

ATHENS TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS
November 18, 2020 5 PM Regular Meeting

Vice Chairman George Ballenstedt called the meeting to order at 5:01 PM. Supervisors also present were Christine Vough, Tressa Heffron and Susan Seck. Kirstie Lake attended via Zoom. Solicitor John Thompson and Secretary Robin Smith were also in attendance. George led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

George submitted his revised letter of resignation to the Board effective November 18, 2020. On motion of Tressa, second by Christine, it was unanimous to accept his letter with much regret. The Board expressed their appreciation for George's service to the township. He will be missed!

Alan Burgess had been approved to replace George as Township Supervisor at our October meeting. He was sworn in as George's replacement by Notary Cynthia Parrish. His term will expire in January of 2022. Welcome aboard!

George served as Vice Chair of the Board, so Chairwoman Kirstie Lake called for nominations for Vice Chair. Kirstie nominated Tressa Heffron as Vice Chairwoman. There being no other nominations, on motion of Kirstie, second by Christine, it was unanimous to appoint Tressa Heffron as Vice Chairwoman of the Board. Tressa took over the meeting as Kirstie was attending via Zoom.

Voice of the Residents:

Alvin Rosenberger of 561 Riverside Drive was present with regard to our ordinance prohibiting the discharge of firearms in portions of the township. He said the police told him he can't shoot where he lives. He said he's been there since 1981 and this is the first year he had been told that. He said a neighbor turned him in. John will review the ordinance, then Tressa will call the neighbor and speak with our police chief.

David Bolzoni of Stevens & Lee has been working with the Valley Joint Sewer Authority (VJSA), Athens Township Authority (ATA) and the boroughs to do a refunding of debt that will result in an approximate \$400,000 savings over the remaining term of the note. There will be no new money involved. John Thompson was concerned because we had no proof of publication that the ordinance was advertised. John asked if it was advertised and David said he would have to speak to the attorney. Discussion continued. On motion of Kirstie, second by Susan, it passed to have Tressa and Robin execute all the relevant documents including Ordinance 2020-02, once the proof of publication was received from the attorney. Christine voted no.

There has been no decision on the Volunteer Fire Credit.

Richard Bean reported for the Parks Commission. We will be unable to fund the survey of the North Branch Canal property at this time. DCNR will be here to inspect the ATV grant work on

Thursday the 19th. Cohen Law Group is performing the Spectrum franchise audit. The loan for the pond stands at \$105,880. The Athens Superintendent and the high school principal have not been able to walk the Dunkley Hill property yet. We have not heard anything on the Marcellus Legacy Grant, which is an 85% grant to resurface the park road. Still waiting for word on the Bradford County room tax grant for the overlook. We will also need to ask some of our local businesses and organizations to help us out financially. People are stealing the gaga pit balls. We will purchase 2 gaga balls and loan them out. Not for profit organizations will not have to leave the deposit. Individuals will need to leave a deposit of \$5 and their home address. We will place a sign on the pit to bring your own ball or pay a deposit at the township building. Round Top will close on November 21st for the season, and will reopen after big game hunting season if there is enough snow on the ground to cross country ski. Cathy Eckker has resigned from the Parks Commission. Richard has found someone to replace her. On motion of Alan, second by Tressa, it was unanimous to appoint Michelle Browning to fill the remainder of Cathy's position which expires July 1, 2022. The Park Commission will be taking the star to Round Top Friday, November 27th. Richard will contact the fire company.

Next was the Benjamin Ling 2-lot subdivision located on Pump Station Hill Road. Planning Commission recommends preliminary and final plan approval. All deficiencies have been met. Bruce Benish presented the plan to the Board, and there were no questions. On motion of Tressa, second by Christine, it was unanimous to grant preliminary and final plan approval to this subdivision, and to execute the Non-Building Waiver.

On motion of Kirstie, second by Susan, it passed to ratify the renewal of the emergency declaration through November 24, 2020. Christine voted no, and Alan abstained.

On motion of Tressa, second by Kirstie, it was unanimous to set the meeting dates and time for our 2021 meetings as the last Wednesday of every month at 5 PM, exceptions being November 17th and December 15, 2021.

It was decided to table the approval to advertise the budget until later in the meeting.

On motion of Tressa, second by Kirstie, it was unanimous to approve the renewal of Ed's annual membership in the National Association of State Floodplain Managers for \$165.

