

ATHENS TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS

November 19, 2014 7 PM

Chairman Cheryl Wood-Walter called the meeting to order at 7 PM. Supervisors also present were Susan Seck, George Ballenstedt, Ronald Reagan and Christine Vough. Solicitor John Thompson and Secretary Robin Smith were also in attendance. Treasurer Ruth Casterline was representing the township at the Earned Income Tax Committee meeting in Towanda as our voting delegate tonight.

Voice of the Residents:

Ralph Blowers of Front Street was present to request a "Right Turn Only" sign for the southern exit from the new Smokin' Joe's store at the W. Lockhart Street intersection. That would be a PennDOT issue, but it would also be unenforceable because it is on private property. Ralph said there is a similar problem at the north exit onto Elmira Street from Subway. He feels they should be required to come onto Herrick Avenue and go to the stop sign. That is also a PennDOT issue. Ralph asked how much of an increase we received in our liquid fuels funds this year. Robin got the folder and told him last year we received \$242,038 in 2014 and will receive \$258,057 in 2015. He said that was less of an increase than they were told they would get at a class they attended.

Richard Bean reported for the Parks and Recreation Commission. They still have grant applications outstanding. They were turned down for the Marcellus Legacy grant. As soon as the paperwork for the DCNR grant arrives, they will be able to start the project, unless the ground is too frozen. They intend to mark out the area for erosion control and the boundaries for site clearing. Erosion control will be installed and clearing will be done by volunteers and Barry, plus one temporary hire. Bids will be let for Phase I. They will ask the fire company to put the star up at Round Top after deer season. The park will close on November 22nd.

Dr. Musto reported for Athens Township Authority. He said there will be no increase in next year's sewer rate. They will be doing a study of the Greens Landing area with the Act 13 funds they received from the Board. The current construction project is on-time. The force main and the connection from #6 to #1 should be complete by the end of December. The new pump station arrives at the end of December and will be completed in May or June. The moratorium has been lifted. He said they have a problem with the township paving over their manholes when we pave, and asked that we notify them when we will be paving. Ray said he called and asked them to come and cover the manholes and was told that is our responsibility. Dr. Musto asked that we please give them a list of roads we will be doing each year and they will take care of that, and provide a riser if necessary.

Ray asked when they will be taking care of the pipe sticking up at the end of Winslow Street, because our trucks can't turn around with that in the way. Dr. Musto said that will be gone at the end of December when they have finished their underground bores. Ray asked about the damages to Meadowlark Drive by the ATA contractor. He said they've removed about 6 feet of pavement on one side of the road and have also broken up the other side of the road with their equipment. Dr. Musto said to tell Vacri (their contractor).

Ron presented the TL Cannon Management Corp – Applebee's Restaurant final plan for review and approval. Planning Commission recommends approval upon resolution of the deficiencies. They have taken care of everything except the landscaping. They intended to have that done by tonight, but the truck was stuck in Buffalo in the storm that now totals 50" of snow and climbing. They will be done as soon as they get them here. Steve Bell will also be in to sign the plans. Bradford County Conservation District also needs the Notice of Termination executed. On motion of Ron, second by George, it was unanimous to grant final plan approval to this land development. Robin will call Marshall Hardy when the plans are certified and he will get them recorded.

Robin had drafted a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for our DSA contract extension. John had reviewed it and said it was okay. On motion of George, second by Susan, it was unanimous to execute the MOU with Insinger Excavating to extend the DSA contract through June 30, 2015.

Discussion was held on the withdrawal of the McKinney Hill Dirt and Gravel Road (DGRP) project for next year. We still have the 2013 and the 2014 DGRPs to finish next year – as well as our own road work. Ray Brobst thinks it's a good idea to withdraw the application. On motion of Cheryl, second by Ron, it was unanimous to withdraw this application for 2015.

Robin heard back from PennDOT on the Lowe's signal. We are on the same page now. Matt sent a traffic study that needs to be completed in order for a decision to be made on the removal of the "No Turn On Red" sign. It's 2 pages long and can be completed by the police chief. Robin gave this to Larry to complete.

Robin presented the 3 bridge reports received from Larson Design Group (Miller Road, Moore Road and Round Top Road). One needed a sign replaced immediately. Ray said there is scour under the Moore Road bridge, but they have up to 2 years to complete that.

