

ATHENS TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS

January 29, 2014 7 PM

Chairman Maurice Fay called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM. Supervisors also present were Ronald Reagan, Cheryl Wood-Walter, Christine Vough and Susan Seck. Solicitor John Thompson and Secretary Robin Smith were also in attendance.

Chairman Fay called for the opening of the bids for the 2002 Ford Explorer, as is, which were as follows:

Doug Tappan	\$300
Doug Tappan	\$700
Chicago Motors	\$807 (disqualified – no bid security)
Emergency Remarketing	\$453
Richard Coyle	\$772

Discussion was held as to whether on not Doug Tappan's bids were to be separate or added together. Robin called Doug, who said they were not to be added together. On motion of Ron, second by Cheryl, it was unanimous to award the bid to Richard Coyle.

The next bid was for the 1974 Rivinius-Domor Tag-a-long trailer, as is. Only one bid was received – from Tammie Rosh, in the amount of \$327. Discussion was held. On motion of Ron, second by Maurice, it was unanimous to reject the bid to allow the Board to look at other options.

Voice of the Residents:

Don Johnson of Macafee Road said the pile of gravel is still across from his house. He said Ray told him in July, 2012 that it would be gone by fall. It's been there 22 months. Maurice said it is on Joan Macafee's property and she said it could stay there as long as need be. Randy Harford said the reason it hasn't been spread up the bank is because it's against the law. They are going to use that gravel. Christine said she will talk with Randy and get some options.

Dr. Pat Musto of Orcutt Creek Road advised the Board that the stop sign at Mile Lane and Lamoka Roads is rotated. It needs to get turned the right way. He also said the stop sign on Wilawana Road is now a 2-way stop where it was through traffic before. There used to be a stop sign on White Wagon Road. People who are familiar with the road expect White Wagon traffic to stop like they always have and there is no stop sign for them now. He would like to see "2-way stop" signs placed below the stop signs on Wilawana Road so people are aware. Christine will call PennDOT.

Aaron Brotzman of Weaver Road said the public works department is not plowing his road on off-work hours – weekends, holidays, 2 hour delays.... He said on Christmas Eve he called the police because the road was impassable. Officer Fedorchak responded.

He said when they do plow, they don't put enough cinders on the road, and they just put them in the middle of the road. That road drops 400 ft. in a quarter mile. It needs to be black with cinders. It's treacherous. The taxpayers need better service. The trucks don't throw the cinders. He has pictures. What's up with the trucks? 'Now you can give me another excuse about them being broken down. Take some of that surplus money and service your trucks before you give it away'. Usually when you call to complain, you get worse service. Randy Harford introduced himself to Aaron and thanked him for coming. He asked Aaron if it had gotten better in the last 2 weeks and he said it had. Randy said he met him on his hill and he did a real good job getting up that hill. Ralph Blowers was present and said some of Mr. Brotzman's information was in error. They have worked weekends, holidays, etc.

Lisa Reed had concerns with the potholes at the intersection of Pennsylvania Avenue and West Frederick Street. Maurice said we have been approached by Athens Borough as they are paving West Frederick Street this summer and have asked us if we would like to pay for our 200 ft. to be paved at that time. Robin asked what we are going to do about the potholes now. Randy said they will be taken care of tomorrow.

Ryan Reed was present for his Communications Badge this evening, and also completed handicap ramps on three of the pavilions in Round Top Park for his Eagle Scout badge.

Richard Bean reported for the Parks and Recreation Commission. They have started their financial campaign for the park pond expansion project. He will be meeting with Northern Tier Regional Planning on Friday about submitting two grant applications. They are looking for letters of support from the community. The park brochures are done and being printed. The fire company will take the star down on the weekend, weather permitting. Richard said they had scheduled presentations to 2 organizations but they couldn't find the projection screen. Christine said she had borrowed it and didn't know they needed it. Richard said there was vandalism by 4-wheelers in Round Top.

Dr. Pat Musto was present for Athens Township Authority (ATA). He said he hadn't been able to contact the person they would like to be appointed to the authority because that person is traveling. Robin asked if this person travels a lot and he said he thinks he does. Robin asked if that might be a problem since they already have one ATA member in Florida for the winter and Dr. Musto said that might be a problem.

