

ATHENS TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS

June 11, 2014 7 PM

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

Voice of the Residents: None

Chairman Wood-Walter took the Board into executive session at 7:03 PM for pending litigation. The regular meeting reconvened at 7:41 PM.

Robin had contacted the Board to let them know the bridge inspectors had closed the Miller Road bridge this afternoon. They had requested our Public Works department come immediately with barricades to close the bridge. Robin also had Eddie Reid respond. Ed took pictures which Robin had for the Board tonight. There will be a meeting with the bridge inspectors and PennDOT at the bridge site on Friday the 13th at 10 AM and they want a Supervisor present as they discuss options for reopening the bridge. Robin asked who would be able to go. Susan said she would go. Robin asked if they would like Ed to go as well (Randy will already be going) and they said yes. On motion of Ron, second by Cheryl, it was unanimous to have the Public Works Department place concrete blocks with reflective marking/tape across the road at both ends of the Miller Road bridge and to place signs at the first intersection above and below the bridge that the bridge is closed. Robin had notified our PD, Bradford County 911 Center, Athens Schools, Litchfield Township and the media that the bridge will be closed until further notice.

Next on the agenda was the purchase of another dump truck for the highway department. Robin asked if they want to consider this before they find out what they'll need to pay for the bridge, which was estimated at \$1,100,000 for replacement. Cheryl said we need a truck. We should look at a new truck because if we get a used truck, we'll be right back where we are now. Ron said we can't go new because it will have to be built. He had called to order a piece of farm equipment and was told it would be a 12 – 18 month backlog. He talked to Terry Sheets at the convention and Terry said Bradco was 22 trucks behind. He told the Board he had asked Robin to email the roadmaster at Girard Township with questions about the truck they have for bid. Robin has heard nothing back as yet. Discussion was held on the Girard Township truck. Susan has a contact in that area that she could ask to go look at the truck, and give us a recommendation on it. On motion of Cheryl, second by George, it was unanimous to have Susan call her contact to inspect the truck and the service records and give us a ball park figure as to what we should bid.

Page Two
Athens Township Supervisors
June 11, 2014

Discussion was held on the purchase of a grader for the highway department. Susan had given Randy information on a demo grader from Monroe Tractor. Randy had also supplied the Board with two grader quotes – one from Cleveland Brothers for a CAT grader for \$232,635 (less \$40K for trade-in) and one from Highway Equipment for \$225,417. Susan will check with Scott McQuay at Monroe Tractor to get information on the demo grader for our June 25th meeting.

The ‘dip’ on Westbrook Street was discussed. Discussion was held. The Board feels this should be taken care of this year. On motion of Cheryl, second by George, it was unanimous to correct the ‘dip’ this year.

Randy told Robin he needs to get blacktop bid so he can get Erin Road done. It’s too late to bid for the 25th meeting, but we could bid for our special meeting on the 9th. Christine said when they did road inspection at the end of April, Erin Road sure needed a lot more work than just new asphalt. Robin said Randy had worked on the base and the drainage and he has that done. Randy said our guys will do the work but we need to rent an asphalt roller. He thought he could be done in a week, and had rental prices from Bradco for a roller as follows: \$200/day; \$800/week; and \$2400/month. On motion of Susan, second by Ron, it was unanimous to bid the asphalt for the July 9th meeting and to rent a roller. Susan said Randy had called her and she came in to meet with him. Randy took her out to look at some of the roads. Susan will get with Ruth to find out how much money we have and will email everyone.

