

ATHENS TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS
February 24, 2021 5 PM Regular Meeting

Chairwoman Tressa Heffron called the meeting to order at 5:06 PM. Supervisors also present were Kirstie Lake, Christine Vough, Susan Seck and Alan Burgess. Solicitor John Thompson and Secretary Robin Smith were also in attendance. Tressa led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Voice of the Residents:

Patty Ingrick and Tim Robinson were present concerning the flooding problem around her house at 171 Sharon Ave. Susan has a plan in place that we should be implementing shortly.

Deb Allen,1 Lois Lane, expressed concerns about the Bishop Brothers Minard Mine proposed for the Jeanette Minard property located off Meadowlark Drive. She asked what the residents of the Valley will see – dust, truck traffic, blasting.... She understands that people have a right to do what they want with their own property, but she has a problem with 1 resident affecting the lives of so many others. John Thompson explained that the Conditional Use hearing just determines that the use will be allowed. They will still need to go through the land development process, and secure various required permits from other agencies.

David Norton, 1305 Highland Drive, asked if all the wells will be tested. One of the conditions set was that all adjacent property owner wells will be tested. He asked about noise pollution as he knows some people in his area work nights and sleep during the day.

David Martz, 1570 Meadowlark Drive, has offered to sell his house to Bishops so they could possibly straighten the road there to alleviate some problems.

Greg Ward, 1517 Meadowlark Drive, asked if the road will be fixed prior to the mine beginning operation. Susan said she'd like to tar and chip the corner and widen it up over Meadowlark. Greg said the road is in bad shape now. He said the decision says will allow trucking Monday – Friday and half-day Saturday – what about Sundays? John said there will be no Sunday or federal holiday operation. Greg asked what happens if they run more than 30 trucks/day? John advised him to contact the Zoning Office if it gets more prevalent than 30 trucks. Greg added people didn't know about the mine.

Tressa said attending the Planning Commission meeting will be most important, as you will have the opportunity to comment at those meetings.

Deb Allen asked if the Board could hold their meetings at a later time. Tressa explained that they all have kids and can't get home at 10 or 11 PM. We tried 6 PM but still got home so late. She added that if people get here later because they can't be here at 5 PM, we will go back and give them a chance to speak.

Jaimee Alsing, 383 Litchfield Rd, said as far as she can tell, she didn't see any studies from Bishops on property values. She said she is considering selling her house. No one will rent from her with a gravel mine there. She said that would be an economic impact. John said Bishops said their economic impact would be creating 30 jobs. Nothing requires them to state an economic impact. No evidence was entered by the opposition at the hearing. Evidence submitted must be factual evidence.

Deb Allen said the real problem was with people not knowing about this. Greg Ward said that was the problem. He shouldn't have to hire an attorney – "you people work for us". We need some backing from you.

Jaimee asked if Bishops said they are not archaeologists, does that exempt them from doing an archaeological study? Tressa said the archaeological study is in there. She added that her own opinion doesn't matter – she has to do what the ordinance says – she can't base her decision on opinion. Tressa advised them to go to the planning meetings and voice their concerns.

Robin added that they can watch the PA Bulletin for the permit to be submitted to DEP. They will have a 30-day comment period once the permit is submitted. She said you can find the PA Bulletin online, and it may be available at the library. Tressa said she got information from Conservation PA. We will try to get a link for the PA Bulletin on our website.

Police Chief Roger Clink was present with retirement gifts for two recent department retirees. Keith Stackhouse was honored for 42 years of service as a patrolman and a Sergeant. Elaine Daddona was honored for 23 years of service as police clerk.

Tressa called for the opening of the bids for fuel, which were as follows:

<u>Bidder</u>	<u>11,000 gal 87 octane</u>	<u>14,000 gal LSDiesel</u>
WOC Energy	\$1.8931 delivered	\$2.0630 delivered
Mirabito	\$1.9598	\$2.1228

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On motion of Susan, second by Alan, it was unanimous to award the bid for both fuels to WOC Energy.

