

ATHENS TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS
August 25, 2021 5 PM Regular Meeting

Chairwoman Tressa Heffron called the meeting to order at 5:03 pm. Supervisors present were Kirstie Lake, Alan Burgess, Susan Seck and Christine Vough. Solicitor John Thompson and Secretary Michelle Rude were also in attendance. Tressa led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Voice of the Residents: Tressa called for the Voice of the Residents. No residents spoke at this time.

Richard Bean was present for the Parks and Recreation Commission. He said that Cohen Law Group had completed the Spectrum franchise audit. Because our contract states that we can only go back one year they are not paying the \$19,000 and the cost to have Cohen do the audit was \$5,200. Michelle Rude told Richard that the board voted last month to allow Cohen Law Group to send a letter to the Spectrum Franchise challenging that decision. She stated that she followed up this week and Cohen Law Group had not heard back from Spectrum. Richard asked John Thompson to reach out to Cohen Law Group on our behalf to which he agreed. The loan for the park expansion stands at \$70,880.00. The school district still has not been able to walk the Dunkley Hill property. Richard stated that he had a difficult time reaching the superintendent directly. Tressa stated that she would reach out to him after the meeting tonight. They have not received any additional funds for the overlook. The material costs have increased. They received \$18,510 from DCNR for reimbursement for the ATV grant – this will cover some of the repair cost for the bathroom and will potentially be used towards the overlook project. They are still looking for a date for the Round Top Challenge. April, May, September and October are not available. The park commission will be making Pavilion # 2 a Memorial for Dave Hafer. The plaque has been delivered and should be mounted soon. They now have funds to pay for the survey of the canal property. Richard discussed the condition of Round Top Park's road and stated that due to the condition, they have decided not to do the "Walk with Doc" or the 50-year Anniversary celebration. Susan stated that she was aware of the road condition and that we were hoping to get the grant funds to fix it but that fell through. She said they may be able to reclaim it and lay petroleum on it to make it more passable. Erin Wayman from Guthrie will be at the next Parks meeting to talk to the commission concerning Blue Zone. Richard invited the members of the board to attend. Tioga County Emergency Services has expressed interest in putting a tower on Round Top. They came this week and had a tour of the site and seem interested.

On motion of Kirstie, second by Christine, motion passed to approve the minutes of July 28th, 2021 and August 3, 2021 as written. Alan abstained.

On motion of Alan, second by Christine, motion passed to advertise the Tutelow Creek FEMA project once we have the bid specifications from Moody & Associates.

The board members discussed the bidding for antiskid and agreed to wait until January as we have enough in stock to hold us until then.

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Susan discussed upcoming road projects. There are several FEMA projects pending that need to be completed. They are focusing on Tutelow Creek, Macafee, Orcutt Creek, and Pump Station Hill road as well as maintaining other township roads.

The board discussed appointing a replacement for Jane Watson and Tressa suggested reaching out to George. The board agreed that would be a good idea and that they would consider other names in our next meeting should he not be interested.

On motion of Kirstie, second by Susan, motion passes to pay monthly bills.

On motion of Kirstie, second by Alan, motion passes to accept the monthly reports as submitted.

Correspondence/Information was as listed in the meeting agenda

Tressa took the Board into executive session at 6:37 PM for personnel and pending litigation. The regular meeting reconvened at 7:17 PM.

On motion of Tressa, second by Alan, motion passed to increase the Heavy Equipment Operator hiring wage to \$16.50/hour as well as increasing the current Heavy Equipment Operator's hourly wage by \$1.00/hour beginning September 1, 2021.

On motion of Alan, second by Kirstie, motion passed to authorize John Thompson to file a petition to release the estimated just compensation funds paid by the township from the prothonotary's office.

On motion of Kirstie, second by Susan, motion passed to approve the payment of \$31,503 to Jonathon Foster, as attorney for Roman Rosh, using the remaining balance in the Road C account as well as General Funds. Payment is for the award of the Board of Viewers Condemnation Action for Road C as per the judgement entered.

There being no further business, on motion of Kirstie, second by Susan, it was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle A. Rude
Athens Township Administrative Secretary