

ATHENS TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS

September 30, 2015 7 PM

Vice Chairman Ronald Reagan called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM. Supervisors also present were Christine Vough, George Ballenstedt and Susan Seck. Cheryl Wood-Walter was not in attendance. Solicitor John Thompson was delayed. Secretary Robin Smith and Treasurer Ruth Casterline were also present.

Those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance at this time.

The opening of the bids for the 1997 Ford F-800 dump truck 'as is' commenced. Two bids were received: Ralph Blowers - \$1251 and Anthony Reagan - \$5000. Susan said we need to remove the spreader from the truck and Robin said we advertised the truck 'as is', so what is on it now has to remain on the truck. Robin advised the Board that they have the right to reject the bids and rebid if they want to make a change. Discussion was held. On motion of Susan, second by George, it was unanimous to award the bid to Anthony Reagan, for the truck 'as is', which includes the spreader. Ron abstained because Anthony is his son.

Voice of the Residents:

Michelle Murrelle, 110 Joy Street, was present concerning the condition of Cole Street. She said there are no words to describe. The road won't survive the winter if it is left as is. There is extreme wear and tear on their cars and tires. It should go back to a cul-de-sac to cut off the thru-traffic that uses it as a shortcut. Susan said she had submitted paperwork for grant funding from Bradford County. The road was only 4" – base and top together. That was the condition of the road when the township took it over. It was not made for that traffic. In August we found out there would not be grant funds from the County. Susan has had the Commissioners up here twice since then, and has also had PennDOT come several times. There are drainage issues. Stormwater was not taken into account when the road was built. She will be building the road up 10". They are putting drainage in now, and that will help them see where the water problems are. They will put dust oil on the road in the next week or so and will put a top on it in the spring. Michelle said it's still not clear why this hasn't been taken care of yet. Susan said these are two different issues. She also applied for a grant for stormwater in their development through Rachel Hauser. The people who made the development should have done the stormwater.

Ty Reynard of Joy Street said if you're trying to do this the right way, you're off to a bad start. You should have dug it all out and started with new base. Ralph Blowers said they tore all the pavement up and then hammered it back down in. Ty said you didn't go to the base. Susan said Greg Dibble of PENNDOT said it was done right. Ty asked what will happen the first time a plow goes over it? Susan said they've been rolling it for 2 weeks.

Greg Murrelle asked how much it costs to pave and Susan said \$90,000 for 1 mile.

Julie Swingle added that it was a cul-de-sac 20-some years ago. Susan said the people can go out Pennsylvania Avenue.

Michelle Murrelle said there is a huge amount of traffic in the morning. She said the people in the development don't mind going around. Their tax dollars need to be used for this. You need a plan. Susan said we do have a plan. She told Michelle she didn't know she had called. We are trying. Cole Street needs to be finished. Michelle said that's what tax dollars are for.

Ann Skerpon of 195 Cole Street says she has heard the same story for 5 years. What is the plan?? What is the cost – and what do you project as a timeframe when it will be done? Susan said they got more done this year than in previous years. Ann said what you did this spring was horrible. Just horrible. The dust was terrible. Susan said a lot of roads are dusty. Ron asked what Susan plans to do in the spring and she said they will put a top on it. Cole Street will be done first in the spring.

Michelle Murrelle asked what they need to do – who should we contact about this? Susan said contact the County Commissioners. She took them around the development to show them what we need funding for.

Joyce Mulcahy of Cole Street said she has called several times and always gets the “wetlands song”. She said the development has a lot of older people that live there and there are some with immune issues. Ralph Blowers said there are cattails along Cole Street. Joyce said they need to put a pipe down to Elmira Street. It's “boggy”. Joyce said you may have to do something with the “swamp”. She said she has lived here 10 years. When she calls the building she is told it is wetlands. The cattails were planted there. Ralph said if there is a pipe from the swamp to the ditch, we'll have to look at it.

