

Chairwoman Tressa Heffron called the meeting to order at 5:32 PM. Also present were Supervisors Bonnie Petruschak, Ron Reagan and Cori Lasco; Matt Moore was absent due to a scheduling conflict. Solicitor John Thompson, Treasurer Ruth Casterline and Secretary Meagan Carling were also in attendance. Tressa led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Athens Twp. Planning Commission:

Marion Carling represented the Planning Commission. She presented the board with the maps and documentation for two cases.

Garnsey, Jeffrey – preliminary / final 2-lot subdivision application: No action to be taken; email correspondence to withdraw the application was received after posted agenda / prior to the meeting.

Patterson-UTI / NexTier Completion Solutions Inc. – schedule conditional use hearing: A conditional use hearing was scheduled by the Supervisors to be held at the Athens Township Municipal Building on Herrick Ave, Sayre PA on Tuesday, July 9th 2024 at 6:00 PM; the application will be reviewed at the next Planning Commission meeting on Monday, June 3rd 2024.

Voice of the Residents:

Roberta Blanchard / North Branch Canal Property:

Mrs. Blanchard discussed her intent on gifting a portion of her property (approximately 3.94 acres) where the original lochs / canal were situated to the Township for a park after her children had finished using it for farming. Mrs. Blanchard explained she has been trying to get the necessary provisions in order to have this “set-up to happen” for 20 years now and believe she has met the last set of conditions to move forward, or at least has a plan set in place for them to all be met in a timely manner. She wants to know what else is holding up this process; also acknowledging that a survey needed to be done as the last one was questionable. Mrs. Blanchard stated that she has been researching different grants that may be something that can help cover these costs. Tressa replied to Mrs. Blanchard with concern for the timeframe for when this would actually change hands in correlation with not knowing what changes could be made to the use of the adjacent land. This led to questions regarding if Tutelow Creek was a protected waterway or not. Tressa told Mrs. Blanchard to give the Township some time to look into the questions about the waterway and to look into what grants are available now or upcoming that may apply to her scenario and could be applied for. Mrs. Blanchard should expect some feedback from the Township by July 1st, 2024.

Rosemary Firestine / Moore Road Bridge:

Rosemary recently moved back to the area and is currently residing on Moore Road. She wanted to express her concerns in regard to the bridge closure and the road itself. Rosemary stated the road itself bad and the lack of guiderails / high brush do not help the situation. Added are her concerns for the effectiveness for emergency vehicles to get to her / neighbors in the event they were needed. She is also having issues getting her mail, the post-master refuses to have it delivered which forces them to have to make it to the post-office during their open hours (which vary), this is a major issue as they have prescriptions that come via mail have the possibility to not be accessible when needed. Rosemary added the lack of ability for trash pick-up and the inability to get a propane delivery to these concerns / frustrations, as these technicalities were not disclosed

when she was in the process of purchasing her home. Suggested looking at reconsidering the bridge weight limit if nothing else planned; she could not find anything in previous minutes posted.

Harmon Kelley / Gateway Industrial Park Road:
Requested to be on the agenda but was not in attendance.

Paul Kelley of Moore Road expressed his continued disappointment of how the roads are being handled and offered his services for \$1/year. The Supervisors acknowledged Mr. Kelley's input.

Tom Witmer of Moore Road expressed his frustration with the Moore Road Bridge continued closure. The Supervisors acknowledged Mr. Witmer's input.

Athens Twp. Volunteer Fire Co.:

April 2024 report received.

Sign options / funding status is still in process, will be put on the June 26th B.O.S. agenda to revisit.

Athens Twp. Parks Commission:

On motion of Tressa, seconded by Bonnie; motion passed to ratify the 2024 E.M.H.R. membership for Athens Township Supervisors in the amount of \$150.00 from "Parks" account.