Dr. Musto said they should have an approval letter from DEP in a few days, and should have their next permit in a couple weeks. He said their design is done for the sewer project except for one minor thing. They have cleared the Army Corp of Engineers, Railroad and PennDOT permit issues. The bad news, he said, is outlined in the letter he distributed. ATA is having a problem with Walmart. He said Walmart's engineer,

William Schneider, has declined ATA's request for an easement. ATA said they would put it anywhere he wanted it to go, but it was declined. He then proceeded to read the following from the letter he presented: "ATA had incorrectly anticipated that Wal-Mart would be responsible corporate citizen. That Wal-Mart would realize the continued growth in the Township that this project will allow benefits their financial interests. ATA had hoped that not only would Wal-Mart grant the easements, but decline to ask for any monetary compensation to grant the easement. If they continue to deny ATA the needed easement, there will be a negative economic effect on the Township. Wal-Mart's lack of cooperation will cause the ban on new construction in the Township to be continued". He said if they have to go to the press, they will. The letter he presented and read from was titled: "For immediate release to: Morning Times, Towanda Daily Review, WATS WAVR Radio", and all three were in attendance. Dr. Musto then proceeded to urge those in attendance to call 1-800-WALMART and to contact Mr. Schneider as well to express their concerns about the cost Walmart will be putting on the township sewer users and taxpayers by causing these delays and denying the request for an easement. He said they're at a standstill right now. He also said it's interesting that the sewer permit for Walmart was the last sewer permit issued before the ban on development was implemented. He said ATA has gone the extra mile when Walmart needed it, and they don't return the favor.

Cheryl asked if Applebee's will be stopped, too, and Dr. Musto said the use on that site will be less than what was there. Ron asked if it will help on Elmira Street and Dr. Musto said no. Cheryl said right now it's helping because no one is there.

John Thompson said the Walmart engineer forwarded plans to ATA's engineer to incorporate into their plans, and ATA's engineer didn't do it. Walmart didn't want it to go where they were going to put it. Dr. Musto said the feedback he's getting is that ATA's engineers are not getting anything back from Walmart. John said he just had contact with Skip (Mr. Schneider) and he is waiting for information from ATA so they can make their decision about the easement. Dr. Musto asked for Skip's phone number and Robin said she will email it to him in the morning.

Ron said Eddie told him he had to turn down 2 proposed new homes in Queen Esther Estates and a developer who was looking at Elmira Street. Ron also said he's really disappointed at the way this is being handled. The first two words of ATA are "Athens Township" and this is giving the township a bad name. It's not right. You shouldn't be going to the press first. The email Brian Huckabee sent to Skip Schneider sounded like blackmail. Ron said Dr. Musto should talk directly to Skip.

On motion of Ron, second by Cheryl, it was unanimous to approve the minutes of December 18, 2013 and January 6, 2014 as written.

On motion of Maurice, second by Cheryl, it was unanimous to ratify the payment of the Penelec utility relocation bill from the current Road C funds. Robin had requested the late charges be waived and Penelec has removed the late charges.

On motion of Ron, second by Cheryl, it was unanimous to appoint Cheryl Wood-Walter to both the Non-Uniform Pension Board and the Police Pension Board to replace Jack Walter, who has resigned. The terms will expire January 1, 2015.

On motion of Christine, second by Ron, it was unanimous to send the entire Public Works department to the 2 LTAP classes that will be held here (“Liquid Bituminous Seal Coat” and “Bridge Maintenance & Inspection”), and to send Randy and one other person to the “Spring Road Safety & Maintenance” class in Scranton.

On motion of Maurice, second by Ron, it was unanimous to pay for the paving of our portion of West Frederick Street (200 ft. east of Pennsylvania Avenue) when Athens Borough paves that road.

Ron explained to the Board that Bradford County Planning has agreed to help us with the Comprehensive Plan update at no cost. They need us to sign a Memorandum of Agreement for this. On motion of Maurice, second by Cheryl, it was unanimous to have Maurice sign this agreement as Chairman of the Board.

On motion of Cheryl, second by Ron, it was unanimous to execute the contract extension with Gwin Dobson and Foreman for Road C construction inspection and to approve the additional funds of \$2,445.60.

On motion of Cheryl, second by Maurice, it was unanimous to grant the school district’s request for the closure of Pennsylvania Avenue on Saturday, May 10th from 8 AM to 5 PM for the NTL Track and Field Meet; Saturday, May 17th from 7:30 AM to 9:30 PM for District IV Class AA & AAA Meets; and for graduation (tentatively set for June 18) – date and times to be determined.

On motion of Maurice, second by Christine, it was unanimous to approve the payment of \$10/month to Randy Harford for the use of his personal cell phone in lieu of a work cell phone, effective immediately.

On motion of Ron, second by Cheryl, it was unanimous to have Robin bid out Type 6S Anti-Skid and to participate in the Sodium Chloride contract this year.

