

ATHENS TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS
January 31, 2018 7:00 PM

Chairman Ronald Reagan called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM. Supervisors also present were Kirstie Lake, Christine Vough, George Ballenstedt and Susan Seck. Solicitor John Thompson and Secretary Robin Smith were also in attendance. Ron asked Robin to lead everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Frank Pilling and another representative (Tom) from Empire Access were present at the request of the Board to go over their service area for television customers in Athens Township. They showed maps of the township with their customers and supplied a list of their television customers to the Board. The Board thanked them from coming.

Voice of the Residents:

Chris Davis and his son, Logan, of 309 Glen Valley Road were present to ask the Board to consider creating a dog park in the township. He presented an outline of his proposed project to the Board. Discussion was held. It was suggested that Chris also contact the Boroughs to see if they may be interested in being a part of a project like this, and see if they may have a location available. He would also like the dog park to provide a platform for Prostate Cancer Awareness. No action was taken.

No one was present from the Athens Township Volunteer Fire Company.

Richard Bean reported for the Parks and Recreation Commission. He said John Spencer will be installing new signs on Round Top for his Eagle Scout project. Solid Ground Services has completed the Jack Walter Pavilion. All they have left to do is a short stone dust trail, replace one guard rail, minor grading and planting grass seed. It should be finished in the spring, and this will complete Phase III. Phase I and II will also be completed in late spring – tar/chip the parking lot and installing one more piece of playground equipment. Richard needs to get a 4-man work detail together to move the picnic tables into the new pavilion. NTRPDC completed the trail grant. They are asking for a small pavilion, single restroom, leveling of the loading area and topping it with stone, tools for trail work and a small storage shed. Grant is 100% for \$222,592. The highway department moved the mulch from the parking lot to the playground area. Round Top Park is closed, but will be open when there is enough snow to cross-country ski. Money was donated to the park in Jim Haggerty's name, so they will be placing signage for the Jim Haggerty Trail. Our gate keeper has resigned, and we are in the process of hiring a new one. The star will be taken down by the fire department.

Next was the Treasurer's report. On motion of Kirstie, second by Christine, it was unanimous to ratify the payment of bills paid since the last regular meeting; payrolls 1-3; and to authorize the payment of invoices submitted this evening. Ruth requested direction on Health Insurance, as she needs to know how much to pay for each employee and does not have any information to process a payment. The Board directs

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Ruth to call the insurance company's Syracuse office to get this information. Discussion was held on Non-Uniform Employees Clothing Allowance Reimbursement for authorized (IRS accountable work wear). This will be tabled until our February 12th meeting.

On motion of George, second by Kirstie, it was unanimous to join the Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce.

On motion of Susan, second by George, it was unanimous to accept the quote of Garrity Glass in the amount of \$4,975.64 to replace the windows in Ruth, Robin and Ed's offices; the non-door panels in the lobby; and to pay for this with funds from the Township Building Expansion line in the Act 13 Fund.

Discussion was held as to possibly implementing a fire tax. Christine said she has heard from a lot of people who are very unhappy about this. Ron said we all saw the trouble we had with the budget this year – if we don't do a fire tax, we'll have to raise taxes ourselves. People also need to remember the township tax is a very small part of their total real estate tax bill. No action was taken at this time.

Robin was asked to forward contact information for Roberta Blanchard to each board member so that they can individually contact her to tour the weighlock property prior to our February 28th meeting, so that a decision can be made as to whether or not to accept this property as a historical site.

On motion of Ron, second by George, it was unanimous to appoint William Bresser to replace Kirstie Lake on the Zoning Hearing Board, for a term to expire Sept. 9, 2018.

On motion of Ron, second by Kirstie, it was unanimous to approve, sign and execute the updated Federal Surplus application.

Discussion was held on the Route 199 resurfacing project that PennDOT will be doing in 2021. Susan had 2 comments – she had noticed that a section of roadway had entirely frozen over, so they may wish to address the drainage problem there. She also expressed concern for ingress and egress at the Valley Stockyard Flea Market on Mondays as it is extremely congested and dangerous. Robin will send these comments along to PennDOT.

Susan requested permission to attend the PennDOT Connect outreach program in Towanda on March 27th. The Board told her to go, as it is considered part of her job.

Robin will bid fuel for the February meeting, as our current contract runs through March 31, 2018.

The Board tabled the COSTARS salt participation until the February 12th meeting.

Susan said she will be going out with a representative from Chemung Supply to see where/how much guiderail we will need this year. She also gave each Board member a list of road repairs that should be looked at for 2018. Robin said the Board needs to set a date soon for Road Inspection.

On motion of George, second by Susan, it was unanimous to approve the minutes of December 27, 2017 and January 2nd, 8th, 17th and 24th, 2018 as written.

On motion of George, second by Kirstie, it was unanimous to accept the monthly reports as presented.

Correspondence/Information was as listed in the meeting agenda.

Chairman Reagan assigned the Board committees as follows:

Ron:	Office, Building & Grounds, Planning, Zoning
Christine:	Parks, Safety, Recycling
Susan:	Roads, Safety, Junkyards
George:	Parks, Fire Company, Social Media
Kirstie:	Police, Office, Planning, Zoning

Chairman Reagan took the Board into executive session at 9:05 PM for personnel and pending litigation. The secretary was excused at this time and the remaining minutes were taken by Ron Reagan. The regular meeting reconvened at 10:15 PM.

On motion of Ron, second by Kirstie, it was unanimous to grant Sayre Used Auto a 60-day extension, with no additional extensions.

There being no further business, on motion of Christine, second by George, it was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 10:16 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin L. Smith, Secretary