

ATHENS TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS

October 1, 2014 6 PM

Chairman Cheryl Wood-Walter called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM. Supervisors also present were Susan Seck, George Ballenstedt, Christine Vough and Ronald Reagan. Secretary Robin Smith and Treasurer Ruth Casterline were also in attendance.

Voice of the Residents: None

Robin had received a request from Mary Hutz of the Guthrie Weight Loss Center to hold the Guthrie 5K Jingle Bell Run/Walk on Saturday, December 6, 2014 at 9 AM, using the old Jim King Run route in the Township and Athens Borough. Members of the fire company were present for the budget workshop to follow, and were given a copy of the request letter. Chief Bob Birks will contact Mary directly. On motion of Cheryl, second by George, it was unanimous to close Herrick Avenue for the run on December 6, 2014.

The DSA contract and the sewage exemption postcard for Sayre Health Care Center were signed by the Board. There was no action taken on the Borton Lawson change order.

Jamie Genzel and Andy Patel were present for Candlewood Suites land development final plan approval. There were 3 deficiencies, all of which are corrected or in the process of being corrected. They will coordinate with the fire company to give them a walk-through of the facilities. On motion of Ron, second by Christine, it was unanimous to grant final plan approval to this land development contingent upon the resolution of the deficiencies.

Members of the fire company were present for budget workshop. Present were Keith Stackhouse, Bob Birks, Bill Campbell, Dave Steinfeld, Bill Kneebone and Kyle Sitzer. Keith presented the budget for the fire company. They have a \$20,000 deficit. It is hard for them to do fundraisers because they don't have the manpower they used to and the training requirements keep getting greater which takes more of their time away. They don't have the old time people any more – the bond with the community is gone. They put in 6369 hours of fundraising last year. Keith said they would like an increase in the township allotment (presently \$93,100) and would like to maintain their \$30,000 from Act 13 funds. Athens Borough and Sayre Borough are municipally funded. Cheryl said they are all hurting to get new recruits. Keith said it's also hard to get people out during the day. Bob said they still have applicants, but not like it was. George asked if there is an organization for fire companies – like PSATS for us. Susan said it takes a lot of dedication and you're giving a lot. She asked if the hall rentals are pretty full and Keith said no.

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Susan said someone called her and said they'd left 2 messages but no one called her back. She suggested maybe they advertise and maybe they'll get more business. Bill told the Board that they can call him any time and he'll be glad to take any of them for a tour of the firehouse or answer any questions. Dave asked if we have any questions for them and they did not. Keith said the administrative part of the fire company is a nightmare trying to keep everything straight. He said they need 5 permits just for bingo. When the fire company was started, they never envisioned what it's like today. The Board thanked them for coming.

The budget workshop began. On motion of Christine, second by George, it was unanimous to adopt RESOLUTION 2014-12 transferring the \$309,557.68 (Act 13 funds transferred to Capital Reserve Fund on July 9th) back to the Act 13 account from the Capital Reserve Fund, into a new line item in the Act 13 account labeled "capital reserve".

On motion of Ron, second by Susan, it was unanimous to pay for the new John Deere grader from the Act 13 Fund, in the amount of \$186,279.32 to be paid from the capital reserve line of the Act 13 fund.

Chairman Wood-Walter took the Board into executive session at 9:03 PM for personnel. The Treasurer and Secretary were excused at this time. The regular meeting reconvened at 9:30 PM.

The next budget meeting was set for October 15, 2014 at 6 PM.

There being no further business, on motion of Ron, second by Cheryl, it was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin L. Smith
Secretary