

Chairwoman Tressa Heffron called the meeting to order at 5:32 PM.

Present were Supervisors Tressa Heffron, Bonnie Petruschak, Ron Reagan, Matt Moore and Cori Lasco; Secretary Meagan Carling and Garret Stocks representing the Public Works Department / Road Crew were also in attendance. Tressa led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Voice of the Residents:

Roberta Blanchard, North Branch Canal Property:

Ms. Blanchard was in attendance to check the status of her intention for donating her North Branch Canal / Weighlock property to the Township to ultimately be developed into a park. Ms. Blanchard asked the Supervisors ‘where does this situation stand?’; discussion with Tressa, Ron, Cori explained that Parks Commission would have to agree to maintain it, a survey would still need to be done, most avenues for funding would not be applicable until it was in the Townships name. Ms. Blanchard replied that Parks Commission approved accepting the property four years ago at a meeting she attended to present it to them; Tressa stated that would need to be verified with Parks; Ms. Blanchard was provided Parks next meeting information (8/26/24 @ 7p). Tressa advised Ms. Blanchard to have Parks make their recommendation and then the Supervisors would have the information they need for the next BOS meeting; Ms. Blanchard will be put on both agendas.

Kiera Storch, Jacklin Road:

Ms. Storch was unable to attend the meeting but emailed her discussion item information:
[The families on Jacklin Road are requesting signage to encourage traffic to slow down and be wary when travelling up our hill. Our road isn’t in the best condition to start, but we have many delivery services that drive recklessly with the lack of posted speed limit. We are concerned for our children, our pets, and everyone else on our hill. There are plenty of blind corners and hidden driveways. It isn’t safe for us, nor is it safe for the drivers of these vehicles who don’t know our road well. It is a concern as they could easily drive off the side of the road if corners are taken too quickly or if something surprises them. Thank you for taking the time to listen to my request.]
Questions arose about the number of residents out towards that end of Jacklin and why would they have that many issues with speeding to need a “slow” sign. Garret and Ron discussed Jacklin Road should be considered a “no outlet” road but the last property’s owner at the end has a long driveway off of Jacklin Rd that has a private second driveway that connects to Sullivan Drive in Queen Esters Estates that the homeowner maintains (winter maintenance included), a.k.a. “the short-cut” from Queen Esters to Jacklin Rd./surrounding area and vice-versa. Garret stated he would make some calls and speak with PennDOT and possibly the homeowner to have information / options for the next meeting. Tressa advised to tell Ms. Storch they are working on it.

Aaron Brotzman, Weaver Road:

Mr. Brotzman explained conditions of roads around his residence (Weaver and Bobcat mainly) and noted they have not been graded in over a year causing some really bad spots/crowning/pot holes/etc. Mr. Brotzman continued he would even be happy with “band-aids” for now as the recent rain has really affected their condition. Garret replied that he has a plan for this are next week - now that they are back to full-staff and equipment repairs have been made, he can make sure these are not just temporarily “band-aided” and wants to take the time to fix them the right way and keep

up on maintenance. Mr. Brotzman thanked Garret; Tressa asked for Mr. Brotzman to give the BOS a status of the conditions after these repairs are done so they know if it was an improvement.

Tyler Chandler, Ridge Road:

Mr. Chandler was in attendance to discuss damage received to two trailer tires and rims while traveling on Shephard Road through Milltown and about the Townships' procedure regarding damage reimbursement as he knows they have them in place in Sayre Borough and Village of Waverly. Tressa answered that the Township does not currently have a protocol for reimbursement or replacement but will make note to discuss it with the Solicitor when he is back in town and can provide him that information after. Discussion continued between Mr. Chandler and the Supervisors regarding the dangers on that stretch of road with its' current condition (a few pot-holes are up to 8-10 inches in diameter), plus the notable increase in speeding. Garret added that he is familiar with the pot-hole area he is referencing and knows that the energy company had just done some work there so will investigate them and see if that may be cause.

Athens Twp. Planning Commission:

No representative present.

Patterson-UTI / NexTier Completion Solutions Inc.: Attorney Rossettie, who had represented NexTier Completion Solutions at the conditional use hearing on July 9th 2024, requested a formal decision document be completed and executed by the Supervisors and submitted back to him for their records. The Supervisors read and signed this as it was decided upon at the hearing that the conditional use be granted.

Athens Twp. Volunteer Fire Co.:

June 2024 report received; no representative present.

Athens Twp. Parks Commission:

No representative present.

Tozers Landing has not had any further excessive water use; discussion was had about leaving the water as it currently is, no handles unless requested. Aqua monthly reports will continue to be monitored.