Michele Browning presented the interest in starting a "Parks" VENMO account for the ease of use for donations when they are looking for funding, especially with the Tozers Landing expansion / improvement design now being public. John Thompson – Solicitor, cautioned that statutorily there may be some issues with it and will look into it more and relay the findings back to the Parks Committee.

Meade Murtland presented a request for Bryan Haney (Parks Gatekeeper) to have access to use the Township truck for opening and closing the parks and to park it at his residence overnight to keep from having to switch vehicles back and forth. This item was continued to the Executive Session for further discussion.

On motion of Tressa, seconded by Bonnie; motion passed to approve the Purchase Order for new park flags in the amount of \$418.47 from 454.210 account.

On motion of Tressa, seconded by Cori; motion passed to approve the Purchase Order for Mattison Tree Service quote for tree removal at Tozers Landing in the amount of \$600.00 from 454.370 (Parks) account.

Two Purchase Orders from LeBlanc Development for Round Top Park's upper restroom roof repair \$4000.00 and Pavilion #5 roof repair \$12,000.00 were tabled to the next meeting. Cori requested another quote for both structures to review.

Michelle Browning finished reporting for the Parks Committee by sharing that the continuing growth of the Parks Department Facebook page has led to the creation of an off-shoot for “Friends of the Park” for people to volunteer / be more involved.

Athens Twp. Public Works Dept.:

May 2024 Highway Report was not received prior to the meeting.

Notice of June Bridge Inspections by Larsen Design Group, no action needed – schedule noted:

- B07 / T-321 (Murray Creek Road) over Murray Creek
- B10 / T-876 (Miller Road) over Satterlee Creek
- B19 / T-105 (Thomas Avenue) over Cayuta Creek
- B59 / T-862 (Round Top Road) over Murray Creek

Moore Road Bridge update:

Costs for the interim strengthening project professional services and design request for retro-active reimbursement was accepted by PennDOT to have added to the TIP (Transportation Improvement Plan) in 2025.

On motion of Cori, seconded by Tressa; motion passed to approve the Purchase Order for Larsen Design Company proposed interim strengthening repair project professional services and design for the Moore Road Bridge in the amount of \$37,350.00 from ACT 13 account; this retro-active funding was added to the TIP in 2025 budgeted at \$240,000 that will be available in October 2024.

A Roads Workshop was scheduled by the Supervisors for Thursday, June 13th 2024 at 6:00 PM at the Athens Township Municipal Building on Herrick Ave. in Sayre PA to update the Road Improvement Plan.

On motion of Ron, seconded by Bonnie; motion passed to decline the Roundabout Improvement Project proposed by Mara Johnson with PennDOT for the intersection of S.R. 4022 & S.R. 220 (Wilawana Road and Route 220 southbound ramp); submit formal letter to Mara Johnson for her records.

On motion of Tressa, seconded by Cori; motion passed to approve the Purchase Order for a change order extending the Hawbaker milling project 300ft on Gateway Industrial Park Road in the amount of \$11,170.00 from the general funds account.

Road Foreman MOU to be discussed in the Executive session.

Public Works Staff to be discussed in the Executive session.

Athens Twp. Police Dept.:

April 2024 report received.

Hiring of a new police officer to be discussed in Executive session.

On motion of Ron, seconded by Bonnie; motion passed to approve the Purchase Order for a weapons storage system in the amount of \$1,754.45 from 410.260 account.

Bilateral Agreement MOU to be discussed in Executive session.

On motion of Bonnie, seconded by Tressa; motion passed to approve the monthly reports.

On motion of Ron, seconded by Bonnie; motion passed to approve the monthly bills.

On motion of Ron, seconded by Tressa; motion passed to approve April 13th 2023 special meeting minutes.

On motion of Tressa, seconded by Bonnie; motion passed to approve April 24th 2024 regular meeting minutes.

Considered / Discussed:

Cabinetworks Assessment Appeal to be discussed in Executive session.

