

ATHENS TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS
January 18, 2021 5 PM Joint Meeting

Chairwoman Tressa Heffron called the meeting to order at 5:05 PM. The purpose of the meeting is to review the results of the study that was conducted by Athens Borough's pension provider which will give us several options for combining our pension plans if we move forward with the police consolidation. Supervisors also present were Kirstie Lake, Christine Vough, Susan Seck and Alan Burgess. Solicitor John Thompson, Secretary Robin Smith and Township Administrative Secretary Michelle Rude were present via Zoom. Athens Borough Manager Mark Burgess was present with several members of the Athens Borough Council. Athens Borough Solicitor Jon Foster, Jr. was present via Zoom. Bill Cotton was in attendance as a citizen.

The township and borough had contracted with the Athens Borough Pension provider, Ron Bittner, to do a study on the proposed combination of our police pension plans if we move forward with the Regional Police Department. Several options were provided.

Chief Roger Clink had talked to Joe Kerschner to see how we would proceed from this point if we choose to move forward. The next step would be having each municipality pass a resolution accepting the recommendations from the State. This is not a binding document and either municipality would be able to withdraw from the project at any time. Roger also said there are grants available to us for up to 50% of the chief's salary and up to 50% for all start-up costs. Robin asked if there was a cap on the start-up costs and Roger was not sure. He said there was a cap of \$49,000 for the chief's salary. Tressa said she believes you can apply for these grants twice per year (April and September?). Discussion was held by each board as to whether or not we want to move forward.

On motion of Tressa, second by Alan, it was unanimous to appoint Kirstie Lake as representative of the township to help draft the applications for the grants. Scott Molnar was appointed by the borough to do the same.

On motion of Tressa, second by Kirstie, it was unanimous to have John Thompson work with Jon Foster, Jr. to draft a resolution accepting the state's recommendations as our general recommendations - for both boards to adopt at their next meeting(s).

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:08 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin L. Smith
Athens Township Secretary