

ATHENS TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS  
April 27th, 2023 5 PM Regular Meeting

Chairwoman Tressa Heffron called the meeting to order at 5:04 PM. Supervisors also present were Kirstie Lake, Christine Vough, Bonnie Petruschak and Alan Burgess. Solicitor John Thompson, secretary Michelle Rude, and Chuck Wright were also in attendance. Tressa lead everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

On motion of Tressa, second by Bonnie, motion was passed to add the following items to the agenda: ATWP Planning Commission 2-lot subdivision for Theresa Hall, ratify the decision to instate a burn ban on April 12<sup>th</sup>, discuss lifting the burn ban, and discuss waiving the temp event permit fees for Valley ASA @ the man camp.

**Voice of the Residents:** Dave Norton of 1305 Highland Drive wanted to follow up on the plan is for the section of road that meets with Meadowlark Dr. (200-yard stretch) for dust control as well as what the townships plan was for all dirt roads needing dust control. Chuck stated that they are still working on a plan, looking at budget availability, rating roads and would be discussing dust control later tonight.

John Cheresnowsky of 448 Brookside Drive wanted to know the actual plan for road repairs (i.e. which roads would be repaired when for the next few years. As a taxpayer, he feels he should be able to know what money is going where and what types of roads are being fixed. He expressed his frustration as he feels that the township makes plans for road improvements but doesn't follow through for various reasons and feels we should be further along in the planning process at this time. He suggested publicizing a list of roads and their planned repairs. The supervisors addressed his concerns stating that the plan they are working on is to assign a rating to each road and put together a plan for the next several years so funds can be allocated accordingly. They also explained that they are working on finding additional funding sources to help with these road projects.

Matt Moore of 206 Blackbear Lane wanted clarification on the zoning of the ballfield behind the man camp and how it impacted ASA's ability to use the field. Tressa explained that it was zoned residential as it was part of the man camp and was never meant for public use. She stated that ASA did have a temporary permit to play on the field but that a variance application was needed by the end of May to address the zoning issues and move forward. John Thompson reiterated tht the time frame was necessary to maintain compliance and that the ZHB would need to approve the use. Matt asked what the townships liabilities were and what the revenue stream is for the township to enforce a permit for use. John stated it was more responsibility than liability as the township is responsible to uphold the zoning ordinances that are in place. Tressa stated that the permit fee is \$30 but we would be discussing later in the meeting whether or not to waive it for the ASA. Matt added later in the meeting that he felt the township should not spend money in a new backhoe but rather invest in a used one for now.

Mike Freeland of 4350 Wilawana Road asked the board if it was their interest to keep the Public Works Dept. Tressa stated that it was. She stated that the board is looking for ways to help not just our department but our community by looking into shared services with neighboring municipalities. She explained that working together opened up new opportunities for revenue via grants that would help all parties make the improvements they need. He mentioned concerns that we have one crew member that is able to do the entire job and 2 out of high school that don't have the experience, and wont gain enough

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experience to be as efficient as we need them to be for several years. He pointed out the new tri-axle truck purchase and how he feels it was a mistake and should be sold to recoup some money that could be allocated elsewhere. He expressed safety concerns with the size and our roads in comparison to the size of the truck. Alan told him that he is painting a picture that they already know and wondered if he had any solutions. Mike suggested that the township participate in the job fair at Alperon Park next month to look for new public works employees. He also suggested that we invest \$40,000 or so into a used backhoe to get us through the next few years while we set aside some money to purchase a new one in the future.

No representatives were here from the fire department or parks commission. Their reports are on file with the township office.

On motion of Alan, second by Tressa, motion passed to grant preliminary/final land approval to Theresa Hall for the 2-lot subdivision on Front Street.

Chuck Wright gave his road report. The report is on file with the township office.

On motion of Alan, second by Kirstie, motion passed to approve and submit the Letter of Intent for the shared service study.

On motion of Kirstie, second by Christine, motion passed to approve the salvage bill of sale for the CAT 430 E backhoe. Tressa signed and John Thompson notarized the document.

On motion of Alan, second by Kirstie, motion passed to approve the bridge inspection proposal allocating \$1500 from the HWY Maintenance account (438) and \$1300 from the Professional Services account (?).

On motion of Tressa, second by Kirstie, motion passed to rebid fuel for unleaded, on road diesel, and off road diesel with a cap.

On motion of Tressa, second by Kirstie, motion passed to accept the resignation of Michael Murphy from the ATA and appoint William Steimel as his successor.

On motion of Kirstie, second by Alan, motion passed to ratify the burn ban decision from April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

On motion of Alan, second by Kirstie, motion passed to lift the burn ban.

On motion of Alan, second by Bonnie, motion passed to waive the temp event fee of \$30 for the Valley ASA at the man camp.

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On motion of Tressa, second by Alan, motion passed to add scheduling a road workshop and passing Ordinance 2023-1 to the agenda.

On motion of Kirstie, second by Tressa, motion passed to schedule a road workshop for May 11<sup>th</sup> at 5 PM.

On motion of Alan, second by Kirstie, motion passed to pass Ordinance 2023-01 for a service charge fee for the tax collector

On motion of Kirstie, second by Christine, motion passed 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, motion passed to approve the minutes of March 29th as written.

On motion of Alan, second by Kirstie, 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 6:50 PM for personnel and pending litigation. The regular meeting reconvened at 7:45 PM.

On motion of Alan, second by Bonnie, motion passed to add Chuck's MOU to the agenda:

On motion of Alan, second by Bonnie, motion passed to approve Chuck's MOU as written and authorize John Thompson to present it to Chuck for signature.

There being no further business, on motion of Alan, second by Tressa, it was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle A. Rude  
Athens Township Administrative Secretary