

ATHENS TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS

November 30, 2011 7:00 PM

Chairman Ronald Reagan called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM. Supervisors also present were Jack Walter, Maurice Fay, Cheryl Wood-Walter and Robin Smith. Attorney John Thompson was also in attendance.

Chairman Reagan called for the opening of the rock bids. No bids were received. This is the second time we bid these items. On motion of Jack, second by Maurice, it was unanimous to acquire the rock at the best price wherever we can find it.

Voice of the Residents:

Betty Jo Morris of 3395 Wilawana Road presented pictures of the “gully” next to her home that continues to flood. She said she has 4 sump pumps running constantly. She stated that the township built this “gully” in 1986, and presented the deed for the gully. Robin asked where the water is coming from – ground water, or from a rain event, or from the road.... Betty said it comes from across the road. The township installed a pipe across the road and it drains into this gully. The gully contains 2 drywells that were installed by the township. Maurice said this could possibly be an easy fix if we take the tops off the drywells and clean them out. Ray will look at this.

Danny Stark of Clinton Street asked if we will protest the rate increase request of Aqua Pennsylvania. On motion of Maurice, second by Cheryl, it was unanimous to send a letter. Danny asked if we will be getting prisoners to clean the debris out of the creeks and Robin said we would not. She was notified there was not enough interest for this program for them to move forward.

Kylie Mullen of 3850 Wilawana Road asked for a status report on the FEMA trailer park behind her home. Pam Willis of FEMA was present and said the number of families that will be placed there is between 26 and 30. She also stated that number changes daily. Ron Reagan stated that our assistant zoning officer, Cindy Parrish, has issued 58 permits for this park. Pam said they will only put in as many as are needed. She added that with the weather – especially the rain – their schedule has been pushed back. Kylie asked if they have a projected date when they’ll finish, and Pam said they’re hoping to finish by the end of the week.

Kylie asked when the road would be paved. They stated there will also be a second entrance west of the planned entrance, but no one gave a date of expected paving. Kylie asked if the job trailers will be gone when the regular trailers are all installed. They will be. Pam said they will install more regular trailers if there is a need, but they will not require the return of the construction trailers. That contractor is called a “haul-and-install” contractor and consists of a crew that comes and just hooks everything up. Kylie asked if the fence will stay when the construction is done and Pam said it will.

Jack Walter said he thinks one of the conditions we set was that they had to be out in 24 months. That is correct. Pam stated these will only be Bradford County residents – our friends and neighbors who will now have a place to call “home”. She said when one person moves out, a deactivation work order is issued if there is no longer a need for that unit. FEMA pays for all utilities.

Diane Blasi of 3880 Wilawana Road asked if the contractors were given hours of operation that they were to abide by. They were told they could work from 7 AM to 10 PM. Diane said they worked past that time when they first started. They were running a roller on the driveway to 11 PM. They should have been able to do that during the day. She also stated the fence has not been extended to the end of her property line. Jim Slaughter, the construction manager, said they were instructed to extend the fence 50 feet – not to the end of the property line. Diane said she was told it would be taken to the end of her property line. Pam asked Diane to show her where the property line is so they can look at the situation. She added that they are trying to do everything they can to accommodate the residents. Diane said she has been emailing back and forth with Robin concerning her issues. She said the other night there was a truck with its headlights shining right into her family room for ½ hour – if the fence had been extended that would not have been an issue.

Diane also said there are a lot of safety concerns. They have no flaggers out there. The other night they did have a flagger and she was working in the dark with only a vest on and no lights. She was almost hit. They were installing a water line at 10 PM another night. Worker started with a vest, then a hardhat with a light, then finally had to park a truck there. Safety!! A FEMA trailer was stranded on November 17th – didn't know where to go - was backing up on Wilawana Road. No one directing traffic. Diane said she walks this road every day – it's an accident waiting to happen.

