

ATHENS TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS  
September 29, 2021    5 PM    Regular Meeting

Chairwoman Tressa Heffron called the meeting to order at 5:03 pm. Supervisors present were Kirstie Lake, Alan Burgess, Susan Seck and Christine Vough. Solicitor John Thompson and Secretary Michelle Rude were also in attendance. Tressa led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Voice of the Residents: Tressa called for the Voice of the Residents. No residents spoke at this time.

Richard Bean was present for the Parks and Recreation Commission. Richard stated that Erin Wayman attended their Parks meeting and presented on Blue Zone. The Park Commission offered their support. There is still no answer from Cohen Law Group regarding the letter that was sent or where we stand with a settlement. The loan for the park expansion stands at \$70,880.00. The school district still has not been able to walk the Dunkley Hill property. Tressa stated that she did talk to the superintendent and he told her that it was still on their radar. He asked her to remind her before their next meeting, however the school board meeting was focused on mask mandates and they were unable to address the property at this time. She will follow up with him before the next school board meeting. They have not received any additional funds for the overlook. They will be putting the overlook project out for bid and are aiming to have it completed by next September. Cindy has the info for the new park pamphlet and it should be completed soon. Michelle is working to schedule the survey for the canal property. The township will be working on Round Top Road. They are taking up the asphalt and making it a dirt road to address the pothole issue. Susan stated that they will incorporate doing this with the Pump Station Hill project to save some money. Tozer's Landing road has 3-4 potholes. There has been no additional information from Tioga County EMS regarding putting a tower on Round Top. Barry's last day of work for this year will be Nov. 12<sup>th</sup>. The Parks Commission will have their budget turned into Ruth Casterline this week.

Marion Carling addressed the board regarding the Planning Commission's recommendations for both the 2-lot subdivision and the preliminary/final land approval for the Athens (Front) DPP, LLC. She turned the meeting over to Mike Lusaitis from SESI to explain the plans to the supervisors and answer questions. Mike stated that they are proposing a 10,640 square foot retail store with 56 parking spaces and 2 loading areas. He reviewed various maps and answered questions. Supervisor Christine Vough asked for clarification concerning the shrub height on the front of the property meant to block the customer's headlights from shining into the homes across the street. Mike stated that the 4 to 6-foot height would likely be met in a "year or two" when the shrubs matured. Christine, having attended the meeting that granted the special exception stated that it was her understanding the shrub height would be met when the shrubs were planted. Mike stated that they would most likely not be mature enough upon purchase to be at that height and that they would be at the mercy of the local nursery's supply when it was time to plant. He told the board he could look into different shrub species that would

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accommodate the height requirement but it would also be contingent upon what is available at the nursery when it is time to plant. Mike also told the board that they were requesting a sidewalk waiver as there is not a lot of foot traffic anticipated. Supervisor Kirstie Lake asked Mike if the existence of the store would increase the foot traffic and Mike stated that due to the location it was unlikely. Christine asked if the lot had been officially purchased and Mike stated that they were seeking the 2-lot subdivision approval tonight so they could finalize the purchase. The original time line for this project was to begin construction on this property this year, however Mike stated that it will likely be held off until next year as it is difficult to pave after mid-October due to weather and they still have to close on the property and get the plans recorded with the courthouse. John asked Marion to inform the board as to what deficiencies listed in the agenda had been met and what they were still waiting on. For item # 1, all but items "e" and "f" were met. For item #2, all but items were met. Marion stated that the Planning Commission recommends the approval of the sub-division, preliminary/final land development, and the side walk deferment. Christine asked Mike about PennDot's input on line-of-sight, safety, etc. and he stated that everything was approved. Chairwoman stated that she would like to see the sidewalk as part of the project and Kirstie and Christine agreed.

On motion of Kirstie, second by Tressa, motion passed for approval of the 2-lot subdivision for Athens (Front) DPP, LLC. contingent upon deficiencies "e" and "f" (owner's signature and engineer's signatures added to the plans) being met.