Round Top Park water test results from July reported limit above threshold, additional samples to be provided. Four additional samples provided with results within the limits. No additional action needed.

Round Top Park roof repairs to the upper restroom and pavilion #5 were completed from 7/22-7/29/24 per contract between LeBlanc Development and the Township.

The Parks Committee asked about the plan for the roads being repaired inside Round Top Park; as their conditions are negatively affecting attendance and future bookings per comments received. The Supervisors discussed that the Parks Committee used to be responsible for these roads, then the Township took them back over years ago but this may need to be looked into to change again; until that happens – does Parks have any budget to fix these? Ron / Matt / Garret discussed options

for repair and ended with a plan for RTP roads to be looked at (both by a local company and PennDOT) to get recommendation for best course of action to repair; Garret and Matt will lead. Further discussion once additional information provided.

The Parks Gatekeeper position was filled by two individuals; Janine Dawson was trained July 24th and Spencer Underdown was trained July 30th.

The Parks Committee has a member resigning and will need to start considering a replacement; no official dates set at this time.

On motion of Tressa, seconded by Bonnie; motion passed to open a 4-Imprint account under Athens Township Supervisors for ordering needs via credit card payment or, if they authorize, charge account.

Athens Twp. Public Works Dept.:

Garret Stocks was in attendance to represent the Public Works Department.

Matthew DeBlander from Larson Design Group and Aaron Crist from PennDOT were in attendance to review the Murray Creek Road Bridge Rehab Project; discussion was had on why and how the determination was made to do this preservation project, the final designs explained to show changes / improvement features along with the site plan for the immediate surrounding area. The discussion continued with the detour originally proposed possibly being adjusted after discussion with Garret about timeline for fixing Weaver completely / correctly before this project would start in June 2025. Resident Aaron Brotzman added to make sure to have dust control done early in that entire area too; Matt added that would be part of the site preparation. Mr. DeBlander asked if the Township wanted to stay with the original plan to keep the materials (guiderails, signage) that would be removed?; resident Mike Freeland offered information regarding the ability to have the signs refaced at Bradco. Cori asked Mr. DeBlander what would the loadbearing difference be after completion?; Mr. DeBlander answered it would be at full composite and not need postings for limits as it does now. Bonnie asked if any waterflow assessment was completed for this?; Mr. DeBlander answered it was not needed for this preservation project.

With no other questions, on motion of Cori, seconded by Matt; motion passed for the Township to keep the current guiderail and posted signage when it is removed at the beginning of this projects preservation work.

On motion of Tressa, seconded by Ron; motion passed to authorize Larson Design Group to apply for a water obstruction permit for the Moore Road Bridge Strengthening Project and to provide them with copies of our FloodPlain Management Plan & StormWater Management Plan Ordinances.

Moore Road Bridge Strengthening Project Status Report from Joshua Setts – Project Manager received; project is on schedule and there are no current action items for the Township at this time. Noted activities completed: deed / ROW research complete, preliminary structural design complete, preliminary E&S plans complete. Activities scheduled for the next two months: finalize E&S plans, finalize structure design, obtain temp. construction easements, complete structure

plans, obtain PennDOT structural adequacy approval, complete construction plans, prepare contract documents, advertise / let project.

On motion of Tressa, seconded by Cori; motion passed to approve Purchase Order for calcium dust control / application from account 438.214 in the amount of \$11,936.00; scheduled for application beginning 8/5/24.

Truck #6 - 2009 Ford F250 posted for auction on MunicBid to run from 7/24-8/8/24; current bid up to \$3000. Noted.

On motion of Tressa, seconded by Matt; motion passed to approve Purchase Order for mobile screen plant rental from Austin's from the rental budget account 438.380 in the amount of \$2150.00. This will cover delivery and a 2-day rental to get the millings in the yard to a useable status as they are not currently.

Garret discussed the three quotes he received for 2000tons AS3 anti-skid (delivered); Johnson Quarries \$25/ton, Marcus Cole \$24/ton, Lopke \$32.50/ton. Discussion was had regarding the need for the approved purchase being from a COSTARS vendor, with the materials showing on the vendor list online. On motion of Tressa, seconded by Cori; motion passed to approve Purchase Order for Marcus Cole quote of 2000tons AS3 anti-skid (delivered) for \$24/ton, total cost \$48,000 from account 432.201 general fund contingent upon finalization of their COSTARS vendor certification of materials.

Garret discussed the Winter Needs/Requests List:

- 1.) Six Laser Temperature Guns (approx. \$90/each)
- 2.) Truck #8 drive tires & Truck #3 steer tires (working with Steve Shannon Tire on options)
- 3.) Six Cobra 29 LTD classic CB radio's (approx. \$120/each)

Tressa requested that Garret get with Ruth to discuss this and get line items numbers for what we have budget for; will revisit at the next meeting.

