

ATHENS TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS  
Conditional Use Hearing    6:30 PM    October 29, 2014

Chairman Cheryl Wood-Walter called the hearing to order at 6:31 PM. Supervisors also present were Ronald Reagan, George Ballenstedt and Susan Seck. Christine Vough did not attend. Solicitor John Thompson and Secretary Robin Smith were also in attendance. Cheryl turned the hearing over to John Thompson. Testimony was taken by Stenographer Caitlyn Jurek of Verbatim Recording.

John explained that the hearing was for Fine Line Homes to construct a new billboard at their premises on Route 220 in Greens Landing. They are looking to remove an old 18 ft. x 10 ft. billboard and relocate a new 12 ft. x 6 ft. billboard at the northern portion of their property. The new sign will have to be a minimum of 10 ft. off the ground, not the 6 ft. they propose, and no higher than 20 ft. On motion of Ron, second by Cheryl, it was unanimous to grant the Conditional Use, contingent upon any approvals needed from PennDOT, and that the minimum/maximum height requirements are met. John Thompson requested an extension of the 48-hour requirement to render a written decision and the applicant, Ben Craig, agreed. Ben added that PennDOT needs a letter confirming that this new sign meets the zoning requirements, and John said he will include that in the decision. The hearing adjourned at 6:48 PM.

ATHENS TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS  
Regular Monthly Meeting    7 PM    October 29, 2014

Chairman Cheryl Wood-Walter called the meeting to order at 7 PM. Supervisors also present were Susan Seck, Ronald Reagan and George Ballenstedt. Christine Vough did not attend. Solicitor John Thompson and Secretary Robin Smith were also in attendance.

Voice of the Residents:

Dan Knolles of 319 Weaver Road stated he has asked 5-6 times to have the Road Crew work the road from Joe Murphy's old farm to the top of the hill. He asked if anyone was looking at these roads. In the spring the road had great ditches and a crown. Now the water is running down the middle of the road. There are horrible potholes on Highland Drive. Aaron Brotzman complained about them and Dan said he himself filled them in twice. By spring, this road will be terrible! Once you get out of town, you forget about us out in the hills.

Aaron Brotzman of Weaver Road asked for a reply to Dan's comments from the Board. Ralph Blowers of the Public Works department was present and said they have been working these roads every day – we have a lot of roads. Aaron said he was in 10 months ago and was told we would get right on it. How long has it been right now? He said he called Christine, who oversees Public Works, and she told him “Sue Ball and Ron Reagan run roads”. Both Ron and Susan said they are not in charge of roads. Christine oversees roads. The Board told Aaron that we are short-handed out there. Aaron said if you got people off, you hire someone. Sue said we are trying to save what we have as far as keeping the road conditions from getting worse. Aaron told the Board they should be ashamed of Highland Drive.

Ralph Blowers started to speak again and Aaron told him to be quiet and just do what you're told. Dan Knolles also joined the conversation. Cheryl asked for order. Aaron said he wants a reply. Susan said she will make a call tomorrow and have someone take a look at the road. He said he wants an answer and she said she's telling him she will make a call tomorrow and have someone take a look at the road. Aaron said if you look back at the minutes, he was here 4 meetings in a row. That was 10 months ago. Not one thing has been done on this road. He said he is sick of paying taxes for nothing. Is there money to fix it? George said there is money to do it. George said we need to have the road crew go out and look at it. Aaron said he will call PennDOT if nothing is done and they'll take away the Liquid Fuels money. You can't ride that road at 15 mph. He got up to leave, and Susan thanked him for coming. She asked Aaron for his phone number to which he replied she should call 'Pete' (Dan Knolles) because he's home during the day. Dan gave his phone number and then also left the meeting.

Next was the Treasurer's report. Ruth gave everyone the list of paid and unpaid bills, and the cash balance reports. She also submitted payroll time sheets for review and approval, and gave one employee's time sheet to the Board for consideration in executive session. The Board had no questions for Ruth. The next budget workshop was set for November 10<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM. Robin will make sure she tells Christine and will also advertise the meeting.

Richard Bean reported for the Parks and Recreation Commission. They still have several grant applications outstanding, and hope to hear soon. The CFA Marcellus Legacy Fund Board meets November 20<sup>th</sup>, and they should hear by December 1<sup>st</sup> whether they got the \$250,000 grant. They are also waiting for the paperwork on the \$100,000 grant from DCNR, and cannot start work until the paperwork is done. The banner is in place for the pond project. Secrist Lumber gave them a price of

\$1800 for the lumber to build the new picnic tables. They need a drawing for the tables. Right now they have a little over \$100,000 saved for the pond project. Ruth will set up a separate account for this. They have also received a donation of stone from Dalrymple (value \$5900). They will be changing the pavilion rental fee slightly. The park will close for the season Saturday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>. Richard asked the press to remind people that the park will be closed for hunting season. If you are in the park during this time, you are required to wear blaze orange or you can be arrested.

No one was present from Athens Township Authority.

