

ATHENS TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS

March 12, 2025 6:00 PM

Regular Meeting

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Chairwoman Tressa Heffron called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Present were Supervisors – Tressa Heffron, Bonnie Petruschak, Ronald Reagan and Michael Freeland; Matthew Moore was unable to attend. Superintendent of Public Works Garret Stocks, Secretary Meagan Carling and Treasurer Lauren Hotaling were also in attendance. Tressa led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Executive Session – no discussion needed prior to meeting.

Voice of the Residents

**Luke Rae - Robb Street:** Mr. Rae expressed his frustration and concern in regard to dust release from a local sand-blasting business in his neighborhood; his / his neighbors' frustration being that the dust cover is heavy at times and the concern being the "unknown" elements that are either being used to do the physical blasting and / or in the materials being blasted, being a potential health concern. Mr. Rae added that he believes the business is also operating without a permit. Discussion was had between Rae, the Board of Supervisors, Edmund Reid – Zoning Officer; comments also added by other attendees of the meeting and residents. Reid explained he had met with the business owner earlier that day in regard to this – DEP was also contacted / met with the owner as well; some changes are to be made regarding the filtration system and the container location where the blasting is performed. Mr. Reid was in contact with DEP, requesting the updated reports as the site is zoned as agricultural but used as industrial. Mr. Reid also has a meeting with the business owner Thursday 3/13/25 (tomorrow) to get the proper permits – there will be a fee assessed but there is nothing in the Townships' current ordinance / code preventing continued work once permits in place. Discussion will be had with the Township Solicitor in regard to air quality control practices.

Athens Twp. Planning Commission / Zoning

Cynthia Parrish – Planning Commission Secretary / Asst. Zoning Officer and Edmund Reid – Zoning Officer were in attendance to represent these departments.

**Ross:** zoning map amendment hearing scheduled for 3/26/25 at 6pm

Zoning Dept. has updated forms for review to keep notices consistent and is continuing to work with the Solicitor on a few cases.

Athens Twp. Volunteer Fire Co.

No representative in attendance; no new business to discuss.

Athens Twp. Parks Commission

No representative in attendance.

Pavilion re-quotes were not received to present prior to this meeting.

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On motion of Tressa, seconded by Michael; motion passed to accept the letters of interest received from William Steimel and George Crowell to fill two of the three vacancies on the Parks & Recreation Committee.

Athens Twp. Public Works Dept.

Superintendent of Public Works Garret Stocks was in attendance to represent the department.

Garret received word from Joe Quatrini from BCCD that the bridge bundle they submitted for the Growing Greener Grant was awarded funding; how the funds will be allocated per bridge is still being determined – Mr. Quatrini is also looking into additional grants / programs to apply to for assisting with the balance the GGGrant does not cover. More information to come.

Roadwork Wish List; Garret presented the detailed breakdown and budget information in regard to the road projects he would like to get out for bid:

- *Westbrook, Hillcrest, Center, Rosh, Pine Tree* – total FDR, double coat ≈ \$142,590
- *Meadowlark, Highland, Weaver, Sutliff, Pump Station, Round Top Rd* – prime with asphalt, double seal coat ≈ \$461,628
- *Erin Road* – FDR pulverization, 19mm asphalt binder, 2A backup 2' each side ≈ \$193,520
- *Owasco* – 2A or millings, FDR pulverization, topped, prime with asphalt, double seal coat ≈ \$32,000

Total cost for all above ≈ \$829,738. Discussion was had with the Supervisors and budget reviewed. Garret gave some options to move some funds around to cover \$635,555 of that estimated total, leaving the balance needed to complete all of the Wish List at \$194,183. With a lot of information and scenarios to evaluate, this is TABLED until the next meeting 3/26/25.

Garret presented the purchase order for the Asphalt Dragtec dragbox, confirmed the COSTARs information and answered questions regarding its uses, savings, etc. On motion of Ronald, seconded by Michael; motion passed to approve the purchase of the dragbox, plates, track system in the amount of \$11,213.75 from Liquid Fuels Fund (430.748).