Bob Krempa, 21 Vista Drive, said he has lived here since 2010 and has seen the road coming apart since then. It has a bad base – and is sorely in need of a base. If the money isn't used to put in a proper base, it won't work. They get a lot of truck traffic now. A lot of attention needs to be placed on the base. Money will be wasted if you don't do the base. Susan said they've put approximately 10” of base down. Ralph said there is absolutely no base and they've done what they could do. They crushed the old blacktop and rolled it in. Another problem is the driveways are lower. Bob asked who will do the road, and Susan said probably a contractor. Ron said typically the township does the work and then we contract out the topping. Susan said she has worked with

PennDOT for umpteen months, and 10” may not be enough. Joyce said she got water in her driveway today and never did before.

Ty Reynard of Joy Street said in the spring, with a new top, that will take care of the problem? Susan said yes. Ty said, come spring, don’t you think you should do the base instead? You should do the tar and chip now to keep the road. Road oil won’t hold it for the winter. Susan said they are putting the drainage in and will monitor where the puddles are.

Dale Elliott, 177 Cole Street, said they just put a drain in front of his house. It’s 6” higher than the pipe under his driveway. Water doesn’t run uphill. Susan said it’s not complete yet. Dale is concerned with putting base on top instead of digging out the base. It’s at the point where someone needs to come in and figure out what to do. Give us a street we can drive on – that gives us no dust in the houses. He suggests having some conversations with the people in the neighborhood.

Bob Krempa said it needs to be engineered by a certified engineer.

Tony Skerpon, 195 Cole Street, said with the last 2 days of rain he’s had 6” of water and mud in his driveway. Rocks end up in his driveway. ‘If I hit one with my snowblower, are you going to buy me a new one?’ We pay a lot of taxes. Last year the whole winter we only had a single lane plowed. You had to stop and wait to let other cars through.

Ron Reagan said, as a board, we need to do some work on this. George thanked everyone for coming.

Dave Steinfelt reported for the Athens Township Volunteer Fire Company. He thanked the Board for the Act 13 money and said they put it all on the loan for the tower truck. They also received a state grant for \$12,000 and put that on the loan as well. They received a forestry grant and are using that to outfit the brush truck to make it safer. November 14th is their Ham and Turkey Party – doors open at 4:30. He explained it to the Board, for those unfamiliar with it. This year they are trying something new and doing raffles for some hunting gear. They were very busy this month with accidents, but no fires. Ron thanked them for doing the flags on the Route 199 bridge. George asked how the formation of the auxiliary is coming along. Dave had several responses, but no one has actually shown up yet. He said they want the auxiliary to do handyman things, someone to do the books, etc.

Discussion was held on the Round Top Star. Larry Green has volunteered to build a new star and we are asking for donations toward the materials. Dave Steinfeld suggested that when the star goes up, the township should have a "Lighting of the Star" night, possibly with light refreshments. The Board may consider doing that. He also said he has FFA kids at school that can do projects for the park. Richard Bean was present and asked if they would be willing to build some picnic tables and Dave said they would.

Ron asked Ruth what she had on her Treasurer's report and she said it is on the table. The Board had no questions for Ruth.

Richard Bean reported for the Parks and Recreation Commission. He said Marlene Rohe from DRIFT (Drug Rehabilitation and Intervention For Teens) would like to plant red tulips in the Township parks. She will be planting them at Tozer's Landing and the Jim King Memorial Park. No news on the DCNR Phase 2 grant yet. He has 2 Eagle Scout projects in the works – Zack Smith will be building 6 picnic tables and Spencer DeKay will be installing a flag pole for the American flag at Tozer's Landing. M.R. Dirt is working toward their October 15th completion date. Richard did an informal survey for a name for the new road in the park and Porcupine Road got the most votes. BestWay Fence has completed the fence in Jim King Memorial Park. The chain across Bobcat Road is working great for our gatekeeper. The Park Commission is going to try and put a float in the Halloween parade. They also have their 2016 budget almost completed. Robin got notification that DEP is changing their requirements for water monitoring. We will now be required to submit a "sample siting plan" and "seasonal start-up procedures" by April, 2016. Barry will be attending the free training in Williamsport in November.