Cheryl made a motion to have Randy provide a comprehensive and specific list of roads on which he plans to use asphalt, and what size areas he will be doing on those roads so we can get the bid out. Christine said she needs more than a little more clarification on the use of asphalt. She is concerned with Erin Road. Over the winter she got lots of calls and there was a lot of damage. The amount of money to do the road properly and not waste the taxpayer’s money is over \$100,000. Cheryl said at our meeting on the 4th Mike told us it cost \$365,000 to pave one mile of road. We can’t afford to do that. Susan agreed. Cheryl said this is frustrating on everyone’s part. Randy needs to get us a comprehensive list. He is trying to do what repairs he can to hold the roads until funds are available to complete the necessary repairs. Susan said Randy is having a hard time prioritizing what needs to be done and he is asking for direction. Cheryl said Erin Road has always been a problem to keep up. We have a lot of other roads that need work. If we disagree with Randy’s list, we need to tell him. Susan said he’s using Mike to help him prioritize what needs to be done. Christine hates to see taxpayer money wasted.

Page Three
Athens Township Supervisors
June 11, 2014

The road needs drainage, base and then a top. The Dirt and Gravel Roads are great. Bradford County Conservation District (BCCD) helps our guys get it done right. They do follow-ups. There is no paving program through BCCD but we need something like that. When they start working on 220/199 there will be additional traffic on Erin Road. Christine has faith in the highway department, but thinks we need to think more about this before we decide. It should be done right. Cheryl said we need a list from Randy. Susan said Randy will use Mike to get it done so it holds. Robin asked if she was still bidding blacktop, and was told to wait until Tuesday when Susan meets with Ruthie about finances. Cheryl asked Christine if she wanted to talk to Randy about this. Susan said she would talk to Randy. George said Randy implied that he was comfortable with what he had done. Susan seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

We received a letter from PennDOT about our Route 220/Route 199 letter that we sent to our legislators. Cheryl gave the overview. She also wanted to point out that you would have thought they'd know about the sight distance issues. They agree with us now. We are glad they are now going to put the Route 199 intersection back in the plan.

Ron said he had Cindy look into some survey-hosting sites on the internet where we could conduct our survey for the Comprehensive Plan update. They are not tailored to what we are doing. Robin asked if we should be checking on bulk mailing prices because not everyone has computer access. George suggested adding a place on the survey for people to list their email address for future notifications.

Robin also said she will be taking names and phone numbers of people who call about the Miller Road bridge so she can give them updates as we get them. She asked that if the Supervisors get a call, that they get this information for Robin so she can keep those residents informed.

Eddie Reid said Gerry Corbin had approached him about Pump Station Hill Road. Gerry is thinking about buying the stockyards and he would like to know if this road has been abandoned east of Route 220. Robin asked John Thompson if that was something Lori could find out at the courthouse and he said she could.

Eddie said Dave Walter from Aqua PA had asked him if the fire hydrant at the Candlewood Suites was going to be turned over to the township. Discussion was held. Microtel pays for their hydrant. Robin asked if the fire company could hook

Page Four
Athens Township Supervisors
June 11, 2014

to a private hydrant and Cheryl said they could. The Board would like to see Candlewood Suites be responsible for their hydrant.

Eddie asked who was 'in charge' of junkyards and that is Susan. Ed asked her if she would like to go on junkyard inspection when he does them and she will go. They will go Tuesday afternoon at 12:30 PM.

Chairman Wood-Walter took the Board into executive session for pending litigation and personnel issues at 8:55 PM. The secretary was excused at this time, and the remaining minutes were taken by Cheryl. The regular meeting reconvened at 11:08 PM.

On motion of Ron, second by George, it passed to authorize Attorney Thompson to communicate with Attorney Foster relative to a resolution of the sign variance issue without the necessity to appeal the Zoning Hearing Board decision, and in the event no resolution is reached, authorize Attorney Thompson to file an appeal and order a transcript. Christine voted no.

On motion of Ron, second by Christine, it was unanimous to restore the integrity of the storm water management system by the Airport Seniors Community and direct Attorney Thompson to meet with the Airport Seniors Community representative to outline the necessity for restoration of said system.

On motion of Ron, second by Susan it was unanimous to check prices on time clocks.

On motion of Ron, second by Cheryl, it was unanimous to have a meeting with Donald Burgess on a personnel matter.

There being no further business, on motion of Ron, second by Christine, it was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 11:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin L. Smith
Secretary