

ATHENS TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS

February 11, 2014 6:30 PM

Chairman Maurice Fay called the meeting to order at 6:35 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.

Voice of the Residents: None

Randy Harford and Ralph Blowers were here representing the Public Works Department. Randy said they need 2 rollers – a blacktop roller and a dirt roller. They junked the roller that went over the bank and the IR roller is on its last legs. The grader is 20-some years old. They need a new truck for town to replace Truck 3 – not a small truck, but one like the Ford it would replace. Ron asked if they could use a small truck like Athens and Sayre Boroughs and Randy said those would be worthless to them. They have a 10 ft. angle plow for town. Randy said the old Mack is the best truck in the fleet. Ron asked if they can still get parts for that and Randy said yes. Randy said they also intend to put the water tank back on Truck 3. Once we get the new truck we'll have 3 tandems, one ford and Randy's Mack. Randy said we shouldn't be giving money away, "like to the Authority", when we have our own expenses that we can't cover.

Ron said Jack (Walter) never said a word to us about the equipment needing work, or that it was so bad. Ron said the 3 Fords were supposed to be rotated out a long time ago. Maurice said he was on the board when the 3 singles were bought and he wanted them to get 2 tandems instead. Randy had prices on two rollers and a grader. The grader was \$232K without any attachments. Robin asked if it would need attachments and he said it would need front and back rippers and a front-end lift. The blacktop roller priced out at \$29K. The JCB dirt roller was \$106K and a CAT machine would be \$15K more.

Ron asked what projects they have planned for this year. Randy said the Dirt and Gravel Road Program (DGRP) project on Murphy Road and putting a top on Sunnyfield Drive. Susan said she had talked with Art Cole and he would like Randy to remove the boulders at his driveway because he's afraid he'll lose the driveway. Randy said he put the boulders there to hold his driveway until the road is done and then he will remove them.

Randy said stone and oil is okay for a topping, but not for holding roads. They need real blacktop. We need to change to blacktop for paving and calcium for dust control.

Ron asked what is going to happen when Ray comes back. Christine said we don't know if he will be coming back. Ron said he's out on Worker's Comp and you can't just let him go. He said Ray wants to use tar and chip and Randy wants to use asphalt. Ron said we will not allow any more roads to go in like Hickory Heights – they will need to be motor-paved. Randy said things need to change. We need to use asphalt.

Ron asked if they would rather have a track loader or a dozer. Randy said they can't use any track equipment in the creeks any more – they need to use equipment with rubber tires in the creeks. Ron asked what they use to level areas like on the Murphy Road project – wouldn't they prefer a dozer for something like that? Randy said a dozer isn't used for that, that's what the grader is for. He said we should have kept the old loader we had to use in the pit.

Susan asked if we use outside services sometimes, and asked if it would be feasible to have someone come in and do it. She asked if they also needed to buy a loader. Robin was confused on that issue as well. Randy said they don't need to buy a loader. Christine told Randy we appreciate him getting this information together for us.

Randy said nothing seems to get decided at your meetings. He asked the Board what they are going to do. Susan asked, of the three pieces of equipment, which one is top priority. She also asked why we spent so much on Ed's car, and why we needed to get a new car. She said a lot of people have been asking her about that. Cheryl said we bid for a used car but we did not get bids for what we had. She added that no one has been asking her why we got that car for Ed. Also, when we buy used, we buy someone else's problems and end up throwing good money after bad. Ron added that the car was for township use, not just for Ed's use.

Randy asked if we accomplished anything tonight. Susan said we know what you need. Christine said since we can't configure the front office, can Cindy come out and sit at Elaine's desk when Elaine is in the police department to handle the people who come in and the phone? She asked Ron if he would ask Cindy to come out since he oversees the office staff. Ron will do that.

Randy and Ralph left at this time.

Maurice advised the Board that we have received the fire company budget for 2014.

Ron explained that there is a Special Exception application pending for Zoning Hearing Board for a quilt shop to locate in the old Little Lambs Daycare building on Center Street. Planning Commission submitted a letter stating their concerns since the area is not zoned for something like that. Once it is changed, it's changed for good, and what will go in there next? Maurice asked if you can just change it for this one thing and Ron said no. Christine said they're trying to call it a cultural center, so the next business would have to be cultural. Ron said a cultural center is a stretch – it doesn't fit. It's primarily a retail business. That will be up to Zoning Hearing Board to decide. John Thompson added there's a huge difference between 'Variance' and 'Special Exception'.

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Robin advised the Board that she has been appointed to the PSATS Resolutions Standing Committee and there will be a meeting in Harrisburg on March 4th. PSATS will pay for hotel, meals and mileage. Robin asked for permission to go. On motion of Ron, second by Maurice, it passed for Robin to go. Christine voted no.

Robin received a class offering for “Collaborative Approaches to Funding Fire and EMS Services” which will be held in Clarks Summit on March 18th. No one from the Board is interested in attending.

Robin said Richard Bean is requesting letters of support for their Round Top Park grant. So far he has not received any. Robin drafted one from the Board which they reviewed and had Maurice sign as Chairman. She said Richard also would like the Supervisors to do a press release explaining the project and asking for letters of support to be included in the grant application. On motion of Maurice, second by Ron, it was unanimous to have Robin draft a press release for review by the Board and Richard.

On motion of Maurice, second by Cheryl, it was unanimous to release the monthly payments to the fire company now that we have received their budget.

On motion of Maurice, second by Cheryl, it was unanimous to have Robin send a letter to Athens Borough advising them that we will pay for the paving of our 200 ft. of West Frederick Street when they pave their portion this summer, and to ask for a cost estimate.

On motion of Maurice, second by Christine, it was unanimous to have Robin draft a letter to Chief Guinane of Sayre congratulating him on his retirement, and thanking him for his 30 years of service to the Valley.

Chairman Fay took the Board into executive session at 8:05 PM for pending litigation. Cheryl left at this time, and Robin was excused at this time. The regular meeting reconvened at 9:10 PM and the remaining minutes were taken by Ronald Reagan.

On motion of Ron, second by Maurice, it was unanimous to have John Thompson file a response to the Petition for Appointment of Board of View for the Rosh condemnation on the Road C project.

On motion of Christine, second by Maurice, it was unanimous to reject the 5-year/\$300,000 offer from Gutelius and to authorize John to contact Max Inkrote at Larson Design for more information to evaluate the proposal.

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On motion of Maurice, second by Christine, it was unanimous to have Robin execute RESOLUTION 2014-05 to extend the term of Athens Township Authority from 50 years to 80 years.

There being no further business, on motion of Ron, second by Maurice, it was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 9:19 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin L. Smith
Secretary