The street name signs at the corner of Winding River Dr / Wildwood Rd have been replaced 3 times this year; discussion was had amongst the Supervisors, Garret and Officer Stone regarding setting a camera in the area to prevent this further. Officer Stone will look into what they have available.

Johnson Quarries delivered contracted 2A & 2RC materials on 7/12/24. Noted.

Thomas Avenue Bridge officially open to traffic July 19th, 2024. Noted.

Public Works Foreman MOU to be discussed in Executive Session.

Mechanic / Laborer MOU to be discussed in Executive Session.

Public Works Staff to be discussed in Executive Session.

Athens Twp. Police Dept.:

June 2024 report received, no representative present.
Wage Appendix – disregard, figures were incorrect.

On motion of Bonnie, seconded by Cori; motion passed to accept the monthly reports.

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

On motion of Ron, seconded by Tressa; motion passed to approve the minutes from June 26, 2024 regular meeting and the July 9, 2024 Special Meeting & Conditional Use Hearing

On motion of Bonnie, seconded by Ron; motion passed to approve the minutes from the July 19, 2024 special Supervisors meeting – Tressa & Matt abstained as they were not in attendance.

Considered / Discussed:

On motion of Tressa, seconded by Bonnie; motion passed to adopt RESOLUTION 2024-15 Act 13 Impact Fee Funds received and allocation of \$60,000 to the police department purchase of Motorola In-Car Cameras that will be reimbursed to the Act 13 Funds account upon receipt of the awarded PCCD Grant funds which cover 100% of the costs.

CPA services were quoted from Guthrie & Co., P.C. for 2024 single audit \$30,000; annual DCED audit \$20,000. Discussion was had among the Supervisors about getting the other requested quote back from Baker Tilly to bring to the next meeting and possibly the need for a third.

On motion of Tressa, seconded by Ron; motion passed to authorize the Bradford County Courthouse – Register and Recorder Office to set up direct deposit via ACH for payments to the Township; they will no longer be sending paper checks.

Athens Youth Football is looking to purchase an AED to have on hand for practices / games. Jeff Rosenheck (Bradford County Emergency Management Coordinator) can get one for them costing \$1200 and is asking that since the organization allows all students in the Athens district to participate, that each municipality consider donating \$200 toward this cost – in exchange, a unified press release would be created. TABLED for next meeting; need to find out from Ruth where this money could come from for the donation.

Correspondence/Information:

Dalrymple Gravel & Contracting Inc.- notice of DEP Permit Renewal Application submission for their Chemung Plant. Noted.

FEMA congratulatory letter recognizing the Townships floodplain management ordinance is compliant with the National Flood Insurance Program; commending efforts toward reducing future flood losses. Noted.

On motion of Cori, seconded by Tressa; motion passed to authorize Willdan Group – Energy Saver Program to send some free LED lights to the Township.

Bradford County Commissioners – Community Development Grant Program offering a “Block Grant” opportunity (due 8/8/24). Noted.

Senator Yaw will be in Williamsport PA 8/6 and Mansfield PA 8/7 to discuss state grant opportunities; 8/6 seminar to focus on fire / police grants. This information was relayed to both Athens Township Chiefs. Noted.

Penn State Extension Training (virtual) – Stream Repair Series (5) beginning 8/27. Noted.

PSATS Training (on-demand webinar): Establishing a Pavement Management System; Garret looking into this and other PSATS trainings available.

Chairwoman Tressa took the board into executive session at 6:57 PM for personnel and pending litigation. The meeting reconvened at 8:16 PM.

On motion of Matt, seconded by Cori; motion passed to appoint Garret Stocks as the Public Works Superintendent at a rate of \$25/hour effective 8/1/24.

Upon the Solicitors return, the Public Works Foreman MOU to be changed to reflect “Superintendent” title and pay rate of \$25/hour.

On motion of Tressa, seconded by Matt; motion passed to hire Zaccory Guiles as Laborer for the Public Works Department at a rate of \$18/hour per union contract, contingent upon a pre-employment drug screen, background check and having his CDL permit prior to start date. Mechanic / Laborer MOU will not be needed for this position.

On motion of Tressa, seconded by Matt; motion passed confirming Mike Chilson pay rate of \$24.69, plus 3% effective 7/29/24.

On motion of Tressa, seconded by Matt; motion passed to authorize volunteer fire department employees to respond to working structure fire calls during work hours; time will be noted separately on their timesheet and paid from general fund.

There being no further business, on motion of Cori, second by Matt; it was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Meagan Carling
Athens Township Secretary