On motion of Tressa, seconded by Cori; motion passed to approve a speed study for speed limit reduction consideration on Riverside Drive from resident concern submitted to Rep. Pickett's office, relayed to PennDOT and shared with Athens and Litchfield Townships for discussion.

On motion of Ron, seconded by Cori; motion passed to adopt Flood Plain Ordinance 2024-01.

On motion of Bonnie, seconded by Ron; motion passed for renewal of Ed Reid's Floodplain Manager 2-Year Certification.

On motion of Ron, seconded by Cori; motion passed for approval of Purchase Order for office AED Package in the amount of \$1950.00 from 415.260 account.

On motion of Ron, seconded by Bonnie; motion passed for approve of Purchase Order for office Stop The Bleed Kit Option #1 in the amount of \$700.00 from 415.260 account.

Shared Services Workshop discussion was tabled.

On motion of Tressa, seconded by Cori; motion passed for documentation release to CPA's for quotes on services for 2024.

Bradford County Treasurer repository offer letter- no action taken; noted.

Twin Tiers Pest Control quote for service regarding yard carpenter bees – tabled.

On motion of Tressa, seconded by Ron; motion passed to appoint Meagan Carling – Secretary as “Right-to-Know” Officer.

On motion of Bonnie, seconded by Cori; motion passed to have the Weitsman payout for yard scrap deposited to the Veterans Memorial account.

Credit card / charge account to be discussed in Executive session.

On motion of Tressa, seconded by Ron; motion passed to sign release / waiver of distance exemption from BCSC for 1488 Wildwood Rd sewage system replacement.

On motion of Ron, seconded by Bonnie; motion passed to approve Principal Clark’s request for Penna Ave. road closure for graduation ceremony Friday May 31st.

PA Broadband Ready Communities Program – tabled.

TEAMSTERS Health Agreement missing signatures to previously approved agreement noted and signed.

Update cameras – tabled.

Update phone system – tabled.

On motion of Cori, seconded by Bonnie; motion passed to approve the and Purchase Order for D3 Web Design proposal for development and hosting of the Township website in the amount of \$1200.00 from 400.250 account.

Correspondence/Information:

PSATS Webinar 6/4/24 – Using Technology for Smarter Paving, noted.

PSATS Webinar 6/20/24 – Bridging the Gap with Digital Tools, noted.

On motion of Ron, seconded by Tressa; motion passed for Meagan-Secretary and Ruth-Treasurer to attend the PSATS Secretary / Manager Summit in Boalsburg PA on June 18th & 19th.

Aqua report, noted.

Chairwoman Tressa took the board into executive session at 7:31 PM for personnel and pending litigation. The meeting reconvened at 9:17 PM.

Bryan Haney will be issued a key to the Township yard gate to ensure access to use the truck to open Roundtop Park daily.

On motion of Tressa, seconded by Ron; motion passed to approve the Bilateral Agreement MOU.

On motion of Cori, seconded by Tressa; motion passed to approve the hiring of new police officer Bradley Wilson with a start date of June 7th, 2024 in accordance with the union contract rate of pay step 3 and the approved Bilateral Agreement MOU.

Road Forman MOU – tabled.

On motion of Tressa, seconded by Cori; motion passed to move Garret Stocks to Level 2 Operator with a pay rate of \$22.50 with all union benefits per the union contract; date effective May 30, 2024.

On motion of Tressa, seconded by Cori; motion passed to move Jon Waltenburg to Road Forman pay rate of \$22.50 with all union benefits per the union contract; date effective retroactive to previous motion made to begin March 28th 2024.

On motion of Tressa, seconded by Bonnie; motion passed for revision of the current Credit Card Policy; John Thompson to revise and will be put on the agenda for June Supervisors meeting.

On motion per Tressa, seconded by Ron; motion passed to authorize John Thompson to sign the Cabinet Works Appeal corrected documents once received; action on appeal tabled to June Supervisor meeting.

There being no further business, on motion of Cori, second by Tressa; it was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 9:24 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Meagan Carling
Athens Township Secretary