

ATHENS TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS  
JOINT BOARDS MEETING  
August 13, 2014      6:30 PM

Chairman Cheryl Wood-Walter called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM. Those in attendance were as follows:

Supervisors: Cheryl Wood-Walter, Susan Seck, George Ballenstedt, Christine Vough and Ronald Reagan.

Planning Commission (PC): Ron Reagan, Clifton Cheeks and Marion Carling

Athens Township Authority (ATA): Dr. Pat Musto

Zoning Hearing Board (ZHB): John Baird

Parks Commission (Parks): Richard Bean, Meade Murtland and Dave Hafer

Ralph Blowers, Maurice Fay and Secretary Robin Smith were also present.

Dr. Musto reported that they are having a pre-construction meeting next week for the sewer project. The contract will be in two phases. The first phase will be upgrading the Camco pump station and installing a new force main at #1. This will add 1000 EDUs on the other side of the river. They hope to start late this year or early next year. The second phase will be the upgrade of pump station #1. That will give 500 additional EDUs to the system. We should be okay for the conceivable future. Greens Landing will be addressed after that. The last development to be approved by ATA was Trehab, and that leaves Greens Landing with only 2 EDUs.

Dr. Musto also said the Valley Joint Sewer Plant is done, with the exception of a few doors and windows. They are also waiting to give the contractor his substantial completion notice because they still have some equipment that needs to be tested. The project will come in under \$20 million. Ron asked if New York State will now have to comply with the Chesapeake Bay edict. Dr. Musto said Waverly is having their plant looked at now.

Ron reported for PC. He said they are updating the Comprehensive Plan. The surveys were mailed today. Robin said she did a press release so people would know they are coming and will not just mistake them for junk mail. George asked if there was a place for people to include their email address and Robin said there was. She said there is also a section for people to fill out if they're interested in serving on a township board.

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John Baird reported for ZHB. He said the division of the Applebee's property left a section on McDuffee Street that was designated as Residential. He was not sure it was in their realm to deal with that. It was part of the agreement between Applebee's and DeSisti. Ron said it created a non-conforming lot. Ron also said when we were doing the original zoning ordinance, we were concerned with commercial creep and tried to keep the Commercial district one lot off Elmira Street – sometimes two lots if it made a cleaner line. John also said the old Little Lambs daycare building will have to come in for a variance every time the property changes hands. Robin said the variance given runs with the property. Ron said if the use changes, it will have to come back to ZHB.

Richard Bean reported for Parks. He said they have had pads poured for two picnic tables at the Glenn R. Clark Park. They hope to eventually put a pavilion cover over them. The Jim King Memorial Park adjoining residents would like a barrier constructed between their property and the park property. Richard said they'll probably put up some kind of fence in the spring. They have nothing planned at Tozer's Landing at this time, but in the future, they plan to implement their plan for trails with exercise equipment. The Round Top Park Pond Expansion project is their big thing now. They have received a \$5,000 grant from Guthrie and a \$10,000 grant from Chesapeake towards the project. They have applied for a \$400,000 grant from DCNR, but they can't give them all of that. They are looking at possibly granting \$100,000. That should be announced in mid-October. They have also applied for a grant from the Marcellus Shale Legacy fund in the amount of approx. \$250,000 and are in the running for that. That should be announced in February or March of 2015. He has also applied to Xerox, but hasn't heard anything. They were turned down by LL Bean and M & T Bank. Parks has about \$85,000 in their account saved for this project.

Robin asked if the Elks Run was approved for October 18<sup>th</sup> and Richard said it had been approved. Several other grant sources were discussed as possibilities. Richard and Meade also told us they have a nice presentation that they have been showing to organizations who may give them a grant.

Cheryl said she was happy everyone took the time to come tonight. It's nice to see each other's faces once in a while.

On motion of Ron, second by George, it was unanimous to order the spreader for the new truck from Chemung Supply; to order the wing plow from Bradco Supply; and to pay for both from the Act 13 funds.

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On motion of Cheryl, second by Susan, it was unanimous to accept the proposal from jhdesign to letter the new truck.

On motion of Cheryl, second by Susan, it was unanimous to pay the invoice from Larson Design Group for their bridge inspection services on the Miller Road bridge project, and to pay it from the Act 13 funds.

The Board had Cheryl sign the invoice from Sweet, Stevens, Katz and Williams for contract negotiation services.

John Baird said at every zoning hearing for a variance that they have, they will ask the Zoning Officer if the Supervisors have any comments and he always says no. Ron said the one problem with that is the submission dates. The deadline for plans to be in is after our month-end meeting and ZHB meets before our next meeting. Maybe we should be looking at getting plans a month early. Discussion was held. Ron said he also feels the Supervisors shouldn't be involved in the decisions of the ZHB – just like we don't go over to Shaw's office and make decisions there. ZHB is a judicial board. John said for each decision they make, they look at the five pieces in order to make their decision. They try to stay within the ordinance. They felt the Applebee's decision was a safety issue and that's why they decided as they did. They felt it would be a problem with people being able to see Applebee's before they were right there. John said even though the Supervisors aren't at their hearings, they want to hear from us. Write up a letter and then it becomes part of the evidence. He added there are four strong-willed individuals on the ZHB. Ron said he will ask Ed and Cindy to put something in the Supervisor's mailboxes to let them know what is coming to ZHB.

On motion of Ron, second by Cheryl, it was unanimous to reappoint John Baird to the Zoning Hearing Board for a term to expire September 9, 2017.

John said his hat is off to Planning Commission. He said PC does a lot to stop issues before they get to Zoning Hearing Board hearings. Clif said he thinks it's good to have meetings like this so we can hear both sides.

Cheryl recessed the meeting at 7:20 PM for a break. The meeting reconvened at 7:44 PM. Cheryl then took the Board into executive session at 7:45 PM with the Parks Commission for real estate. The regular meeting reconvened at 8:25 PM.

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There being no further business, on motion of Ron, second by Cheryl, it was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin L. Smith  
Secretary