

Chairwoman Tressa Heffron called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

Present were Supervisors – Tressa Heffron, Bonnie Petruschak and Ronald Reagan; Matthew Moore was unable to attend in person per an injury, partially attended virtually via TEAMS. Superintendent of Public Works Garret Stocks, Secretary Meagan Carling and Solicitor John Thompson were also in attendance. Tressa led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Voice of the Residents:

Rosemary Firestine, Moore Road: Inquired what the process is for submitting a referendum item and wanted the Board to revisit the idea of a Township Manager. Tressa replied that they are working with the Solicitor on what is needed and if it is feasible. Solicitor John Thompson added that it would be a substantial increase in funding / that would require budgeting in.

Supervisor Matthew Moore joined virtually at this time.

Athens Twp. Planning Commission

No representative in attendance.

GreenKey Solar: conditional use hearing was held 11/14/24, no decision was made at the hearing and it was further continued to the Supervisors Meeting 1/29/2025 per the request of GreenKey Solar.

Athens Twp. Volunteer Fire Co.

No representative in attendance.

Athens Twp. Parks Commission

No representative in attendance.

Round Top Park pavilions 7&8 roof system repair quote and body structure repair quote reviewed, noting rates will be higher if re-quotes needed as prices were set based on discount for early commitment; no other quotes to review at this time. BOS stated they will need more quotes and to contact Northern Tier Career Center (NTCC) as may have student-work program.

Athens Twp. Public Works Dept.

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 project would be posted to their bid website this upcoming weekend, to be let at the next Supervisors meeting on 1/29/25. Advertisement will be posted in Daily Review requesting bids be submitted to the Athens Township Municipal Building by 3pm on 1/29/25 to be opened / awarded at 6pm meeting.

Truck #6 replacement quotes (3) submitted per Garret; explained the sudden need for this sooner than later based on the rapid decline in reliability of the Public Works Tahoe (acquired from the Police Department after they had to replace it in their fleet) causing the Superintendent to have to use his personal vehicle on several occasions. Garret presented three quotes for review. On motion

of Ronald, seconded by Matthew; motion passed to move forward with the replacement, selecting the 2024 Dodge Ram 2500 Tradesman Crew Cab pick-up truck with up-fit package from COSTARS approved vendor Sand's Chrysler Jeep Dodge in Quakertown PA in the amount of \$54,866 from 430.701 - Capital Reserve account.

On motion of Tressa, seconded by Bonnie; motion passed for John Thompson to draft a letter to send to Rinwalske Towing in regard to their spreading salt on Meadowlark Drive (dirt road) causing damage to the roadway; letter to state the cause of the damage and the determination of repairs cannot be made until after winter months when the road can be evaluated properly, an invoice will be prepared at that time.

Garret provided incident reports to the Board. Both incidents were previously relayed to Supervisor Matthew Moore. Bonnie felt these reports and additional information would help to clarify some issues/concerns that were brought to the BOS attention at the 1/6/25 organizational meeting by a resident.

- *Concern claimed truck #13 wrecked and damaged from an accident and in repair shop:* Truck #13 was recently at a garage for warranty work on the drive train and steering. It did slide into a UPS delivery truck on 12/20/24 while plowing out on Bowman Road but there was no damage to the UPS unit and only a bent hydraulic motor on TWP unit which the mechanic fixed in house; relayed to Matthew and incident report written.
- *Concern claimed an incident with a "Sutty's" driver being verbally assaulted by a TWP driver:* The TWP driver was plowing on his route when he crested a hill of Sutliff Road and came up on a car in the ditch and people standing in the road. The TWP driver was unable to stop, swerved to avoid collision with the car / people and slid into the ditch. With police on the scene, Chris Sutton's Towing arrived being called by the car owner prior to the TWP truck becoming stuck; the tow truck driver was not aware of how the events occurred and made comments about the TWP driver (driving ability) which were reciprocated. After back on the road the truck was evaluated, there was no damage to the TWP unit.
- *Concern claimed TWP employees cut-up a v-pLOW from the yard and took it over state lines to turn in for scrap:* The v-pLOW in question was old and rusted out - not fit to be on the road; since there was no way to use it for any other trucks the decision was made to take it for scrap to Sutton's Salvage. The funds received via check were put into the Township's 'Veteran's Memorial account'.

Garret noted the Public Works staff are continuing to work well together; nothing for discussion.

Athens Twp. Police Dept.

Chief Clink was in attendance; nothing to present.

On motion of Ronald, seconded by Bonnie; motion passed to approve the MOU for Police Chief Roger Clink.

Monthly reports, TABLED. Note, with the BOS scheduled to meet twice monthly for 2025, reports can be presented at the second meeting of the month.

Monthly bills, TABLED. Note, with the BOS schedule to meet twice monthly for 2025, bills can be presented at the second meeting of the month; with a previous motion passed approving the Treasurer to pay bills during each month that become due or will be at a discount prior to the BOS monthly meeting.