Mike Bull of 284 Oak Hill Drive said they have 25 construction workers living on the site. He asked what the sewer arrangements were. FEMA said originally they had a holding tank but then were given permission to connect to the manhole. Mike asked who is in charge of that and Ron advised him the Athens Township Authority (ATA) was in charge of sewer for the township. He gave Mike their contact information and meeting date. Mike said he almost got run over in his car by a Simonds truck. The truck had pulled into Sycamore Drive and then started backing up. Mike had to back out onto Wilawana Road. The truck driver honked three times and then ‘flipped him off’. They had no flaggers working. Maurice said we were told they'd have certified flaggers working.

Mike then said FEMA is parking trailers on the Valley Youth Soccer Association property and they weren't supposed to do that. Robin said Harry Hadlock (of VYSA)

gave written permission for that. Mike said that was for “a few” and there are 12 trailers there. Mike asked what the total cost of the project will be and Pam said she didn’t have that information with her. Mike gave a “Watch Children” sign to the Board that had come down in his neighborhood. Maurice said he will take care of that.

Gary Rosh of Wilawana Road asked where the second entrance would be for the park. It will be to the west of the main entrance.

Shelly Northrup of Sayre urged the Board to contact our legislators concerning Bills 1950 and 1100. She is concerned about the potential for local control to be taken away on zoning issues and other local regulations where the gas industry is involved.

Kylie Mullen asked if the detention pond will be fenced. Pam said it will be and the fence will remain after they are gone. Ron said we were told that the site would be reclaimed when they leave and Pam said they will not be doing that. Robin and Ron both said that was not what we were told. Ron asked who is supposed to maintain the detention pond left behind and Pam said that would be the responsibility of the landowner. Ron asked if the landowner knows that and Pam said it’s in their contract. Ron advised them that we will refer to the transcript of the approval hearing on these issues.

Tony Gillott of Wilawana Road said this property is now considered ‘developed’. He would rather see homes there than industry. Ron said Mary Sullivan had submitted plans for a housing development on that land before she passed away. Austin now has the infrastructure in place. Tony was concerned that the wetlands would be disturbed and asked if that was State or Federal jurisdiction. Ron said you just don’t touch them. Tony is concerned and said he doesn’t want a trailer park there. Robin said trailer parks are not allowed in the Residential Suburban district. Mike Bull asked how many homes would be allowed on an acre in that district and Ron said maybe 3, with sewer and water.

On motion of Maurice, second by Jack, it was unanimous to approve the minutes of October 26th and November 7, 2011 as written.

Scot Saggiomo presented the Jeffrey/Jean Barber 2-lot subdivision on Reagan Road for review. The existing home will become one lot (1.99 acres) and the parent tract will remain. The existing well will not be on the house property but will be shared between the two lots. Planning Commission had concerns about the easement for the well since it was just a narrative and was not signed by anyone. John Thompson said that will need to be notarized and recorded with the plan. On motion of Ron, second by Jack, it was unanimous to grant preliminary and final plan approval to this subdivision, contingent upon receipt of the notarized easement to be recorded with the plan.

On motion of Robin, second by Maurice, it was unanimous to set the date for the Walmart Conditional Use Hearing as January 3, 2012 at 7 PM.

Richard Bean was present for the Parks Commission. He has signed off on one Eagle Scout project (Brennan). The trail at Tozer's Landing is moving forward. Round Top Park is now closed. It will reopen after big game season has ended – only when there is snow on the ground for cross-country skiing and sledding.