Clif Cheeks presented the Gary/Sandra Devoe 2-lot subdivision on McCardle Road for review. They had 2 deficiencies, but both have been corrected. On motion of Ron, second by Susan, it was unanimous to grant preliminary and final plan approval to this subdivision.

Next was the Ryan/Amanda Fenton 1-lot subdivision at 271 Wilkinson Lane, Lot #2 to become part and parcel to Lot #1 of Craig Wilkinson. The one deficiency has been corrected. On motion of Ron, second by Christine, it was unanimous to grant preliminary and final plan approval to this subdivision as described.

No one was here to report for Athens Township Authority.

Susan reported for Public Works. She said she requested police presence on Cole Street to help keep the dust down. They also tarred and chipped Pump Station Hill Road. There has been a request for "Watch Children" signs on Pump Station Hill Road, and

Susan would like to see if we could lower the speed limit from 35 mph to 25 mph on that road. Discussion was held. On motion of Susan, second by Christine, it was unanimous to purchase and install 2 “Watch Children” signs for Pump Station Hill Road, and to have Chief Hurley do a traffic study to see if the speed limit should be lowered. George will get with Larry on that.

Danny Stark suggested we look at getting a portable ‘speed light’ that tells you how fast you’re going to help slow traffic down. He said Sayre just purchased one and it also takes your picture as you go by. John Thompson said Ulster has one and they say it is very effective. The cost is around \$5000. No action was taken.

Ron presented the Comprehensive Plan Update for review and adoption. He said over the past year or so, they have met to update our plan from 2005. It is recommended that this be done every 10 years. Members of the committee were Ron Reagan, Clif Cheeks, Cindy Parrish, Ed Reid, Ray Stolinas and Rich Lasko (both of Bradford County Planning). Ron said they didn’t see a whole lot of change. They did include information on the gas industry. This is not a legal document, but a planning tool. Ron recessed the regular meeting at 8:22 PM to hold a public hearing on this issue. There being no adverse comment, the regular meeting reconvened at 8:23 PM. On motion of Ron, second by George, it was unanimous to adopt the 2015 Comprehensive plan as presented. Ron added that our County Planning Director, Ray Stolinas, has recently relocated to the State College area, and he will be sorely missed – he was certainly an invaluable resource to all the municipalities in the County.

On motion of Christine, second by George, it was unanimous to set Trick-Or-Treat night as Oct. 29th from 6 – 8 PM. George and Cheryl will also be in the Halloween parade.

On motion of Ron, second by Susan, it was unanimous to vote for both William C. Groves and Lester O. Houck as trustees to the PSATS Unemployment Compensation Group Trust for terms to expire December 31, 2021.

Robin presented the 2016 Minimum Municipal Obligation for the Police Pension Plan in the amount of \$85,728.07; and for the Non-Uniformed Pension Plan in the amount of \$100,509.34 as per the formulas provided by our pension actuaries.

Robin reported that she has received the financial statement from the Spalding Memorial Library. On motion of Christine, second by George, it was unanimous to release the funds to the library.

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On motion of George, second by Ron, it was unanimous to approve the minutes of August 26, September 16, 21 and 23, 2015 as presented. Christine abstained from the minutes of September 23rd as she was unable to attend due to a family emergency.

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

Correspondence/Information was as listed in the meeting agenda.

Vice Chairman Reagan took the Board into executive session at 8:38 PM for personnel and pending litigation. The regular meeting reconvened at 9 PM.

There being no further business, on motion of Ron, second by Christine, it was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 9:01 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin L. Smith
Secretary