On motion of Tressa, second by Kirstie, motion passed for approval of the preliminary/final land development for Athens (Front) DPP, LLC. contingent upon deficiencies "h" and "k" (sign package submittal if signage is to be used and the storm water maintenance agreement completed) being met as well as the sidewalks being added to the plan.

On motion of Kirstie, second by Alan, motion passed to add the review of the Planning Commission's Ordinance Updates to the agenda. Marion Carling presented the board members and Solicitor Thompson with the updated ordinance books along with handouts that showed all changes. The supervisors agreed to take the information home and review it. They will vote on accepting them at their budget meeting on Sunday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

On motion of Kirstie, second by Tressa, motion passed to approve board meeting minutes of August 25, 2021.

On motion of Kirstie, second by Alan, motion passed to approve the special meeting minutes for September 14, 2021. Christine did not attend the meeting and abstained from the vote.

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On motion of Kirstie, second by Tressa, motion passed to advertise on Facebook as well as in the paper for letters of interest for a new auditor to replace Jane Watson.

The MMO was presented to the board. Upon review of the MMO for police and non-uniformed employee pension plans, a discrepancy was found. Calculations will be redone and re-presented at the budget meeting for approval on October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

On motion of Alan, second by Kirstie, motion passed to approve the purchase of one fire proof file cabinet for Ruth through Quill at the rate of \$1399.99.

Upon review of the PSATS 2021 Business Session proposed bylaws changes, nominations report, and resolutions for consideration on October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021, the supervisors decided to take the packet home to review in detail and readdress at the budget meeting on October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

On motion of Kirstie, second by Tressa, motion passed to pay the monthly bills.

On motion of Christine, second by Alan, motion passed to accept the monthly reports as submitted.

On motion of Tressa, second by Kirstie, motion passed to vote for BOTH delegates for the PSATS Unemployment Compensation Group Trust.

Correspondence/Information was as listed in the meeting agenda

Resident Kelly Barret of Wolcott Hollow Road arrived after voice of the residents and addressed the board. He was concerned with the way the highway equipment was being maintained and suggested that instead of investing in more equipment that isn't being properly cared for, the board could potentially use that money to hire out a third party to do the work and put more money into the roads. He stated that the surrounding townships had nice roads but almost every road in our township was in terrible shape. He and Supervisor Susan Seck discussed the road projects and Susan explained what equipment was replaced and why as well as what projects are in process or have been completed this year. She also explained that the employee that wasn't taking care of the vehicles is no longer with us and the issue has been addressed. Supervisor Christine Vough told Mr. Barrett we are getting ready to prepare our budget for the next year and asked him which roads he felt needed the most attention. Mr. Barrett stated that he felt Erin Rd., the top of Sunnyfield Drive, Reagan Rd., and Alleyhoot Rd. were in the worst shape.

Mr. Lusaitis brought to the board's attention the need to pass a resolution to complete the Athens (Front) DPP, LLC.'s sewage module application.

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On motion of Kirstie, second by Tressa, motion passed to execute Resolution 2021-11 for the Athens (Front) DPP, LLC. sewage module contingent upon review and approval by Solicitor Thompson.

Tressa took the Board into executive session at 6:32 PM for personnel and pending litigation. The regular meeting reconvened at 8:26 PM.

On motion of Tressa, second by Alan, motion passed to pay Pernell Trollman, as per his MOU, effective September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

On motion of Tressa, second by Kirstie, motion passed to allow the Public Works department to scrap miscellaneous scrap metal in the shop/yard.

On motion of Kirstie, second by Alan, motion passed to bid out repairs for the pipe on Tutelow Creek Rd. Susan will work on preparing the bid.

On motion of Kirstie, second by Tressa, motion passed to allow Ruth to move \$31,460 from Act 13 account 438.202 (originally allocated for calcium for the roads) to Act 13 Hwy Maintenance account 438.207.

On motion of Alan, second by Kirstie, motion passed to hire Marcus Cole to replace 2 driveway pipes, purchased by the owners of 317 & 942 Queen Esther Drive, in the respective driveways for a combined cost of \$1800.

There being no further business, on motion of Kirstie, second by Christine, it was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle A. Rude  
Athens Township Administrative Secretary