On motion of Tressa, seconded by Michael; motion passed to advertise aggregate bids to be received at the Township Building by deadline of 3pm Wednesday, April 9th 2025 to be opened at that evenings Supervisors meeting at 6pm; bids requested for:

- 1.) 3,000 tons (more or less) of PA State Certified, Driving Surface Aggregate (DSA); delivered
- 2.) 300 tons (more or less) of PA State Certified, Clean R-3 Rock; delivered

Discussion was had regarding Sutton's Body Shop invoice for recovery of Township truck sliding into a ditch on Meadowlark Drive during route for treating icy conditions and whether to submit to insurance (\$2000 deductible). On motion of Michael, seconded by Bonnie; motion passed to approve outright payment of the invoice, without insurance submittal, in the amount of \$3450.00 from the General Fund (437.200).

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Moore Road Bridge, strengthening project update: Email from Joshua Stetts (LDG, Project Manager) stated LC Whitford (construction contractor) would like to start with the asphalt removal, field verifying bridge dimensions, and installing E&S measures within the next couple of weeks. A pre-construction meeting for LDG, LC Whitford, Township Supervisor(s) and Superintendent of Public Works (Garret) scheduled for Thursday 3/13/25.

Advertisements ran in the Daily Review for fuel bids; deadline to be received at the Township Building is still on schedule for 3/26/25 at 3pm – to be opened at the Supervisor meeting that evening at 6pm.

Truck #9 – 2009 Chevy Tahoe update: Posted “AS IS” for auction on MunicBid, auction to run 3/3-3/16/25 with winner awarded at the Supervisor meeting 3/26/25; current bid is \$700 – if does not sell after posting twice, option to be scrapped.

Public Works Staff – nothing to discuss at this time, will revisit in Executive Session if needed.

Athens Twp. Police Dept.

No representative in attendance; no new business to discuss.

On motion of Bonnie, seconded by Ronald; motion passed to approve the Board of Supervisors regular meeting minutes from 2/26/2025.

Consider / Discuss

The contract proposal from Penn Strategies (grant-writing and appropriations firm) was further reviewed by the Supervisors and Solicitor; the BOS is not interested in the services they offer at this time.

Project Funding needs to be addressed; if the Township will be needing to take out a loan this year, that process should be started soon. The Supervisors requested the Township Treasurer Lauren Hotaling review the budget plan and have an allocation update for the next meeting for discussion.

Enterprise Center storage site needs to be revisited, alternate options discussed; TABLED.

Zoning vehicle repairs were done in-house and has passed inspection; back in use.

On motion of Ronald, seconded by Bonnie; motion passed to approve payment of the second installment invoice in the amount of \$10,920.00 from General Fund (402.311) to Baker Tilly CPA's.

Personnel – nothing to discuss at this time, will revisit in Executive Session if needed.

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Correspondence / Information

PennDOT County Municipal Outreach Program – 4/17/25, 5-7pm at Ulster-Sheshequin Fire Hall (RSVP by 4/4/25). Noted.

Open State Grant Opportunities – Multimodal, C2P2, PA Small Water & Sewer, GTRP. Noted.

KLX Energy Services, notice of permit application for storage and maintenance of field equipment and tools used in oil / gas operations. Noted.

Email migration of Township accounts via Kai Pan Consulting is in process as of today, should have all migrated and any issues worked out by the end of next week.

Website, test site is almost ready to launch; information regarding the optional maintenance package was provided for review as it was not included in the contract with D3 Web Design. Noted, will revisit at a later date.

Liquid Fuels Funds notice, first round of funds released to the municipalities that timely filed required paperwork; Athens Township received \$320,983.82 in liquid fuels funds.

PSATS Webinars upcoming: cell towers / antennas & GIS inquiries / responses. Noted.

LTAP courses upcoming: 3/27/25 Roadside Vegetation Control, 4/29/25 Geosynthetics. Noted.

Chairwoman Tressa took the Board into Executive Session at 7:29 PM,  
for personnel – Staff.

The meeting reconvened at 8:20 PM.

There being no further business, on motion of Ronald, second by Michael;  
it was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Meagan Carling  
Athens Township Secretary