

ATHENS TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS
December 16, 2015 7 PM

Chairman Cheryl Wood-Walter called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM. Supervisors also present were Ronald Reagan, Christine Vough, George Ballenstedt and Susan Seck. Attorney John Thompson, Secretary Robin Smith and Treasurer Ruth Casterline were also in attendance. Cheryl led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Voice of the Residents:

Kathy Swingle of 4965 Mile Lane Road was present concerning her property and the Chris Sutton junkyard. She had bronchitis, so she requested that Robin read the letter she had written. She asked the Board to take a ride out past her house and look at it. She has been dealing with this since Dave Kreider was our Zoning Officer, and said she has also spoken with Ed Reid. She said Chris purchased 25 acres from Bud Rosh for a "driveway", which he has now named Sutton Road. She wants to get an appraisal on her house and sell it, but she's embarrassed to have a realtor come because of how the junkyard has encroached all around her property. Cheryl asked John Thompson if this can be enforced under our Junkyard Ordinance. John said he is not sure what has transpired. Kathy said the campground that was not approved for Sutton ended up being put on the 8 acres next to the Trebco property. When the old people sold their double wide, the new neighbors had 11 kids and 5 dogs. She has called the police, but they have not been cited because she was told they give warnings first. Last Saturday Kathy called the police and Officer Thomas responded. She said he was real nice and told her something would be done. She has also called the dog warden. Ron said he will talk to Eddie tomorrow and took Kathy's cell phone number.

The Board reviewed the Treasurer's Report. On motion of Cheryl, second by Susan, it was unanimous to approve the payment of the annual PSATS membership/dues invoice (\$1,987).

On motion of George, second by Christine, it was unanimous to pay the monthly invoices as presented. A complete listing of revenues and expenditures is on file in the office of the Treasurer.

On motion of George, second by Ron, it was unanimous to transfer the \$236,540.32 from the Sinking Loan Fund to General Fund. Ron asked if this would be a separate line item in the budget and Ruth said it would be shown on the balance sheet.

Dave Steinfelt was present for the Athens Township Volunteer Fire Company (ATVFC). Cheryl thanked them for hosting the Lighting of the Star event, and for all their help in making that a success. The star is up and lit, and it looks great. Dave said their ISO rating has improved from 6-10 to 5-5, which is good news for the township homeowners as their insurance rates will probably decrease a bit. He said the company has been busy – and it seems they can't keep a pole on Front Street. The bingo numbers are up – more new players. He added that people don't realize all the additional things that the fire company does. They will be having Breakfast With Santa this coming Sunday from 8 – 11 AM. They are also selling Pot Of Gold raffle tickets as a fundraiser.

Marion Carling was present for Planning Commission. The Hawkins subdivision was pulled until our January meeting as it was not yet complete. Marion presented the Gateway Commons (Trehab, Inc.) land development for preliminary approval. Skip Schneider had reviewed this for the Township and presented a letter of deficiencies. All had been corrected with the exception of #5, #9, #10 and #12. Skip also had 2 comments: 1) The open space agreement has been submitted, but refers to "pavilion" open space and it should be changed to "common" open space; 2) The Board of Supervisors had granted a waiver for the slopes to be 2:1, but Skip has concerns about the storm water and will inspect this when it is completed. Dave Young and Dennis Phelps were also here for the project. They had gotten the letters from Skip and had addressed the changes. Dave said Aqua and Chief Birks requested that the hydrants be moved to the right-of-way so no easements would be needed. ATA comments were also addressed. The remaining deficiencies are just approvals that are needed for permits that they have submitted. Dave said they need at least a conditional approval for their funding closing in January. Christine asked who makes sure the storm water drainage is right, and Skip is the one who will inspect that. Christine asked Dennis Phelps if taxes will be paid on this property, and Dennis said he believes they will pay all taxes. Ron asked if this would be a subsidized development and Dennis said it is not – it is for working families and senior citizens, with average rents of \$500 - \$700 or so. The rents are set by the housing authority and the people are fully responsible for the payment of the rent. They do screen people and they get rid of them if they're not good. Ron asked if there still is a market for renters and Dennis said they have done two professional market studies and both show there is a need. Dave Young commented that the Fahnstocks were concerned with the direct line of site to their pond as an attraction for kids. As a result of that, they will be extending the 6-foot fence along the entire northern boundary. Dennis suggested the Board go look at the North Towanda project and the Main Street project as they are similar to this one. On motion of Ron, second by George, it was unanimous to grant preliminary approval to this land development contingent upon the resolution of all deficiencies.

Ron advised the Board that Randy Williams Trust has submitted an application for variances on his expansion of the Ford dealership on Elmira Street. The hearing will be held on January 5, 2016. Ron would like everyone to come in and review the application as storm water is a concern.

