

Vice Chairwoman Bonnie Petruschak called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

Present were Supervisors, Bonnie Petruschak, Matt Moore and Cori Lasco; Tressa Heffron was unable to attend and Ron Reagan arrived late. Superintendent of Public Works Garret Stocks, Secretary Meagan Carling and Solicitor John Thompson were also in attendance. Bonnie led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Athens Twp. Planning Commission:

November 2024 meeting minutes received, no representative present.

GreenKey Solar: conditional use hearing was held 11/14/24, no decision was made at the hearing and it was continued to the Supervisors Meeting 12/18/24; John Thompson drafted a proposed decision for the Supervisors to review.

Colon, Henry & Rorry: On motion of Matt, seconded by Cori; motion passed to authorize the sewage module to be signed and submitted for the subdivision in Smithfield Township on adjoining parcel in Athens Township.

Athens Twp. Volunteer Fire Co.:

October 2024 report received, no representative present.

Athens Twp. Parks Commission:

No representative present, no report received.

Vacancies on the Parks & Recreation Committee, still open.

Star is going up at Round Top before Thanksgiving, still coordinating exact day.

Rotary Pavilion maintenance / repairs will be quoted this week; will provide for next budget session.

Supervisor Ron Reagan arrived.

Athens Twp. Public Works Dept.:

November 2024 Roads Report received; Superintendent of Public Works Garret Stocks was in attendance to represent the department.

Moore Road Bridge Strengthening Project Update: email from Larson Design Group stating the project design was submitted to PennDOT, they are “willing to grant structural adequacy approval provided the posting limit is set at 10-tons and the bridge is put on a 3-month inspection frequency once re-opened” after the strengthening project completion. The limit was decreased from the planned 14-ton posting as there are “some uncertainties with the existing structure and abutments” that cannot easily be accounted for in the design. Supervisors Cori Lasco and Ron Reagan spoke with Aaron Crist from PennDOT via conference call, Secretary Meagan Carling was also present. The email from LDG was verified and options for both TIPs (programs) were outlined; details will need to be discussed further with the PennDOT Bridge Engineer – working on scheduling this as soon as possible. Discussion was had with residents Rosemary Firestine, Nancy Whitt, Matt Cooper, Mike Freeland; all disappointed in hearing this update.

On motion of Ron, seconded by Matt; motion passed to authorize Garret Stocks to submit an application for “the design and permits” funding through BCCD for undersized and failing culverts; they are able to fund 15 over the next year. Garret has selected to submit the culvert on Wildwood Road.

On motion of Cori, seconded by Ron; motion passed to accept the T-321 Right-of-Way Clearance Certificate, designating the Vice Chairwoman as signing authority.

Garret presented two quotes for loaders from CAT and 5Star, waiting on another from Hitachi. He was able to have the CAT delivered for an equipment demonstration / performance evaluation – will do the same for the others as time permits. CAT has 2 leasing options available and have quoted \$20,000 trade-in for the TWP current loader; 5Star cannot offer leasing options or trade-in. The Supervisors requested he bring this information to the next budget session. Garret also needs to know what plan of action is if the current loader becomes inoperable – further discussion can also be had at next budget session.

Truck trackers / cameras, unable to get quotes prior to the meeting – TABLED.

Garret gave a quick update on the crew, working well together and positive environment.

Garret discussed what preparations have been made for the impending winter weather forecasted for Thursday evening - Friday.

Athens Twp. Police Dept.:

October 2024 report received, no representative present.

On motion of Ron, seconded by Bonnie; motion passed to approve the purchase order for office supplies from Quill in the amount of \$628.93 from 410.210 account.

On motion of Cori, seconded by Matt; motion passed to accept the monthly reports for Planning, Fire Co., Public Works, Police Dept., Permits.

On motion of Ron, seconded by Bonnie; motion passed to approve all monthly bills.

Note: no meeting minutes presented for review

Considered / Discussed:

Garret contacted Wiles Valley Weather and would suggest the “winter weather” option over the “year-round” service. Garret has also requested a quote from AccuWeather for their Snow Warning Service, a similar program, but did not receive a reply prior to the meeting. The Supervisors requested he bring this documentation to the next budget session.

