

ATHENS TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS  
May 26, 2021 5 PM Regular Meeting

Chairwoman Tressa Heffron called the meeting to order at 5:01 PM. Supervisors also present were Kirstie Lake, Susan Seck and Alan Burgess. Solicitor John Thompson and Secretary Michelle Rude were also in attendance. Supervisor Christine Vough was unable to attend. Tressa led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Athens Senior Sydney Field was recognized with a Certificate of Appreciation by the Board for receiving her Girl Scout Silver Award, the highest honor a Girl Scout Cadette can earn. Sydney earned this award for her project "Sid's Kids" where she made baby hats and incubator covers for UHS Wilson Medical Center's NICU Department. Tressa asked her to describe her project, read her township certificate, and presented it to her.

Voice of the Residents:

Bryan Mounts of 3177 Wilawanna Road expressed his continued opposition to the Bishop Brother's mining project. He stated that he has been going door-to-door for signatures for his petition to ask Bishop Brothers to stop progress. He spoke to the large military community in Bradford county and, as a soldier, expressed the impact that blasting could have on war veterans. He stated that he and other veterans came to Athens for peace and quiet. In addition to the damage that may be done to veterans emotionally, he moved here from a town that had 50 years of blasting and he described the long term effects as atrocious. Tressa asked the township secretary, Michelle Rude, to coordinate with the planning commission and distribute an agenda for the public when they schedule a meeting with Bishop Brothers to move forward with this project. Mr. Mounts thanked her and stated that he would be at the next Planning Commission meeting. Tressa thanked him for coming.

Richard Bean was present for the Parks and Recreation Commission. DCNR has inspected the ATV grant project and found no issues. He said that they are still waiting on an update from Cohen Law Group re: Spectrum franchise audit. The loan for the park expansion stands at \$70,880.00. The school district has not been able to walk the Dunkley Hill property. They have not received any additional funds for the overlook. They will most likely ask for an extension as the cost of materials has significantly increased. The new restroom at the ATV trail has been set back in place. The cost is \$5285 and has been submitted to our insurance. The gate keeper from last year resigned. They were able to replace him with Bryan Haney for \$13/trip. Round Top Park (RTP) opened May 15<sup>th</sup>. They are looking for ideas concerning how they should celebrate 50 years' ownership of RTP in September. The park commission will make Pavilion #1 a Memorial for Dave Hafer. They have had inquiries about having a pickle ball court at RTP. They will be purchasing a net (about \$100) and rent it out. Richard has signed up with Subaru's "Share the Love Event". If they are accepted, \$250 will be donated to RTP for every new auto they sell in November and December this year. The padlock at the back gate of RTP was

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cut and left open twice. They put up a camera and it was stolen. They will be replacing it with a new one.

On motion of Kirstie, second by Tressa, the vote passes to ratify the renewals of the COVID emergency declaration through May 25, 2021. No further renewals will be submitted.

On motion of Kirstie, second by Alan, it was unanimous to approve the minutes of April 28, 2021 as written.

On motion of Tressa, second by Alan, the vote passes to ratify the hiring of Bryan Haney on 5-14-21 as the park gate keeper at \$26/day (\$13 per trip) and minimum wage for extra duties.

On motion of Kirstie, second by Tressa, the vote passes to approve Athens High School's request to close Pennsylvania Ave. from W. Pine Street to W. Frederick Street for graduation on June 12<sup>th</sup> from 11:30 am until the completion of commencement ceremonies.

Solicitor John Thompson discussed with the board the potential abandonment of the Clinton Street extension paper street as well as all other paper streets in the township. He will meet with Eddie and review what streets will be impacted. We will discuss this further at our next meeting.

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 Tressa, second by Alan, 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 6:01 PM for personnel and pending litigation. The regular meeting reconvened at 7:28 PM.

On motion of Alan, second by Susan, the vote passes to allow fully vaccinated people only to enter the municipal building without masks. A new sign will be posted.

On motion of Kirstie, second by Alan, the vote passes to allow Susan to bid for a newer public works truck to replace the 2001 Sterling with the stipulation that we reserve the right to reject the bids.

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On motion of Kirstie, second by Alan, the vote passes to begin the advertising process for a public works foreman position.

On motion of Alan, second by Tressa, the vote passes for Solicitor John Thompson to file an answer in the Adams quiet title.

There being no further business, on motion of Kirstie, second by Susan, it was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle A. Rude  
Athens Township Administrative Secretary