

ATHENS TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS

May 20, 2015 7 PM

Chairman Cheryl Wood-Walter called the meeting to order at 7 PM. Supervisors also present were Susan Seck, George Ballenstedt, and Christine Vough. Ronald Reagan was absent due to illness. Secretary Robin Smith was also in attendance.

Voice of the Residents:

Richard Czajkowski, 20 Trinity Lane, Athens, expressed concerns about the proposed 40-unit Trehab project off Gateway Industrial Park Road. This development will be tax-free and the taxpayers will foot the bill for increased policing, sewer upgrades, additional traffic at Wolcott Hollow Road and Route 220, etc. As a builder, he has spent his whole life in this field. This is a 10 – 11 million dollar project and we will be subsidizing these people not only for housing, but for food, etc. This has to stop. They'll get tax credits – no taxes will come to the township. This is happening all over the Valley. It's turning into a "shanty town". We need to look at the costs and stop putting this on the taxpayers. It's bad all the way around. No one helped him when he was putting in his development. Cheryl said he would be right to talk to the state – they give the grants. As for a traffic light at Wolcott Hollow Road and Route 220, it took years of constant pestering to get this in the works. Robin took a video of the traffic at that location to Harrisburg and played it while she testified at the Transportation hearing. The intersection is now in the engineering phase. We also can't say who can and cannot build. The law is very clear as to what action we can take. If we're not following the rules, we would be open to a lawsuit. She can't speak for the sewer authority (ATA) as they are a separate entity. You can call them directly. George said we all want productive citizens working in the township but sometimes we have no control. Nothing has been filed here at our offices for this development. We found out about it when we read it in the paper. Planning Commission and Zoning Hearing Board meetings are open to the public. Sometimes we need people to come in and give input. That helps us. Your concerns are valid. Richard said the developer usually has to supply the traffic light and other infrastructure. George said we will have to have plans and go by our regulations. George said Richard may want to contact Tina Pickett. Richard thanked the Board for their time.

George announced that he launched the new Township Facebook page yesterday that we can use to communicate with the public – and vice versa.

Ralph Blowers of Front Street, East Athens, said he thought it was something like 1984 when the first request was made for the Wolcott Hollow/220 traffic light. It is a terribly dangerous intersection.

Richard Bean presented the Parks and Recreation Commission report. The Air Sailing people were given the okay to clear the site. There are several corporate grants outstanding for the Round Top Expansion project. Things are moving along on schedule. They are looking to have a ground breaking ceremony on June 23rd at 1:00 and would like the Supervisors to attend. They will be putting 5 or 6 memorial benches in the park. The benches cost \$1200 each and the park commission will pay 50% of the cost. The Commission will put a 'no smoking' ban in place starting May of 2016 for all township parks. They are waiting on the Round Top bid amounts before they decide when they will be able to do more fencing at the Jim King Memorial Park. They also would like to purchase the police 4-wheeler and trailer for \$5,000, but that also depends on the park bids. They would like to increase the Park Commission to six by adding George Crowell. On motion of Cheryl, second by George, it was unanimous to appoint George Crowell to the Parks Commission for a term to expire July 1, 2020.

There was no one present for Athens Township Authority.

Scot Saggiomo presented the Nomac Housing & Training Facility land development for final plan approval. All deficiencies have been met. On motion of Christine, second by Cheryl, it was unanimous to grant final plan approval to this land development.

Scot then presented the "Road B"/King Lane as-built maps for approval. All corrections have been made. On motion of Christine, second by George, it was unanimous to accept the as-built plans as presented so the Deed of Dedication can be drafted by Chesapeake.

Susan reported for Public Works. They have a lot of projects going on. All the pipes are done on Sunnyfield. They are working on Murphy Road. Susan has applied for a couple grants for stormwater projects.

On motion of George, second by Susan, it passed to accept the minutes of April 29, 2015 as written. Cheryl abstained as she did not attend.

On motion of Cheryl, second by Christine it was unanimous to pay the bi-annual actuarial invoices for the pension plans from the respective pension funds - \$4,050 for the police and \$3,750 for the Non-Uniform.

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Robin presented a contract for document management from DocStar. The Board would like to check references before they take any action. Robin advised them that we will have to take action at our meeting on the 27th or we will not be eligible for the subsidies.

On motion of George, second by Christine, it was unanimous to ratify the lifting of the burning ban effective May 19, 2015.

On motion of Christine, second by Susan, it was unanimous to pay the monthly bills. 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.

On motion of George, second by Christine, it was unanimous to send Ruth to the Payroll Law class in Elmira on July 15th.

Chairman Wood-Walter took the Board into executive session at 7:58 PM for personnel. The Secretary was excused at this time and the remaining minutes were taken by Cheryl. The regular meeting reconvened at 8:45 PM.

There being no further business, on motion of Christine, second by George, it was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin L. Smith
Secretary