

ATHENS TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS
July 31, 2019 6 PM Regular Meeting

Chairwoman Kirstie Lake called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM. Supervisors also present were Susan Seck, George Ballenstedt, and Tressa Heffron. Christine Vough was on vacation. Solicitor John Thompson and Secretary Robin Smith were also in attendance. Kirstie led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Voice of the Residents:

Daniel Stark of Clinton Street brought a concern about fireworks in the township. He feels they are getting out of hand, and asked the Board if they can do something about it. The Board will check with Chief Clink and also have John Thompson look into it.

Duncan Brown of Highland Drive said his road is in terrible shape. He said he doesn't know how Ron (Reagan) gets up his road. He doesn't dare to come up it with a tractor. Susan said all the roads need material.

Rick Simonds asked why there's no dust oil? Why dig up the culvert on Round Top Road and not put hot mix in? You put that pug mix in. You don't use that. The guys don't know what they're doing. They have no supervision. I'm tired of the guys not doing the roads right.

Duncan Brown asked why people just can't buy their own dust oil? His dad would be happy to do that and would do the whole road.

Rick Simonds said he thinks this (the roadwork) can be done better. Can't you hire it out? Sub it out? Susan tried to answer, but Rick interrupted and said this is just bad decision making. We're not getting the bang for our tax dollars. Where is the money? Susan tried to answer again and was interrupted by Duncan, who asked why you're doing a Dirt and Gravel Road Project on Meadowlark? Why Meadowlark? Rick said you need to invest in a civil engineer, and someone who knows what they're doing. If the roads aren't going to be getting better, he's going to have to move out of the township or get his taxes lowered.

Susan defended the crew and said they are doing the best they can with what they have. Rick said it's not them, it's the supervision.

Elizabeth Roe of Idle Wheels Lane said the Masco trucks still go up Meadowlark and now they come down their private road. Discussion was held as to how to get them re-directed from the wrong information on their GPS. Robin said we can't put signs on the state roads – PennDOT does not allow us to do that unless they approve it, and they don't approve at this location. Robin gave her PennDOT's phone number so she can call and discuss this with them directly.

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Ronald Reagan of Sunnyfield Drive asked about his road. What's the plan? Why did you start the project if you don't have the material to finish it? Susan said we're just waiting on the bond for the material. Ron asked why you used that excavator for ditches? Smithfield, Ridgebury, Litchfield – they don't have deep ditches like we do. Ron said the guys don't dig out the potholes before they repair them – they just put the stuff in the pothole, roll it, and leave. He questioned the budget, saying the last couple years you've dumped a fortune into the police department. Next year, switch that funding to the road crew. Six guys can't take care of 75 miles of road. Susan said we only have 5 guys. Ron said the Dirt and Gravel Road projects take the guys away from doing their regular road work.

Aaron Brotzman of Weaver Road asked if there is money in the budget to do the roads? He asked if we keep records on how to fix these roads and what was done? Aaron said he's looked on Google – PA is listed as 12th in the country for bad roads. He said he doesn't believe Susan has a consultant. Susan said the PennDOT Municipal Services rep goes out with her, and she can have him meet with Aaron if he wants. Aaron said he would like to meet him. He's retired and has time to drive the roads now. He can't find a good one in the township. We should hire a company to do a section of road and see what it looks like.

Rick Simonds said you should use 4" – 6" of DSA, not just 1" – 2". Susan said we use 10" with the Dirt and Gravel Road Projects.

Duncan Brown expressed concerns with the 4-wheelers. Nothing stops them. Rick Simonds said they never moved the GPS from his road (old West Park Road) when he built the township a new road (Bobcat Road). Richard Bean said he contacted Bradford County Planning and they will correct it.

Richard Bean presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Emily Chilson for purchasing and installing a Gaga Pit in Round Top Park for her Girl Scout Silver Award. She did fundraisers to get the funds and did an amazing job installing it. Thank you, Emily!

Next was the opening of the bids for the crusher. We only received one bid and it was from Daniel Mazzaresse in the amount of \$2,000. On motion of Susan, second by Tressa, it was unanimous to accept this bid for the crusher.

Aaron Brotzman asked if the township can require a survey to sell property. We can't require that – that is something done at the State level. He should check with Tina Pickett.

