

ATHENS TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS
Special Meeting 5 PM January 10th, 2022

Chairwoman Tressa Heffron called the meeting to order at 5:02 PM. Supervisors also present were Kirstie Lake, Susan Seck, Christine Vough and Alan Burgess. Solicitor John Thompson, Secretary Michelle Rude, Treasurer Ruth Casterline and Pension Board members: Jason Bailey, George Ballenstedt, and Stacey Sickler were also in attendance. Mike Chilson was unable to attend. Larry Alderson and Jen Schultz from Citizens and Northern bank were in attendance as well. Tressa led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Voice of the Residents: None

Larry Alderson addressed the members of the board and provided them with packets containing handouts pertaining to the Police and Non-Uniform Pension plans. He explained the figures for 2021 and further explained what a defined benefit plan entails and how it works. He then used the Police Pension Plan packet to explain the actuarial assumptions in the actuarial variation report as of Jan. 1, 2021. He explained how we have maintained at the assumption that the interest rate will maintain at 7.5% but recommended that we lower our assumed rate based on the upcoming projections for the next 5 years to avoid the potential of being “grossly underfunded”. He reviewed the actuarial study that was done with various interest rates and advised the board that this is something they should consider for the 2023 budget. He then addressed moving our fixed allocations from a 40% holding to a 30% holding (in BOTH plans) and reallocating the additional 10% to equity. The reason for this move is because the interest rates in fixed are low in the current market and projected to fall even lower in the foreseeable future. He advised waiting for a drop in the S&P 500 to make this move for maximum benefit to the township. He then answered any questions and allowed for discussion amongst the boards.

On motion of Kirstie, second by Tressa, motion passed to authorize the Pension Board to change the investment allocation for the Police and Non-Uniform Pension plans to a 70% equity/30% fixed split should the S&P 500 have a 15% decrease from the recent market highs.

On motion of Tressa, second by Kirstie, motion passed to add the following to the agenda:

- Approve AmTrust Municipal Liability/Worker’s Comp. invoice for \$60,596.00
- Approve invoice for Cindy Parrish’s notary reappointment for \$517.92
- Discuss including employee health insurance contribution for Non Union Bargaining Employees in the MOU

On motion of Kirstie, second by Alan, motion passed to approve the AmTrust Municipal Liability/Worker’s Comp. invoice for \$60,596.00.

On motion of Kirstie, second by Christine, motion passed to approve invoice for Cindy Parrish’s notary reappointment for \$517.92

Chairwoman Heffron took the board into executive session at 6:22 pm and reconvened the public meeting at 6:35 pm.

On motion of Tressa, second by Susan, motion passed to allow Edmund Reid and Cliff Cheeks to attend the 2022 PSATS conference in Hershey. Kirstie and Alan opposed.

On motion of Tressa, second by Kirstie, motion passed to allow Solicitor Thompson to draft a Certificate of No Objection for Don Adams vs Perkins Realty et al.

On motion of Tressa, second by Kirstie, motion passed to amend the motion of January 3rd, 2022, to reflect the correction of clerical errors in the draft Zoning Ordinance. The passage of the Zoning Ordinance is contingent upon the following conditions:

1. The correct placement of Commercial Solar Farms should be permitted with conditional use approval in the Agricultural, Woodland Conservation and Industrial Zoning Districts and thus should be removed as an “Accessory Use” in each of those Zoning Districts.
2. Within Section 704, titled “Signs in the C (Commercial), IC (Interchange Commercial). And I (Industrial) Districts”, that portion of Subsection 704(B) currently appearing in bold, should be identified as Subsection 704 (A), with the provisions previously identified as Subsections (A) through (H) to be labeled as Subsections (B) through (I) sequentially. Additionally, the provisions 704(D)(3), 704(D)(4), and 704(E)(1), as identified in the draft, have been eliminated. The introductory provision of 704(E), of the draft, should be identified ad Section 704(F)(1), with removal of the sentence:

“All such signs shall be subject to the following limitations.”

Finally, each clerical error identified herein shall be reflected in Table 1, titled “Sign Regulations”, with the removal of Section II(E)(a) and Section II(E)(e), and the sequential renumbering of the remaining subsections.

On motion of Tressa, second by Kirstie, motion passed to authorize Solicitor Thompson to prepare a Resolution to designate Michelle Rude as a representative for the Pension Board.

On motion of Tressa, second by Alan, motion passed to set Pernell Trollman’s wage for 2022 as \$21/hour to be reflected in his MOU.

On motion of Tressa, second by Kirstie, motion passed to allow outside organizations to utilize the township building.

There being no further business, on motion of Kirstie, second by Tressa, motion passed to adjourn the meeting at 6:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle A. Rude
Athens Township Administrative Secretary