

ATHENS TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS

March 26, 2014 6 PM

Executive Session

An executive session was held at 6:12 PM for pending litigation. Supervisors present were Cheryl Wood-Walter, Ronald Reagan, Christine Vough and Susan Seck. Maurice Fay was absent due to illness. Solicitor John Thompson and Secretary Robin Smith were in attendance, as were Wayne Frey and Tim Sullivan from PennDOT. Executive session concluded at 6:55 PM. No action was taken.

ATHENS TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS

March 26, 2014 7 PM

Regular Monthly Meeting

Vice Chairman Cheryl Wood-Walter called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM. Supervisors also present were Ronald Reagan, Christine Vough and Susan Seck. Maurice Fay was absent due to illness. Solicitor John Thompson and Secretary Robin Smith were also in attendance.

Vice Chairman Wood-Walter called for the opening of the bids. The first was for a portable crusher and loader(s) with operator(s) to reduce bank run gravel in our gravel pit to a minimum of 5000 (+/-) cubic yards, 2-1/2 inch-minus modified gravel as per the legal notice. The bids were as follows:

Cole Construction	\$3.78/cubic yard
Villager Construction, Inc.	\$3.95/cubic yard
Dycon Construction	\$4.55/cubic yard
Carver Sand & Gravel	\$5.95/cubic yard

On motion of Ron, second by Cheryl, it was unanimous to award the bid to Cole Construction.

Next was the bid for 11,000 (+/-) gallons 87 octane gas and 14,000 (+/-) gallons LSD diesel. Only one bid was received, from Williams Oil and Propane, and was \$3.0369/gallon for the gas and \$3.3595/gallon for diesel. On motion of Cheryl, second by Ron, it was unanimous to award the bid to Williams Oil and Propane.

Voice of the Residents:

Aaron Brotzman of Weaver Road asked who mandated the money that is given to the fire company. Cheryl said we are mandated to provide fire service – either ourselves or contract with someone else. Aaron thinks \$90,000 is too much for the fire company. He said it was in the paper as \$22,000 but “Maurice fessed

up” to the \$93,100. Are we mandated to give them that? Cheryl said your question needs to be addressed to the fire company, and she turned the floor over to Keith Stackhouse. Keith said he is the chairman of the Board of Directors for the fire company. The township started its own fire company in 1975/76, and they have a contract that renews every year. They’ve been getting \$93,100 for several years now. He explained that they do a lot of fundraising – bingo every Tuesday night, ham and turkey parties, chicken barbecues, etc. You can’t run a fire company solely by ‘slinging chicken’. If you’d (Aaron) like to join to help, we can get you an application. Keith said he works for the police department and they don’t have to do chicken barbecues to buy a new police car. The highway department doesn’t have to raise money for their dump trucks. Aaron asked if the State matches the amount the township contributes and they do not. The State has small grants available for specific things, and the Federal grants are very, very competitive. Aaron said if we get to the end of the year, and we only have \$50,000 left for the fire company, that should be enough. He’s living on a road that is falling apart. Keith said they need funds to maintain their trucks to haul water and fight fires. Aaron said they can’t get to his house with their equipment because the road is so bad.

Richard Bean reported for the Parks and Recreation Commission. He said the model airplane club spoke to the Commission about their upcoming events and donated \$100 toward the pond project. The Commission will also be participating in the Guthrie Obesity Prevention and Awareness Health Fair on Saturday, June 7th. Matt Williams from Northern Tier Regional Planning and Development Council is working on grants for the pond project. They are also looking for help from the Fish and Boat Commission. They will be putting erosion control in this spring and will do the grubbing and clearing. They hope to use volunteers. They have asked Haas to help with marking the boundaries of the area to be developed. They’re waiting for the ground to thaw. Round Top Park will open May 10th. Barry will start back to work on April 7th. Richard has contacted Athens Little League (LL) and ASA Girls Softball (ASA) requesting they share the ball field at the Jim King Memorial Park equally – including maintenance and materials needed for that. Park inspection will be April 19th. Verizon has requested written permission to bury their new 911 phone line underground in the park. Richard has given verbal permission but they need the permission paperwork signed by the Board.

