

ATHENS TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS
March 31, 2021 5 PM Regular Meeting

Chairwoman Tressa Heffron called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM. Supervisors also present were Kirstie Lake, Christine Vough, Susan Seck and Alan Burgess. Solicitor John Thompson attended via conference call and Secretary Michelle Rude was also in attendance. Tressa led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Tressa turned the meeting over to Joe Mashinski, representative for Dandy Mini Marts, Inc. to discuss the transfer of Liquor License #R16935 from Canton Borough to Athens Township located at 2686 Elmira Street, Sayre, PA 18840. Joe presented the members of the board with the Dandy's Employee Policy and Procedures citing the proactive training for the employees to ensure responsible practices. Joe emphasized that approving the license transfer is only the first step in implementing the sale of beer at this location and that there is an intent to sell wine, however that will require an additional "ad-on license". He brought to the board's attention that the Dandy has 9 other liquor licensed locations with zero violations. Jim Barnes, an employee of Dandy Mini Marts, Inc. spoke about the locations and answered clarifying questions for the members of the board. Tressa read the resolution to the board and asked for feedback. Tressa called for a motion to approve.

On motion of Kirstie, second by Christine, it was unanimous to adopt RESOLUTION 2021-09, approving the Liquor License Transfer from Canton Borough to Athens Township located at 2686 Elmira Street, Sayre, PA 18840.

Bill Morris presented the Auditor's report to the board. He presented both Shelly Reagan and Jane Watson to the meeting stating that between the three of them, they have 77 years of experience working for the township. Bill announced that Jane was retiring and she was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation from the Board as well as a Certificate from Senator Gene Yaw's Office. Rep. Tina Pickett presented Jane with a Certificate from the House of Representatives.

Voice of the Residents:

John Cheresnowsky and his wife Ruth of 448 Brookside Drive presented the board with a petition, including photos, signed by 80% of the Hickory Heights community to have hardtop asphalt on their roads. While they commended our road crew for their plowing, they stated that due to the condition of the roads it was difficult for our guys to see where they are. They noted that we did Sunnyfield Drive, which has less residential homes on it, and while it is our prerogative to do the road projects we see fit, they would like to be considered as well. Ruth stated that the road conditions are "deplorable" and is a reflection on Athens Township. She informed the board that they have a young community and it is difficult to push strollers and ride bikes on the current roads. She also

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mentioned that there is wheelchair bound residents that are having difficulties as well. While they understand that we may not have the budget to address this issue now, they request that we have a plan in place to not only address this road but the other roads in the community as well. Tressa stated that we would look at our budget and discuss it with our road master to see what can be done.

Patty Ingrick asked for an update concerning the flooding problem around her house at 171 Sharon Ave. Susan stated that we have 3 estimates: S&A Construction for \$17,995, Vacri for \$61,850, and DGR Excavating for \$20,350 and recommended that the board accept the offer from S&A so that she can get started on this project. She plans on putting 4 drywall tanks providing 2,000 gallons of water storage.

On motion of Alan, second by Tressa, it was unanimous to approve the acceptance of S&A's bid for \$17,995 and begin construction on this project.

Brian Mounts of 3177 Wilawana Rd. expressed his concerns regarding the Bishop Brothers Gravel Mine project. He is an 18-year veteran that served in both Afghanistan and Iraq and is concerned as to how the blasting will impact both him and other veterans with similar experiences. He stated that he wasn't clear on the location of the proposed quarry and Tressa showed him on a map the exact location. Brian then told the board that he was vehemently opposed to the blasting and cited that he chose this location for its serene views and didn't want to have to cut his kayaking trips short to avoid blasting or lose the peace. He also stated the impact it may have on local wildlife. Tressa recommended that he attend the Planning Commission meetings pertaining to this project.

Richard Bean was present for the Parks and Recreation Commission. He said he hasn't heard anything new from Cohen Law Group re: 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 have not received any additional funds for the overlook. The fire company took down the star and it is now in storage. 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 will be providing an estimate when the snow melts off. 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

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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. Susan informed the board that a student, Gage Stahl, and his family took it upon themselves to clean it up. They did about 40 hours of work and Gage has volunteered to maintain it as long as he is in high school. The lights for the Memorial were repaired by Mountain Lake Electric at a cost of \$2137.

The supervisors reviewed the proposed Thomas Ave. Bridge detour plan.

On motion of Tressa, second by Kirstie, it was unanimous to approve Edmund Reid's PSATS Emergency Management Membership.

On motion of Alan, second by Susan, it was unanimous to ratify the renewals of the COVID emergency declaration through April 6, 2021.

On motion of Kirstie, second by Alan, it was unanimous to approve the renewal of our Morning Times subscription for the next year.

On motion of Christine, second by Alan, it was unanimous to approve the minutes of February 24, 2021 and the Conditional Use Decision minutes for February 24, 2021 as written.

On motion of Kirstie, second by Susan, 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 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 7:15 PM.

On motion of Tressa, second by Kirstie, it was unanimous to submit a letter requesting a time extension of one year for Reimbursement Agreement Number 033576, Thomas Ave. Bridge project.

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There being no further business, on motion of Kirstie, second by Alan, it was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 7:23 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle A. Rude
Athens Township Administrative Secretary