

ATHENS TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS

April 24, 2019 6:00 PM

Chairwoman Kirstie Lake called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM. Supervisors also present were Christine Vough, Susan Seck, George Ballenstedt and Tressa Heffron. Solicitor John Thompson and Secretary Robin Smith were also in attendance. Kirstie led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

At this time the bids for crushing were opened and were as follows:

<u>Vendor</u>	3000 Tons <u>4"minus</u>	3000 Tons <u>3"minus</u>	2500 Tons <u>2-3/4"minus</u>	2500 Tons <u>1-1/2"minus</u>
Villager Construction	\$2.25/T	\$2.25/T	\$2.25/T	\$2.85/T
Douglas Bros. (Peterson)	\$4.25/T	\$4.45/T	\$4.75/T	\$4.90/T
Marcus Cole Construction	\$4.00/T	\$4.00/T	\$4.35/T	\$4.60/T

On motion of George, second by Tressa, it was unanimous to award the crushing bid to Villager Construction.

Voice of the Residents:

Donna Hazelton of N. Thomas Avenue, Sayre, was present again concerning the cars "running the red light" at the Thomas Avenue bridge. She said cars do not go one at a time, they go in a line and don't wait for their turn. She said she thinks STOP signs would be better than the light. Susan asked her what time this happens and Donna said around 7:20 AM. Kirstie said she will ask the police to sit there to monitor it.

Richard Bean reported for the Park Commission. Two Girl Scout projects are underway. We still have not heard as to the status of our payments for Phase II and III of the Round Top Park projects. Richard received the info concerning the audits for Spectrum and Empire from our solicitor. We cannot sell the Dunkley Hill Road property because it was donated and it must be used for public use only. They are still working on the August 10<sup>th</sup> Bradford County Summer Park Series on Round Top. Richard has been asking for an update from Cain Chamberlain on this but nothing has been finalized. He will meet with him on April 29<sup>th</sup> at Round Top. Solid Ground Services can start on the ATV trail project any time and must have it completed by the end of October. John Rosh, President of the Valley ORV Club, said the club will be having a work session June 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> to work on the trail maintenance. He is asking for help from all those that ride the trails. The club is also working on signage. Round Top will open May 11<sup>th</sup>. Park inspection was completed and Barry has the list of things to be done. We will have inmates for 2 weeks.

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On motion of George, second by Susan, it was unanimous to adopt ORDINANCE 2019-04 for false fire alarms.

Discussion was held as to firefighter employees leaving work to respond to fire calls. Robin said it has long been our verbal policy to allow active firefighters to leave work in response to structure fires only, and to pay them for the time they were gone. The Board discussed possibly allowing them to respond (with pay) to other emergency calls that may include entrapment. John Thompson will draft a policy for the Board to review at our May 29<sup>th</sup> meeting.

On motion of Christine, second by Tressa, it was unanimous to approve the payment of the monthly bills as presented. A complete listing of revenues and expenditures is on file in the office of the Treasurer.

Susan said that Herrick Avenue is in desperate need of paving and it needs to be done ASAP. She has gotten estimates with our guys doing the hauling, renting a paver and roller with operators, and the material - the project would be about \$60,000. If we did our parking lots, the cost would be about \$60,000 additional. If we did any milling, the rental of the milling machine would be around \$5000. Susan will also have a price on striping for our next meeting. The Board set a special meeting date of April 29, 2019 at 5:30 PM to discuss this further. Christine said a younger constituent who is just beginning to drive was questioning when Round Top Road would be fixed. The FEMA rep will be here Tuesday from 9:30 – 11:30 to discuss the August storm damages. Robin and Susan will meet with her.

On motion of Kirstie, second by Christine, it was unanimous to allow Williams Ford to close Bressler Street from 5-9:15 PM on Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, for their Friday Night Headlights car show and event as per the criteria in their letter of request.

Robin had received a resolution from the Canton Wine and Cheese Committee to pass so they can place one small banner sign along Route 220 near Route 199 advertising their event. PennDOT now requires a resolution from the municipality in which the sign will be located, absolving PennDOT from liability (and several other requirements) with relation to this sign, if the sign is to be placed in the PennDOT right-of-way (ROW). After discussion, our solicitor says we need to secure a hold-harmless agreement from the Canton Wine and Cheese Committee/Canton Borough so that we are not on the hook for any liability. Robin also advised the Board that PennDOT is requiring the Athens Business Association/Athens Rotary to REMOVE the “Welcome to Athens” sign that they installed with permission from PennDOT, to PennDOT sign specs, that replaced an existing sign. This seems like incredible overreach – especially in the case of the “Welcome to Athens” sign that was done with their approval.

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Robin will advise Canton that we need this agreement, and will also be contacting our legislators concerning PennDOT requiring the removal of all these signs.

On motion of Kirstie, second by Tressa, it was unanimous to adopt ORDINANCE 2019-02 creating a defined contribution 401(a) pension plan for any non-uniformed employees hired after July 18, 2018.

On motion of George, second by Susan, it was unanimous to adopt ORDINANCE 2019-03 creating a 457 plan for the township match to the 401(a) employees, and making the 457 plan available to any other employee who wishes to open their own 457 plan through the township. John Thompson will send the ordinances to Michael Hatlee at C&N Bank.

On motion of George, second by Christine, it was unanimous to approve the minutes of March 27, 2019 as written.

On motion of Tressa, second by Christine, it passed to approve the minutes of April 15, 2019 as written. George abstained as he was not in attendance.

On motion of Christine, second by Tressa, it was unanimous to accept the monthly reports as submitted.

On motion of Kirstie, second by Susan, it was unanimous to adopt RESOLUTION 2019-09 in opposition to HB 349 and any other legislation that would require townships to use “two or more” third-party agencies for Building Code enforcement. Robin will send copies to our legislators, PSATS, and Governor Wolf.

Tory Henry of Shuman Hill Road was in attendance with concerns about a clogged storm drain in front of 242 Pine Tree Road. Susan will check it out.

Chairwoman Lake took the Board into executive session at 7:25 PM for personnel. The regular meeting reconvened at 7:52 PM.

On motion of Susan, second by Kirstie, it was unanimous to hire Samantha Soltis as both our cleaning person and our recycling center manager, contingent upon her passing her background check and fingerprinting; at \$10 per hour for both positions; to start when her employment paperwork is complete with Ruth.

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On motion of Kirstie, second by Tressa, it was unanimous to hire Ryann Wagnech as a recycling back-up attendant at \$7.25/hour, to be put on the roster as soon as her employment paperwork is complete with Ruth.

On motion of Kirstie, second by Tressa, it was unanimous to promote Hunter Condusta from part-time patrolman/police officer to full-time patrolman/police officer effective April 25, 2019 with salary and benefits as per the current police department contract. He will fill the opening created by the retirement of James Shaw in December of 2018.

There being no further business, on motion of George, second by Susan, it was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 8 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin L. Smith  
Athens Township Secretary