Ralph Blowers of Front Street asked who’s going to follow Verizon around to see the work is done properly. They have lines strung everywhere up in the hills.

Page Three
Athens Township Supervisors
March 26, 2014

Andy Watkins of Riverside Drive said he believes LL is under a misconception that ASA and LL can only use the field Monday through Thursday. Richard said that is correct. Richard said they made a promise to the people in East Athens that the ball field will not be used for organized sports and will only be for public use. The Park Commission set Friday, Saturday and Sunday for public use of the ball field only. If someone rents the pavilion they can use the ball field as well. Cheryl asked Andy if he has a set time for his practices and he said he's trying to get a schedule together. Richard said he sent a letter to LL asking them to come to the Park Commission meeting, but no one showed up.

Danny Stark of Clinton Street asked what we offer for free to our veterans. Cheryl said we offer free Off Highway Vehicle permits. Danny added that a lot of disabled veterans do fish, and will enjoy the handicap fishing pier that is proposed.

Christine asked for it to be clarified that if someone rents the pavilion in the Jim King Memorial Park, they can use the ball field as well.

Andy Watkins asked Richard if the Parks Commission would revisit their 'public use only' on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Richard told Andy to come to a Parks meeting, and said the next meeting is April 28th at 7 PM.

Patrick Musto was present to report for Athens Township Authority (ATA). He said not much progress was made on the sewer line upgrade project. He said there were 4 properties for which they still needed easements, now they're down to 3 because they changed their route. ATA voted to do eminent domain on the three properties. One wants too much money, one has not responded, and one is giving them the run-around. It will take a couple months, and there will be unknown costs for the easements and unknown costs for the litigation. They may have to increase rates. They don't know how much it will be. They tried to put it where people wanted it and have really tried to secure the easements. People don't realize this money will come from the sewer users. If it takes 2-3 months, that would be June. It may be a while.

Aaron Brotzman asked if the budget is available for review, and it is.

Randy Harford was not present at the meeting so Robin presented the information on Truck 4. Truck 4 failed inspection (frame rail cracked, rusted; power steering box has severe leak; several air leaks right front and rear; headlight switch frozen; no back-up lights; exhaust rusted – leaks between turbo and muffler; spring rusted

– broken rebout clamps; left inside door latch inoperable; antifreeze leak toward rear of engine). The box on this truck was recently purchased and can go on another chassis. Randy said we could buy a used chassis where we purchased Truck 7 a few years back and have this box installed on that. He said we should use this box, because it will leave enough material in the box to give the truck the weight it needs, and also will allow material to be spread at the front of the box – not just at the rear of the box, which helps to give them traction in both directions. He said the standard aluminum boxes on PennDOT trucks are light and do not have these features. He also said if we take the box off Truck 4 and leave it sit, it will deteriorate. Randy said they need to get a chassis with a wing plow so they will be able to push the snow back from the ditches in a more timely fashion. Ralph said we only have one wing plow now (Mike’s truck), and it takes 2 days for him to cover the entire township to get the snow pushed back. If we had another, we could do this in a day. No action was taken at this time.

Cheryl said we need to set a date for road inspection. Christine said she has made arrangements with Greg Dibble from PennDOT to go around and inspect roads on April 3rd (a Thursday). Cheryl asked if the rest of the board was invited and Christine said as many as can fit in his vehicle. Cheryl said we need to set a date when we all can go. Discussion was held. Road inspection was set for April 26, 2014 at 9 AM.

Discussion was held as to whether or not to close the “No Winter Maintenance” portion of Murray Creek Road from November 30 – April 1 each year. This year someone took it upon themselves to plow the road, and they plugged our ditches full with snow which caused the water to run down the center of the road causing a big washout. There are no houses on this portion of the road. Ron said he has pulled people out of there a lot. He thinks we should close it during the winter timeframe. It’s a tough road even in the summer. Robin asked how we would legally do this. John Thompson said we would do it by ordinance, and he will draft one for review at our next meeting.