Richard Bean reported for the Parks Commission. Mikala Horton will be building picnic tables and will be starting soon. Phase III is being closed out and we will receive \$49,149. Robin will have all the revised Phase II paperwork to DCNR by Wednesday and it will be completed. No report from the solicitor concerning the Time Warner franchise fee

worksheet with Spectrum fee worksheet. We now have a new contract with Spectrum for the antenna rental. The August 10th Bradford County Summer Park Series on Round Top is in the final phase of planning. We need volunteers Friday night at 6 PM and Saturday at 10 AM to set up and at 6 PM to clean up. Construction on the ATV Trail grant will start August 12th. The restroom is scheduled for delivery the same week. The pavilion is scheduled for the week of the 25th. The game camera was in place for the second time. The two weeks counted 721 cars. We had vandalism at the airfield and the back gate. Four wheelers or vehicle wheels tore up the grass.

Fire Chief Bryan Farr was present for ATVFC. He said they have been very busy, and he thanked the Board for their support. Discussion was held on pre-emption capability for the township traffic signals. On motion of George, second by Susan, it was unanimous to approve the activation/installation of pre-emption capabilities on the traffic signals, to be paid for from the Act 13 fund.

Discussion was also held on doing a revision to close a loophole in our current fire company ordinances with regard to allowing billing under certain circumstances such as negligence, etc. John Thompson will get with Bryan on this.

Ron Reagan presented the Williams Subaru of Sayre 4-lot subdivision at 1730 Elmira Street. Surveyor Pat Grimes of Butler Surveying was present, but there was no Power of Attorney to allow him to speak for the applicant. On motion of George, second by Tressa, it was unanimous to table this subdivision until our August meeting because no representative from Williams Subaru was present.

Ron discussed the ordinance updates. He is worried about liability if we require Knox boxes. He asked the Board to please look at the Zoning Ordinance, SALDO, and the Code of Athens Township and give any updates or changes to Planning Commission as soon as they can. He asked for \$25,000 from Act 13 funds to keep going to update all of these. On motion of George, second by Kirstie, it was unanimous to allocate \$25,000 of Act 13 funding for this process.

On motion of Tressa, second by George, it was unanimous to approve the closure of Bressler Street for Williams Friday Night Headlights event on August 9th from 5 – 9:30 PM.

On motion of Kirstie, second by Tressa, it was unanimous to approve contracting with Praesidium through Selective Insurance for \$16 background checks for new hires.

On motion of Tressa, second by Kirstie, it was unanimous to execute the pension plans Investment Policy Statements from C&N Bank.

Susan reported on the roads. She said the weather has been a real problem. They're trying to do a little bit all over. There was a delay in getting material as well. She is working with FEMA on the August flooding projects. Tressa commented that people can't compare our roads to Litchfield, Ridgebury and Smithfield – they're small with much less traffic and we're huge. Everyone uses our roads to get to those places. Susan said Williams Energy donated 450 tons of road material to us and trucked it in for us as well.

On motion of George, second by Kirstie, it was unanimous to approve the minutes of July 16, 2019 as written.

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

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

Correspondence/Information was as presented in the meeting agenda.

Chairwoman Lake took the Board into executive session at 7:30 PM for personnel and pending litigation. The regular meeting reconvened at 9:25 PM.

Ed had submitted the junkyard inspection reports. Susan was concerned that she was not asked to accompany him on the inspections because she is the supervisor who oversees the junkyards. Discussion was held as to the approvals for the junkyards since there were so many deficiencies on the inspection reports. On motion of Kirstie, second by George, it was unanimous to table the approvals until Susan and Kirstie can get with Ed on these.

On motion of Kirstie, second by Tressa, it was unanimous to direct Susan to have Vacri restore the approved stormwater facilities at Airport Seniors by re-opening it through the Cole Street berm.

On motion of Kirstie, second by Tressa, it was unanimous to have Robin get a price from Cohen Law Firm with regard to our franchise agreements.

On motion of Kirstie, second by Tressa, it was unanimous to hire Brenda Finnerty as our cleaning person/agency for 4 hours/1 day per week at \$20/hour, as a subcontractor, contingent upon the results of her background check, to start the beginning of September once her employment paperwork is complete with Ruth.

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On motion of Kirstie, second by Tressa, it was unanimous to have John Thompson draft an ordinance for the Intermunicipal Cooperation Agreement.

There being no further business, on motion of George, second by Susan, it was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin L. Smith
Athens Township Secretary