Ray Brobst reported for public works. He asked if it would be OK to rent a couple trucks to get the large rock because it will do damage to our truck boxes. Robin asked him why he just didn't get it delivered and he said he didn't think of that. Ray said he has been looking for trucks on the internet to replace the 2000 Volvo. He said he went to Albany to drive a 1993 Mack 10-wheeler and it's in good shape. They're asking \$16,000 for it. Ron said the insurance company totaled our truck and will give us \$32,500 for it. Ron asked how much a new truck would cost. Ray said Bradco had a single axle for \$102,000. It'd probably be \$120,000 for a new 10-wheeler. Ron asked who had this truck in Albany and Ray said a dealer has it. Robin said we will have to bid this out. Jack said it was a town truck so we could put it right to work. Christine Vough asked if we are still paying for the truck that was wrecked, and Robin said no. She had heard it was a new truck and Robin said it was a 2000 Volvo. Ray will write a spec for Robin to use to bid. Ray said it would be a good truck. Ron asked who had it before and Ray said he thought it was the Town of Oswego. Robin said it's certainly seen snow, then. Ray said it doesn't have a plow, but we have one that fits it. It has a spreader box like the Volvo as well. On motion of Jack, second by Maurice, it was unanimous to bid for a used truck.

Robin said she had been contacted by Eric Benjamin from the fire company to see if the company could hold a Heavy Truck Rescue Drill with the Volvo. Discussion was held as to whether or not we would be keeping the truck for salvage, and we will not. Robin will call the insurance company to see if they can hold-off picking up the truck so the company can do their drill – and also to see if it would be permissible to do the drill.

We received an estimate for the actual "pieces" of the aluminum box culvert that we are proposing to install at the Meadowlark location. The cost will be around \$38,000 just for the pieces. Jack said the Town of Barton uses these bridges and they work well. We need to start getting things that meet the State requirements. We'd need to get a concrete contractor to put the footers in and set the bolts. They need to be accurate. We could build it on-site. We could try to assemble it on the footer or we would have to get a crane to set it. We won't get to this until the Spring. Discussion was held. FEMA may not cover the cost of a new bridge. The last paperwork we submitted was cut to \$2600 from our \$6500 request. Acquisition projects are all that will be considered in Round 1 of the

HMGP program. Round 2 will consist of non-substantially damaged homes and all other eligible projects, which would be this type of project. On motion of Jack, second by Maurice, it was unanimous to bid the aluminum box culvert for Meadowlark Drive.

The proposed 2012 budget was presented with no tax increase. On motion of Ron, second by Robin, it was unanimous to advertise this budget for approval at our December meeting.

On motion of Cheryl, second by Jack, it was unanimous to approve the Bradford County Humane Society contract for 2012 in the amount of \$1312.

On motion of Robin, second by Maurice, it was unanimous to pay our renewal dues with Manufacturer & Business for 2012 in the amount of \$270.

Our meeting dates will remain the last Wednesday of every month for 2012.

On motion of Maurice, second by Jack, it was unanimous to accept the monthly reports as presented. There was no fire report again this month.

On motion of Jack, second by Robin, it was unanimous to approve Michelle Plouse as a member of the Athens Township Volunteer Fire Company Fire Police.

Robin received yet another complaint about the flags being in such disrepair on the bridge over the Chemung River on Route 199. Robin recommends we remove these flags permanently, because they are never replaced in a timely manner and it is disrespectful to have these "ratty" flags displayed. Discussion was held. On motion of Maurice, second by Cheryl, it was unanimous to remove these flags permanently from the bridge.

On motion of Cheryl, second by Maurice, it was unanimous to approve the monthly bills as presented. A complete listing of revenues and expenditures is on file in the office of the Treasurer.

Correspondence/Information was as presented in the meeting agenda.

Chairman Reagan took the Board into executive session at 8:35 PM for personnel and pending litigation. The regular meeting reconvened at 9:26 PM.

Robin had spoken with our new Supervisor, Christine Vough, tonight and she advised Robin that she had signed up for the newly-elected supervisor course to be held at

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PSATS in Enola. She had paid for this herself. On motion of Ron, second by Jack, it was unanimous to reimburse Christine for the course and her hotel room for this course.

There being no further business, on motion of Robin, second by Cheryl, it was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 9:29 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin L. Smith
Secretary