No one was present to report for Athens Township Authority.

Susan Seck reported for the Public Works Department. They are busy working on equipment as well as putting in sluice pipes and ditches. She is working with Masco to help correct the problem of their delivery drivers using our roads that take them up in the hills. Susan talked to PennDOT and they will not allow us to place directional signs in their right-of-way and suggested we limit our roads to a certain length of truck. This would require an ordinance. The roads affected are Macafee, Meadowlark, Orcutt Creek and Dunkley Hill. Masco has sent letters to all their suppliers directing them up King Road. John Thompson questioned the length of a logging truck, but Robin said that would be covered in our bonding ordinance. She said the zoning office had discussed the white-on-blue 'information' signs (ie: Athens Twp. Business District, etc.) that could be allowed. Christine asked who would enforce this? Cheryl asked Susan to keep us informed. Robin

asked if they want to direct John to draft an ordinance? John will get with Susan to determine what roads need to be addressed. Robin added that PennDOT allows directional signs on their roads in their right-of-way in Sayre Borough and maybe Susan could get more information from Dave Jarrett on that. John will research DOT regulations and we will look at this again at our organization meeting.

Susan would like to submit an application to the Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant Program for road surfaces. The application would require matching funds of \$75,000. She is looking at the possibility of \$25K out of her budget and \$50K from the Act 13 funds. This program is also available for bridges. Robin said it can also be used for engineering. A resolution would be required for the application. Robin read the resolution. Susan said she would also need letters of support from the Supervisors and from the Planning Commission. The grant application is due in 2 days. Discussion was held. On motion of George, second by Ron, it was unanimous to adopt RESOLUTION 2015-11 designating Susan Seck and/or Robin Smith as the officials to execute all documents required for the grant, and to have Robin write letters of support from the Board and from Planning Commission, with Cheryl signing for the Board and Scot Saggiomo signing for the Planning Commission.

On motion of Ron, second by Cheryl, it was unanimous to adopt ORDINANCE 2015-03 dissolving the Northern Bradford Authority.

On motion of Cheryl, second by George, it was unanimous to adopt ORDINANCE 2015-04 – a Pretreatment Ordinance for the Valley Joint Sewer Authority.

On motion of George, second by Ron, it was unanimous to approve employee raises for 2016; public works and police as per contracts and all other employees at 3%.

On motion of Ron, second by Cheryl, it was unanimous to leave the clothing allowances for the zoning officers and Susan at the same amount as 2015.

On motion of George, second by Susan, it was unanimous to adopt RESOLUTION 2015-07, setting the millage rate at 11 mills for 2016.

On motion of Ron, second by Cheryl, it was unanimous to adopt RESOLUTION 2015-08, setting the General Fund contribution to the Fire Company at \$93,100 for 2016.

On motion of Ron, second by George, it was unanimous to adopt RESOLUTION 2015-09 approving the 2016 budget with expenditures of \$3,893,854.

On motion of Cheryl, second by George, it was unanimous to adopt RESOLUTION 2015-10, adopting the Bradford County Emergency Operations Plan as our own.

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On motion of George, second by Christine, it was unanimous to approve the Bradford County Humane Society contract for 2016 in the amount of \$1,312.75.

On motion of Christine, second by Susan, it was unanimous to reappoint Jim Shaw to the Police Pension Board for a term to expire 1-1-2019.

On motion of Susan, second by Cheryl, it was unanimous to reappoint Jason Rogers to the Athens Township Authority for a term to expire 12-31-2020.

On motion of George, second by Christine, it was unanimous to approve attendance and reasonable expenses at the PSATS Annual Conference in Hershey – April 17-20, 2016 – for any employees or board members wishing to attend.

On motion of George, second by Christine, it was unanimous to donate \$500 to the Athens Township Police Benevolent Association for their Christmas toy drive.

On motion of Ron, second by Christine, it was unanimous to approve George's attendance at the Active Shooter class for a fee of \$150, and to also approve his attendance at the NYPENN Leadership Course for a fee of \$500.

The Board is okay with the PADOT 220/199 meeting being held on January 28, 2016, but the meeting must still be confirmed by PADOT. Ron will not be able to attend.

On motion of Cheryl, second by George, it was unanimous to approve the minutes of November 18, 2015 as written.

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

Cheryl would like to send a letter to the Athens Area School District School Board thanking the band members for volunteering to play at the Lighting of the Star event. She will draft the letter and email it to Robin to put on letterhead, and she will also sign as Chairman.

Chairman Wood-Walter took the Board into executive session at 8:40 PM for pending litigation. The secretary was excused at this time and the remaining minutes were taken by Ron Reagan. The regular meeting reconvened at 9:56 PM.

On motion of George, second by Cheryl, it was unanimous to have John Thompson amend the NHS Bradford appeal.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,