On motion of Kirstie, second by Susan, it was unanimous to ratify the reimbursement of \$206 to John Thompson from the Road C Fund for the recording of the Road C/King Road as-built drawings and other final paperwork at the Register and Recorder's Office at the County Court House.

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On motion of Tressa, second by Christine, it was unanimous to vote for the slate of officers for the Bradford County Township Officers Association as presented on the ballot.

We will not renew our membership in the Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce for 2021.

John Thompson reviewed the DPW and the Police contracts for accuracy prior to signing and they are a mess. Discussion was held. John was directed to revise the contracts with the correct information, get with Roger to review them, and send the revised contracts to the Union for their approval. On motion of Christine, second by Tressa, it was unanimous to approve the extension of interim rates for the Health Insurance and HRAs until the new contracts are signed.

Due to COVID-19, we will not be able to hold our employee Christmas luncheon this year. We will invite those employees who would have received their milestone awards at the luncheon to our December 16th meeting at 5 PM. On motion of Christine, second by Alan, it was unanimous to have Robin purchase a \$250 gift certificate for our 25-year recipient.

Robin advised the Board that the bid is being awarded for the structural borings that will be used for design of the foundation of the new Thomas Avenue bridge. PennDOT anticipates the borings to start in late December or early January and will take about 2 weeks. The current bridge will not need to be closed for this work. Once the borings are complete they can prepare a foundation report that will allow them to move forward on the final structure design.

PennDOT sent a letter requesting input on their planned paving of Riverside Drive from Potter Road north to the NYS line. Susan will prepare something to be sent prior to their deadline of December 1st.

On motion of Kirstie, second by Alan, it was unanimous to approve the Bill of Sale for Salvage to Selective Insurance for our New Holland tractor that caught fire – accepting the \$19,489, which will be deposited into our Capital Reserve Fund to be allocated for a rear-mount mower.

The Stagecoach crushed stone invoice was discussed. It is over budget and Ruth questioned whether prevailing wage needed to be paid for the delivery of the stone. Ruth will also need to transfer \$93,640 to cover this invoice. Susan will get with Tim Robson to clarify these issues. On motion of Tressa, second by Alan, it was unanimous to table this issue and table the transfer of funds until our December 7, 2020 meeting to get everything clarified.

Discussion was held on the Sunnyfield Drive paving invoice from Bishop Brothers. This invoice is also over budget. We have no prevailing wage certification or asphalt certification, and still need

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material/weigh slips. Ruth also needs to know what portion will be paid from Liquid Fuels and what portion from Act 13? On motion of Alan, second by Kirstie, it was unanimous to table this until our December 16th meeting.

On motion of Kirstie, second by Tressa, it was unanimous to pay the Bristol invoice with the overage for the Meadowlark Drive project as Tim Robson has signed off that the overage will be reimbursed from the Dirt and Gravel Road Program.

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

On motion of Tressa, second by Christine, it was unanimous to approve the minutes of October 28th and November 10, 2020 as written.

On motion of Tressa, second by Kirstie, it passed to approve the minutes of November 2, 2020 as written. Susan abstained as she was unable to attend.

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

Vice Chairwoman Heffron took the Board into executive session at 6:40 PM for personnel and pending litigation. The regular meeting reconvened at 7:22 PM.

On motion of Kirstie, second by Tressa, it was unanimous to appoint Matt Wayman as a Zoning Hearing Alternate for a term to expire September 9, 2022.

Tressa, Kirstie, Robin and Ruth will meet on December 8th at 4 PM to conduct interviews for Robin's replacement.

On motion of Kirstie, second by Alan, it was unanimous to give Robin, Ed and Cindy a 2.25% raise for 2021 and the same amount as last year for Ed and Cindy's clothing allowances; to recommend to the auditors that Susan also receive a 2.25% raise and the same amount for her clothing allowance as last year; that the DPW employees and Police Officers receive raises as per their respective contracts, and that Ruth receive a pay grade raise of \$10,895 for 2021.

On motion of Tressa, second by Susan, it was unanimous to have Robin advertise the proposed 2021 budget for adoption at our December 16, 2020 meeting.

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There being no further business, on motion of Tressa, second by Alan, it was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin L. Smith
Athens Township Secretary