On motion of Ron, seconded by Cori; motion passed to submit an application for two “Township Vehicles” for the DCED Local Share Account (LSA) Statewide Grant.

Solicitor John Thompson is still working on holding Indigo Wireless and AT&T to the lease / contract terms for tower use.

On motion of Matt, seconded by Bonnie; motion passed to transfer the electric formally under Indigo Wireless over to the Athens Township account before November 31, 2024 to continue to provide power to the outbuilding housing the Athens & Sayre schools bus systems repeaters and the county's emergency back-up repeater; will need to get the account information from Ruth to provide to point of contact from Indigo.

On motion of Cori, seconded by Matt; motion passed to pay the annual Safe Drinking Water – PWS invoice totaling \$50.00 from the Department of Environmental Protection.

On motion of Cori to pass on donating, in response to residents Matt Cooper and Mike Freeland's stance against the Township making the decision for what charity programs or groups to donate tax-payer funds to, no second motion was made; motion does not pass to "pass on donating" to the Sirens for Santa program.

Conrad Siegel invoice for study completion, TABLED until account information is provided.

On motion of Bonnie, seconded by Ron; motion passed to note receipt of the Spalding Memorial Library's financial statement.

On motion of Matt, seconded by Cori; motion passed to approve the Bradford County Commissioners updated lease agreement increasing election day facility use fees from \$50 to \$100, designating the Vice Chairwoman as signing authority.

Mark from J&S Electrical was in attendance to answer any questions in regard to the quote that was submitted for the electrical work to the Township yard and building perimeter. Discussion was had. Additional quote for electrical work from Mountain Lake Electric had not be received prior to the meeting.

On motion of Matt, seconded by Cori; motion passed to approve the proposed lunch order for the Township Christmas Luncheon from OIP, based on 40 people attending.

Discussion was had on the quote for email domains 3 options; may need additional information to make the decision; the Supervisors requested to bring this to the next budget session.

Discussion was had revisiting the Rally Point Resources & Halo Land Management oil / gas lease inquiries regarding the process / necessary steps if deciding to move forward with these requests TABLED – need to look at details more.

On motion of Cori, seconded by Matt; motion passed to accept the CPA Baker-Tilly to do a single audit with the cash basis financial statement audit (option#2 per the email summary) for 2024, contingent upon the Township Treasurer confirming this is adequate, for the municipality's purposes, to report on a cash basis of accounting.

On motion of Cori, seconded by Ron; motion passed to adopt the updated Auditors Ordinance 2024-02, stating the Township has the option and will advertise the selection, designating the Vice Chairwoman to have signing authority.

Storage space and options will be discussed further in the next budget session.

Discussion was had and determined the next budget session will be held as a special meeting on Tuesday, November 26th at 6pm.

Discussion was had regarding the Township Treasurer position; held one interview this week and scheduling another for next week; still accepting applications / resumes.

Administrative personnel will be discussed in Executive Session.

Correspondence / Information:

Upcoming (local / in-person) LTAP course 12/18 “Full Depth Reclamation”; noted.

Voice of the Residents:

Kira Storch, Jackin Road: Ms. Storch contacted PennDOT, she was informed that the Township can request a speed study to determine what it should be posted as; the Supervisors requested additional information for costs and options.

Mike Freeland, Wilawana Road: Mr. Freeland inquired about the status of the new website as he has noticed the current Township site to be down on occasion and inquired about postings for agendas / minutes being uploaded timely or possibly delayed. The Supervisors discussed and will evaluate the status of the new site and devise a plan to expedite the process; requested the uploads to the old site be checked.

Vice Chairwoman Bonnie took the board into executive session at 7:48 PM for personnel.

Supervisor Cori Lasco needed to leave prior to the meeting adjournment, exited Executive Session at 7:57pm.

The meeting reconvened at 8:45 PM.

On motion of Ron, seconded by Matt; motion passed to authorize Solicitor John Thompson to pursue establishment or receipt of franchise fees from Tri-County Connections.

There being no further business, on motion of Matt, second by Bonnie;
it was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Meagan Carling
Athens Township Secretary