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On motion of Ron, second by Susan, it was unanimous to rebid the 1988 Mack truck for our December meeting.

Robin reported that the mining permit has been received and is renewed for the next 5 years.

Ray Brobst has returned to work as of November 17, 2014 with no restrictions, and Randy will be returning on November 26, 2014 with no restrictions.

Ray asked if the road crew still has to maintain the fire hall parking lot (snow removal) and they do. He also asked if they need to maintain "Road C" (now King Road), and they are to maintain everything west of Lamoka Road to Wilawana Road.

Ray also requested permission to spend approximately \$2100 for a good used spreader and a fork attachment to load pipes from Bradco Supply. On motion of George, second by Susan, it was unanimous to approve these expenditures.

Ray asked if he is still entitled to his vacation and his clothing allowance. The Board says yes, and Susan will call Ruth in the morning.

Ray said they need to do repairs to the mower, road broom and crusher. Discussion was held. Cheryl said these are routine repairs, but advised Ray to get estimates for review.

On motion of George, second by Ron, it passed to approve the minutes of October 29, 2014 as written. Christine abstained as she was not in attendance.

On motion of Cheryl, second by Ron, it passed to approve the minutes of November 10, 2014 as written. George abstained as he was at a class and unable to attend.

On motion of Christine, second by Cheryl, it passed to approve the minutes of November 17, 2014 with the following corrections: Meeting began at 4:20, not 4:10 PM; executive session began at 4:21, not 4:11 PM; George arrived at 4 but left at 5 PM for a prior commitment; Ron Reagan was working. Ron abstained from the vote because he was unable to attend.

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John Thompson had drafted a 'no tobacco use' policy for the township employees, grounds and vehicles at the request of the Board. This was reviewed and John was given several changes to make to the document. He will have this corrected for adoption at our December 17th meeting.

On motion of Cheryl, second by Susan, it was unanimous to adopt ORDINANCES 2014-03 and 2014-04, amending the definition of "spouse" in both pension plans to make our plan ordinances compliant.

On motion of Ron, second by Cheryl, it was unanimous to have John Thompson advertise ORDINANCE 2014-05 (to continue with PSATS UC Trust Group) for adoption at our December 17th meeting.

Last month we received notification that Harleysville Insurance had been taken over by Nationwide. Gannon Associates is our agent for this. They have provided a new policy with Nationwide that has the same coverage at the same price. On motion of Ron, second by Christine, it was unanimous to approve, sign and execute the paperwork to continue with Nationwide for this insurance.

On motion of Ron, second by George, it was unanimous to approve Ed's membership renewal with ASFPM.

On motion of Susan, second by Christine, it was unanimous to have Robin advertise the proposed 2015 budget for adoption at our December 17, 2014 meeting. There is no tax increase.

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

On motion of Cheryl, second by Christine, it was unanimous to approve the payment of the monthly bills as presented. A complete listing of revenues and expenditures is on file in the office of the Treasurer.

Robin was directed to notify the media that the recycling center will be closed on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and on New Year's Day. She was also to let them know that our offices will be closed the day after Christmas.

Correspondence/Information was as listed in the meeting agenda.

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Christine had a question on the December calendar. She asked for clarification on the 22nd where it says Robin has to testify in Wysox. Robin said this was for a Worker's Comp claim. She also asked about the fact that the calendar says the office "may" be closed the day after Christmas. Robin explained that the Board had agreed that if we all took a vacation day, we could all be off that day, even if it meant the office would be closed. Christine said she never would have voted for that if she was here. Cheryl said they will be using a vacation day – their own personal time. Cheryl asked Robin if she was going to forward the calls to her house for that day and Christine said she wasn't going to pay Robin overtime for that, and it was left at that. Christine also said she was okay with us closing the office the day after Christmas now that she knows we will be using our own personal time for that.

Chairman Wood-Walter took the Board into executive session at 8:21 PM for personnel. The secretary was excused at this time and the remaining minutes were taken by Ronald Reagan. The regular meeting reconvened at 9:27 PM.

On motion of Cheryl, second by Ron, it was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 9:28 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin L. Smith
Secretary