On motion of Bonnie, seconded by Ronald; motion passed to approve the Board of Supervisors special meeting minutes from 12/28/2024. Tressa abstained as she was not in attendance.

On motion of Tressa, seconded by Ronald; motion pass to approve the Board of Supervisors organizational meeting minutes from 1/6/2025. Matthew abstained as he was not in attendance.

Consider / Discuss

On motion of Bonnie, seconded by Ronald; motion passed to adopt RESOLUTION 2025-06 keeping the millage at 14mills for 2025, letter signed for BC Assessment Office records.

On motion of Tressa, seconded by Bonnie; motion passed to adopt RESOLUTION 2025-07 setting the amount of contribution to the ATVFC be \$90,000 for 2025.

On motion of Ronald, seconded by Bonnie; motion passed to adopt RESOLUTION 2025-08 budget expenditures for 2025.

Bidding Thresholds changes noted for 2025; under \$12,900 – no formal bidding or written telephonic / quotations required, between \$12,900 - \$23,800 – three written / telephonic quotations required, over \$23,800 – formal bidding required / compliance with the competitive bidding laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

On motion of Ronald, seconded by Tressa; motion passed to renew the AmTrust Financial Workers Compensation & Employer Liability Policy for 2025 (in the amount of \$68,777).

On motion of Tressa, seconded by Bonnie; motion passed to approve the invoices for Kai Pan Consulting support / security IT services 2024 in the amount of \$1722.

On motion of Bonnie, seconded by Tressa; motion passed to approve the purchase order for Township Office Alarm System through Kai Pan Consulting in the amount of \$874.00 from 409.260 account.

Assignment of Committees to the Board of Supervisors; TABLED until 1/29/25 meeting, hoping to have the Supervisor vacancy filled prior to these assignments.

On motion of Bonnie, seconded by Ronald; motion passed to approve 2025 part-time Gatekeeper(s) wages stay the same as 2024: \$17.50/gate (with minimum wage for additional tasks needed).

Lowes Home Center, notice of order filed with BC Court of Common Pleas – Noted. Solicitor John Thompson relayed this in regard to appraisal comparison being needed for moving forward.

Township vacancies: Township Auditor (1), Vacancy Board (1), Parks & Recreation Commission (3), Board of Supervisors (1) – Noted. No new letter of intent / interest received since the last meeting 1/6/25.

Supervisor Matthew Moore virtual meeting ended at this time; unable to reconnect.

Teamsters contract roles & rates to be discussed in Executive Session.

On motion of Bonnie, seconded by Ronald; motion passed to approve the updated meeting guidelines and have copies available for residents at each meeting.

Township Treasurer position to be discussed in Executive Session.

Personnel to be discussed in Executive Session.

Correspondence / Information

Code Inspection Inc, no office hours at Township Building on Tuesdays until further notice – Noted. This is to be updated on the website, Facebook page and signage on door to the Township Building to be corrected to reflect this change.

Microbac Laboratories 2025 price increase for all services – Noted.

Endless Mountains Heritage Region hosting Grant Workshop 1/31/25 in Tunkhannock PA; Garret and new Treasurer (if selected before 31st) should attend.

Upcoming LTAP courses: 1/9/25 (Winter Maintenance) was rescheduled to 1/30/25; next is 2/27/25 (Public Works Safety) – Noted.

Valley Energy safety notice to Public Officials – Noted, distribute internally as needed.

Resident Comments / Questions

Rosemary Firestine, Moore Road: Inquired if the letter she had sent to the Board of Supervisors was received and if there was any feedback in regard to it. The Board confirmed that it was received and Solicitor John Thompson will be drafting a formal response once his information has been collected.

Supervisor Ronald Reagan asked what was going on with the ATA (Authority) lately, requested updates. ATA Member Mike Freeland was in attendance, he mentioned setting up a channel of communication with the Public Works Dept. and the ATA Secretary for forecasted road work / schedule; Garret will contact ATA to get this set-up / submit schedule.

[Jumping back to an agenda item skipped for the Solicitor to review the information more.]

CPA Baker Tilly, formal engagement letter: Solicitor John Thompson would still like more time to review this and may need to meet with Ruth to get some additional clarification on some of the aspects listed; TABLED to 1/29/25 meeting.

Paul Kelly, Moore Road: Inquired the number of paved miles in the Township and if there are any discounts available from local paving companies for materials that could work for using instead of purchasing so much; a kind of “work-around”. Garret replied that he has that number for paved miles, just not in his notes with him today but will take note of his suggestion.

Chairwoman Tressa took the board into executive session at 7:34 PM for personnel.

The meeting reconvened at 8:10 PM.

There being no further business, on motion of Tressa, second by Ronald;
it was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Meagan Carling
Athens Township Secretary