 (highway maintenance materials) in Liquid Fuels and \$58,302.36 from account number 437.200 (equipment repairs) in Liquid Fuels to account number 430.740 (major equipment purchase) to purchase a truck for the public works department.

On motion of Alan, second by Kirstie, motion passed to purchase the new dump truck for the public works department for \$273,802.36.

On motion of Kirstie, second by Alan, motion passed to pay the monthly bills as submitted. A complete listing of revenues and expenditures is on file in the office of the Treasurer.

On motion of Tressa, second by Kirstie, motion passed to approve the minutes for September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

On motion of Kirstie, second by Alan, motion passed to approve the budget workshop minutes for October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Tressa abstained.

On motion of Kirstie, second by Christine, motion passed to accept the monthly reports.

Correspondence/Information was as listed in the meeting agenda.

Chairwoman Heffron took the Board into executive session at 6:16 PM for personnel and pending litigation. The regular meeting reconvened at 8:30 PM.

On motion of Tressa second by Alan, motion passed to add updating the SRO MOU to the agenda.

On motion of Alan, second by Kirstie, motion passed to allow John Thompson to update the Police SRO MOU with the numbers provided by Kirstie.

There being no further business, on motion of Kirstie, second by Alan, motion passed to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Rude  
Athens Township Administrative Secretary