Robin had received a call from Joe Quatrini of Bradford County Conservation District concerning the Murphy Road DGRP project. We will not be able to complete the project this year, and will have to send a letter requesting an extension of the 2013 portion of the project and the 2014 portion of the project. Joe indicated that the DSA contractor may be willing to extend the contract until the spring. Robin doesn't have a performance bond yet, so that needs to be addressed as well. Robin had drafted the extension request letters and presented them to the Board. On motion of Ron, second by Susan, it was unanimous to have Cheryl sign both letters and to have Robin call Insinger Excavating to discuss an extension of the contract.

Robin had emailed the Board concerning a request for a street light at the intersection of W. Lockhart and Pennsylvania. No one had a chance to look at this, so they will try to look by our Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. The people told Robin it is hard to see where PA Avenue is in the dark, and that all the other street corners from Elmira Street to Pennsylvania Avenue have street lights.

The right hand turn signal at Lowe's was discussed. Cheryl said 99% of the people complain about the "No Turn On Red" (NTOR) designation. That was PennDOT's doing – for the pedestrian crosswalk. Super Walmart had a NTOR sign, but that was removed and was replaced with a red Yield sign that said Yield To Pedestrians In Crosswalk. We contacted PennDOT. PennDOT said that's OUR responsibility because it's a "maintenance" issue, and any change will require an engineering study in order to change what is there now. They will have to look at the whole corridor because it's a coordinated system. Cheryl thinks we need to contact Senator Yaw and Rep. Pickett, and specifically ask why the TOWNSHIP bears the cost of this study and why this is a "maintenance" issue. Ralph Blowers said he's sat at that signal sometimes where there is not a car in sight, but he can't turn

right. There's more of a chance of an accident at Walmart and Kmart than there is at the Lowe's intersection. Robin said she does not understand why a traffic study is necessary, because we are NOT changing the timing! We're just asking people to be able to drive by the rules of the road and turn right on red when there is not a person in front of their car, or a car in the southbound lane. It's just simple driving rules – not a timing change. The Board asked Robin to talk to Matt Swartz again about this issue.

On motion of Ron, second by George, it was unanimous to approve the minutes of September 24<sup>th</sup>, October 1<sup>st</sup> and October 15, 2014 as written.

The Board signed the letter to the fire company that they had asked Robin to draft.

Robin received 2 ordinances from our pension actuary that will make a change to the definition of "spouse" in both pension plans. This is necessary because the old definition has been found to be unconstitutional. On motion of Susan, second by Cheryl, it was unanimous to have John Thompson advertise both ordinances for adoption at our November 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.

On motion of Ron, second by George, it was unanimous to ratify Ed's attendance on the floodplain management webinar on October 23<sup>rd</sup> for a cost of \$40.

On motion of George, second by Ron, it was unanimous to approve EFP Rotenberg to do the IDP grant audit at \$85/hour.

On motion of Cheryl, second by Susan, it was unanimous to approve the Veteran's exemption refund for William Rausch; have Robin contact Ginger for the amount; and have Ruth send the check.

Robin told the Board that the last payroll of December would require Ruth to work Christmas Day to do it on Thursday. Discussion was held. On motion of Ron, second by Cheryl, it was unanimous to have all employees get their time cards to Ruth on December 23<sup>rd</sup> and to have the checks to the employees on December 24<sup>th</sup>. Any discrepancy in actual time worked will be adjusted in the following pay period.

The Board set the date of December 24<sup>th</sup> for the Christmas luncheon at noon.

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

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On motion of Ron, second by George, it was unanimous to approve the payment of the monthly bills as presented, including the membership renewal for Manufacturer & Business Association. A complete list of revenues and expenditures is on file in the office of the Treasurer.

Correspondence/Information was as listed in the meeting agenda.

Robin presented a brochure for a PSATS class called "A New Look at Reviewing Subdivision and Development Plans". There is one session in Scranton on November 17<sup>th</sup> and one in Williamsport on November 18<sup>th</sup>. On motion of Ron, second by Cheryl, it was unanimous to send anyone from Planning Commission, Eddie, or anyone on our Board to go to this class if they wish to.

George presented 3 letters of commendation received by 4 of our police officers. The first letter was from Chief Reynolds commending Officers Shaw and Fedorchak on an assist to Sayre. The second was from Chief Hurley commending Officer VanFleet for becoming the new Taser Instructor and Certification Officer for the department. The third was from Chief Hurley commending Officer Thomas for becoming the new Pistol and Shotgun Range Coordinator and Certification Officer for our department.

Robin had received another request for a donation to the Bradford County Veteran's Memorial Park in Towanda. No action was taken at this time.

Chairman Wood-Walter took the Board into executive session at 8 PM for pending litigation and personnel issues. The Secretary was excused at this time and the remaining minutes were taken by George Ballenstedt. The regular meeting reconvened at 9:23 PM.

On motion of Ron, second by Susan, it was unanimous to have Cheryl re-sign the Walmart Storm Water Management Plan because the original can't be located.

On motion of George, second by Susan, it was unanimous to have John locate an appraiser for the Board of Viewers for the Rosh condemnation for Road C.

On motion of Cheryl, second by Ron, it was unanimous to allow the Athens Township Employees to take a vacation day for December 26<sup>th</sup>, and to close the office if the entire office staff takes vacation.

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There being no further business, on motion of Ron, second by George, it was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 9:28 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin L. Smith  
Secretary