

ATHENS TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS
March 8th, 2023 5 PM Special Meeting

Chairwoman Tressa Heffron called the meeting to order at 5:12 PM. Supervisors also present were Christine Vough, Bonnie Petruschak and Alan Burgess. Solicitor John Thompson, Secretary Michelle Rude, Ruth Casterline, and Chuck Wright were also in attendance. Supervisor Kirstie Lake was absent.

Chairwoman Heffron took the Board into executive session at 5:14 PM for personnel and pending litigation. The regular meeting reconvened at 5:35 PM.

Voice of the Residents:

Mike Freeland of 4350 Wilawanna Rd. addressed the way the township is pre-salting the roads prior to a storm. He stated that 30% of the materials are wasted when the road crew does this. He stated that he spoke with Chuck and he realizes that we only have 3 men working when there should be 6 and they are doing their best. He told the board that people in the community are leery to work here because of high turnover rates and low pay. He realizes that it will take a while to fix all of the public works issues but he told the board he felt they could fix the pay/benefits for employees and correct the waste of materials now. He did speak with Chuck and suggest resources like LTAP classes and local people he could call to get advice from. Tressa thanked him for coming and told him she appreciated his feedback. She stated that the more that residents that come and give feedback like his, the easier it is for the board to do their jobs.

Don Johnson of Macaffee Rd. stated that the first mile or so of his road coming off 220 was all torn up and wanted to know what the board planned to do about it. He asked Chuck how wide the road was supposed to be and Chuck responded with 20 feet that he later corrected to 18 feet. Don stated that he didn't think his road cleared 12 feet and that, if you were to meet another vehicle driving on it, you would have to pull over so they could pass. Chuck told him that his road is on our list for the road improvement plan they are discussing tonight. Tressa asked him if/how the road was impacted by the creek. He stated that the flat area by the creek was bad. He told the board someone came down about 5 years ago and put down stone. They told him they would come back and clean it up but never did. Chuck asked him for his contact information and told him he would meet with him to see the issue and send the crew out to clean it up. Tressa thanked him for coming.

Pat Beers of 260 Hickory Heights stated the Sue told her that she would fix the roads but then there wasn't enough money. The road condition by her house cause water too pool around her mailbox and it froze, making it inaccessible for several days. She wanted to know what the township's plan was for repairs. Alan told her that we would be addressing her road in the workshop tonight. She stated that Ruth helped her gain a better understanding of what goes into fixing the roads financially and she realizes it is a lot. She just wanted to make sure the board knew the issues and was working towards a solution.

On motion of Tressa, second by Alan, motion passed to table the fuel bid discussion until the March regular meeting.

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On motion of Alan, second by Christine, motion passed to reject all material bids from the February regular meeting.

Chuck Wright presented the board with his road improvement plan and they held a discussion.

On motion of Tressa, second by Bonnie, motion passed to add reinstating Mike Chilson to the agenda.

On motion of Alan, second by Christine, motion passed to reinstate Mike Chilson as a member of the Public Works Department beginning Thursday, March 9th contingent upon the execution of the performance improvement plan. His suspension with pay will end on March 10th, 2023.

There being no further business, on motion of Alan, second by Christine, it was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 7:16 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle A. Rude
Athens Township Administrative Secretary