Robin advised the Board that Michael Rosh would be building a house on property next to the Athens Wesleyan Church off Wilawana Road and will be using the same entrance road to the BMX track. He has chosen the private road name of "Myron Lane" for their road. The County and post office have approved the name and now we have to approve it. Robin asked John if we need an ordinance for this because it is a private road and John said an ordinance is not necessary. On motion of Cheryl, second by Ron, it was unanimous to approve the private road name of "Myron Lane" for this location.

Robin asked if anyone had discussed the Positive Pay Program and Direct Deposit with Ruth. Ron had, but he would prefer the rest of the Board to talk with Ruth before we take any action so the Board understands what these programs entail. This matter was tabled again until our next regular meeting.

Robin presented a quote from Kai Pan Consulting for a new computer for the shop in the amount of \$700 installed. They also need a new printer, but we can get one from Quill. On motion of Ron, second by Christine, it was unanimous to have Kai come and install the new computer and to purchase a printer from Quill.

Randy said he needs a 1 ft. bucket. He has found some used ones, but he needs a D, E or F Cat series. He found a few Ds, but very few. Mike Austin goes to auctions and he thinks he can find one for us. Randy said Maurice gave him the OK to get one, but someone needs to let Ruth know so she can pay for it. He thinks he can get a used one for around \$700. Maurice said they need it to fix drainage problems like 'North' (Erin) Road. We lost 'North' Road again this year. Randy said that's because we're too cheap. Tar and chip is no good for a road like that. It needs asphalt. It has one drainage problem that needs to be fixed before we can do that.

Randy asked what about the rollers and equipment replacement? The roller is now 4% higher than it was. He was looking at a JCB roller, and it was a good one. It takes them a while to build one, so we need to make a decision and order it.

On motion of Christine, second by Cheryl, it was unanimous to authorize the purchase of a 1 ft. bucket.

Randy asked again if we can buy the roller, and Cheryl said no, because there was no roller in the budget. Christine asked if there was any municipality around that has one that we could partner with. Susan asked if anyone leases rollers? Randy said they have lease-to-own programs. Robin said that may have to be bid, depending on the cost.

Ron suggests we have a separate meeting with the highway guys to discuss these issues. On motion of Ron, second by Maurice, it was unanimous to have this meeting on February 11th at 6:30 PM.

On motion of Ron, second by Maurice, it was unanimous to accept the monthly reports as presented.

On motion of Maurice, second by Christine, it was unanimous to pay the monthly bills, including the COG dues invoice, as presented. A complete listing of revenues and expenditures is on file in the office of the Treasurer.

Correspondence/Information was as listed in the meeting agenda.

Ron introduced Andy Harding to the Board. Andy is the architect we are working with for our building expansion. Ron said he met with the office staff to discuss the front of the building and reconfiguration of the lobby. This will help Ruth from having so many interruptions during the day. He also said we're looking at starting by building a separate building for the public works department out in the yard that they can drive through from Herrick Avenue to the yard. Andy presented the draft plans. This has an estimated cost of \$550,000 for the enclosed new building and \$150,000 for the covered open space. Robin said in light of the expansion needs for the building and the equipment replacement needs we have, the Board may want to consider 'biting the bullet' and floating a bond to do this all at once, leaving us a monthly payment we would be able to handle instead of trying to come up with the entire cost of a roller and a grader, or trucks, or police cars, etc, all at one time. Ron thanked Andy for coming, and said we just need to start the discussion now.

Ed Reid had left information on floodplain management classes being offered by FEMA. All expenses are paid, except for meals (\$100 meal tickets available). One class is July 21 – 24th and the second class is August 25 – 28th in Emmetsburg, MD. On motion of Ron, second by Maurice, it was unanimous to send Ed to these classes.

Maurice said he would like to see a report when we go to training – nothing elaborate, just a summary of the highlights so the Board is aware of what we have learned. Robin will get a memo out to everyone concerning this. She will ask for monthly reports and will include them in the monthly report folder at each meeting.

Chairman Fay took the Board into executive session at 9:53 PM for personnel and pending litigation. The secretary was excused and the remaining minutes were taken by Cheryl Wood-Walter. The regular meeting reconvened at 11 PM.

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On motion of Ron, second by Maurice, it was unanimous to hold the monthly Fire Company contribution check(s) until we receive their 2014 budget or audit report as required by their contract.

On motion of Ron, second by Maurice, it was unanimous to direct John Thompson to draft a time card policy for all employees.

On motion of Ron, second by Maurice, it passed directing John Thompson to pursue the Gastl Estate and litigation. Christine voted no.

There being no further business, on motion of Ron, second by Christine, the meeting adjourned at 11:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin L. Smith
Secretary