Richard Bean was present for the Parks and Recreation Commission. He said he hasn't heard anything new from Cohen Law Group re: the Spectrum franchise audit. The loan for the park expansion stands at \$105,880. The school district has not been able to walk the Dunkley Hill property. It is looking good for the Marcellus Legacy Grant (90% grant) to resurface Round Top Road in the park. They received \$5000 from the Bradford County room tax grant for the overlook, and have sent letters to local businesses for donations. Round Top is open for cross country skiing while there is snow on the ground. The star is unplugged and the fire company will take it down when the road is free of snow and ice. Richard attended the public meeting concerning Bishops rock mining permit. The new restroom at the ATV trail is leaning because of flooding. Solid Ground Services will be resetting it when the weather breaks. We have insurance to cover it. They are redoing the park brochure. Park inspection will be at Tozer's Landing at 9:30 AM on April 3rd. Barry will start April 12th. Round Top will open May 15th. The Junction Canal surveying will cost \$5000 and will come out of the park budget. Tressa told Richard she talked to the History Club at school about interviewing Bobbie Blanchard to gather history from her. Tressa will let Richard know when/if this will happen. Richard said he has the cemetery on his Eagle project list, but the township would have to pay for it.

Marion Carling presented the Lawrence C./Mary Parsons 2-lot subdivision on Pennsylvania Ave. Planning Commission recommends preliminary and final plan approval as all deficiencies have been met. Bruce Benish explained the subdivision to the Board. On motion of Tressa, second by Christine, it was unanimous to grant preliminary and final plan approval to this subdivision.

Next was the Williams Subaru final land development on Elmira Street. Planning Commission recommends final approval as all deficiencies have been met. The stormwater agreement needs to be signed by the Supervisors and then recorded with the deed. The Notice of Termination has to remain open until the snow melts and the grass grows. On motion of Alan, second by Kirstie, it was unanimous to grant final plan approval to this land development.

On motion of Kirstie, second by Susan, it was unanimous to ratify the renewals of the COVID emergency declaration through March 3, 2021.

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On motion of Christine, second by Kirstie, it was unanimous to have Ruth cut the Thomas Avenue bridge ROW purchase checks for Barrett, Sayre Borough, DeSisti and Robert Packer Hospital. They are 95% reimbursable to us.

On motion of Kirstie, second by Alan, it was unanimous to have Tressa sign the contracts for Reliance Standard Life Insurance Company, who will be taking over from our Nationwide policy.

On motion of Kirstie, second by Christine, it was unanimous to adopt RESOLUTION 2021-08 to sign the C&N Internet Banking signatory pages.

Susan said the snow and ice have gotten the best of our roads and we have a lot of potholes. We are also short 2 guys as 1 is out because of surgery and the other went to Sayre Borough. We only had 3 guys plowing in the last storm. The guys are getting the equipment ready for spring.

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

On motion of Tressa, second by Alan, it was unanimous to approve the minutes of January 27, February 9 and February 16, 2021 as written.

On motion of Tressa, second by Kirstie, it passed to approve the minutes of February 22, 2021 as written. Alan abstained as he was unable to attend.

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

Correspondence/Information was as listed in the meeting agenda.

Chairwoman Heffron took the Board into executive session at 6:15 PM for personnel and pending litigation. The regular meeting reconvened at 7:07 PM.

On motion of Susan, second by Kirstie, it was unanimous to pay Robin for her unused vacation and sick days after her retirement on March 17, 2021 as per her Sick Leave and Vacation Record as calculated by Ruth for 2021.

On motion of Kirstie, second by Susan, it was unanimous to have Michelle Rude return to work on Monday, March 1, 2021, upon submission of a negative COVID test.

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There being no further business, on motion of Kirstie, second by Susan, it was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 7:14 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin L. Smith
Athens Township Secretary