Robin said the highway department has asked for an eyewash station. The day they asked she went out and got eye wash and an eye cup for the interim. Ralph Blowers said he had a portable one for his business. Robin will research and get prices.

On motion of Ron, second by Cheryl, it was unanimous to approve the minutes of February 26th and March 6, 2014 as written.

Page Five
Athens Township Supervisors
March 26, 2014

John had reviewed the proposed franchise agreement from North Penn Telephone for cable service within the township. He said he had asked North Penn to incorporate a paragraph from the Time Warner Cable franchise we have, but he hasn't received anything back from them yet.

Robin had requested a quote for telephone service from North Penn/Empire Access. She distributed it to the Board for review and consideration. We would save about \$25/month.

On motion of Cheryl, second by Susan, it was unanimous to approve the copier maintenance agreement with Copy Source.

Robin asked the Board if they would consider sending a letter to the Commissioners in support of the Endless Mountains Visitor's Bureau. Discussion was held. Cheryl said this actually has to go before all the municipalities – the Commissioners can't just pull out of this themselves. They need 51% of the municipalities in the County to be in favor of pulling out of the Bureau. If we gave them Round Top brochures to promote our park, we would get nothing from them because Bradford County would no longer be a part of the Bureau. Small businesses like the wineries and such depend on this advertising and marketing. When the Commissioners made the announcement that they were no longer going to support the Bureau, they left out the part about the municipalities needing to approve it. It's the County hotel tax that is sent to the Bureau, and it is only to be spent for tourism. The letter is something we're considering. They need to look at the big picture. No action was taken.

Robin advised the Board that she had included price quotes for a roller and a grader in their meeting packets. No action was taken.

On motion of Ron, second by Cheryl, it was unanimous to ratify the scheduling of the executive session at 6 PM just prior to this meeting.

On motion of Ron, second by Christine, it was unanimous to ratify the filing of Preliminary Objections for the Rosh request for a Board of Review. John said the argument is set for May. Ralph Blowers asked what this is about and John Thompson explained.

Positive Pay was discussed again. Susan asked if we can find fraud protection for our bank accounts that works as an umbrella. It was decided to table this until our

Page Six
Athens Township Supervisors
March 26, 2014

April meeting, and have Robin check with our insurance company, and also ask the PSATS discussion group.

On motion of Cheryl, second by Ron, it was unanimous to send Susan and Ed to the Floodplain management seminar at the Best Western on April 22nd.

On motion of Christine, second by Cheryl, it was unanimous to send Ed and Robin to the NWS Integrated Warning Team workshop on April 24th.

On motion of Cheryl, second by Susan, it was unanimous to send Ed to the Hazardous Weather & Flood Preparedness class in Harrisburg on April 10 & 11th.

Robin said there is a Zoning Decisions class on April 29th in Williamsport.

Robin has received the fire reports for both January and February. On motion of Ron, second by Christine, it was unanimous to release the funds to the fire company.

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

On motion of Cheryl, second by Ron, 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.

Correspondence/Information was as listed in the meeting agenda.

Vice Chairman Wood-Walter took the Board into executive session at 8:35 PM for pending litigation. The Secretary was excused at 9:05 PM. The regular meeting reconvened at 9:56 PM and the remaining minutes were taken by Ronald Reagan.

On motion of Cheryl, second by Susan, it was unanimous to have Ruth do eBanking with Citizens and Northern Bank.

On motion of Ron, second by Christine, it was unanimous to have Cheryl sign the agreement for Verizon to put their 911 phone line underground in Round Top Park.

Page Seven
Athens Township Supervisors
March 26, 2014

On motion of Ron, second by Cheryl, it was unanimous to have John Thompson draft an ordinance for the closure of the “No Winter Maintenance” portion of Murray Creek Road from November 30th through April 1st of each year.

On motion of Cheryl, second by Christine, it was unanimous to have John Thompson contact the Worker’s Compensation attorney.

On motion of Ron, second by Christine, it was unanimous to have John Thompson contact Don Horne from the Federal Highway Administration.

There being no further business, on motion of Ron, second by Cheryl, it was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 10:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin L. Smith
Secretary