

ATHENS TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS

December 17, 2014 7 PM

Chairman Cheryl Wood-Walter called the meeting to order at 7 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.

Chairman Wood-Walter called for the opening of the bids for the 1988 Mack truck – as is. We received two bids, which were as follows:

Mike Veneziano	\$501.00
JDK Management Co.	\$501.10

On motion of Ron, second by Cheryl, it was unanimous to award the bid to JDK Management Co.

Voice of the Residents:

Aaron Brotzman, 322 Weaver Road, asked the Board who the supervisor was in charge of the road crew. Christine said she was. Aaron asked how long it takes to plow the township, and Ralph Blowers said about 4 hours, but it depends on conditions. Aaron asked when they start plowing and Ralph said usually at the beginning of the storm. Aaron said he called here and talked to Ray on the day before Thanksgiving and Ray told him they would plow when the storm was over. He said people have to get home. Some people work nights. Christine said we will take his concerns....when Ralph interrupted and said they had been out and pretreated all the roads. Aaron asked who makes the decision when they go out? Cheryl said sometimes the police will call them out if conditions are getting bad. Aaron asked who can he call?? Christine said you call me at 6:14 AM, why would this be any different. She doesn't feel anyone is neglected. Aaron said he thinks they should start earlier. He asked who else he can call. The township needs to show due diligence. When trucks were stuck on Sunnyfield Drive, they never got to his road. Cheryl said the higher the snow, the higher the drifts. Aaron asked why they don't use snow fence. You have the right to go on property to put up snow fence. He said he had been in to complain about the conditions of the roads. They fixed Highland Drive – thank you. He said Ralph asked him at the last meeting if he thought his road was the only one that was bad. Aaron said we should contract out that work. He said he talked to Christine a year ago about a brush pile that was left on his property. Randy said Aaron asked for that brush pile for rabbits. Cheryl said we'll remove the brush pile. Aaron asked if the township has a permit for the "dump" across from Bobcat Road. Cheryl said it's not a "dump". Aaron said it has garbage in it and Christine said it doesn't. Aaron said he wants the dumping stopped. Randy said he plans to keep pushing that down over so they will

eventually have a place to store material when they do road work. Aaron said our road equipment is pretty antiquated. The Board advised him that we have replaced trucks and have more equipment coming. Aaron said we should be able to fix the roads then. He said Round Top Road has been horrendous for 2 years. Cheryl said we do road inspection in the spring and will prioritize the repairs and possibly outsource some of the work. He finished by saying the snowplow slid and put a lot of dirt in his yard, so he would like the road crew to come and smooth it out with their rake. Ron asked if we're going to start doing this for everyone now. He said some people on Pine Tree Road had similar issues a couple years ago and they took care of it themselves. We are not going to do this for everyone. Ron said if we're doing your work, we're not doing our road work.

Ralph said he read in the paper that our estimated Impact Fee money for 2015 was \$250,000 and he asked if that was included in the budget. Robin said we can't include that in the budget because it's not definite that we'll get that.

Susie Kasson of Blue Spruce Trailer Court was present concerning a man living in a camper with no running water. She said the place looks like a dump. Eddie Reid said the UCC doesn't cover recreational vehicles. Our ordinance requires permits to be renewed every 6 months. She said she has talked to the park manager, Kevin Hoose, and he does nothing. Robin asked if this would be a park issue, and Susie showed John Thompson the park rules. John said this would be something that needs to be enforced by the park. Susie said he's been written up 3 times and Shaw doesn't want to hear it any more. Mr. Bender is the park owner and he lives in Mifflinberg. John took a copy of the rules and said he will see if there is something we can do. Susie said they used to have a lot of gas company guys in there with campers. She said they were the cleanest, nicest people.

Treasurer Ruth Casterline was present and had provided the Board with the monthly financials. There were no questions for Ruth.

Richard Bean was not present as the Park Commission does not meet in December.

No one was present to report for Athens Township Authority (ATA). On motion of Christine, second by George, it was unanimous to reappoint Dr. Musto to ATA for a term to expire 12-31-19, and to reappoint Terry Depew to the Valley Joint Sewer Authority for a term to expire 12-31-19.

On motion of Ron, second by Cheryl, it was unanimous to approve the minutes of November 19, 2014 as written.

John presented the revised tobacco use policy to the Board for review. Cheryl advised those in attendance that we had John draft a policy to make the building, grounds and vehicles tobacco-free for employees and visitors. Randy Harford asked if they were telling him he can't smoke in the backhoe, and this policy would not allow smoking in any township vehicles. Randy got up and left. Ralph said you should be more concerned about the welding gas out there – that's more dangerous than smoking. The exhaust fans don't ventilate well. George said you shouldn't be smoking in and around gas and other flammable things. Ron said it bothers the office when the doors are opened and the smells come in. Discussion was held. Ron made the motion to adopt the policy, and Christine seconded it. Susan and George would like to discuss this further. Susan added that this policy was brought about by not reprimanding someone. Cheryl said it's a good idea, but maybe we should work it out with the employees first. We need to talk to the employees. Ron said what happens when they drop a cigarette on the floor when they're plowing – or the cups tip over in the cars. Christine said if we don't have a policy, we have nothing to enforce. Christine said she has seen cigarette butts on the floor in the garage, and even over by the welding stuff. Cheryl asked if the policy can be adopted and then amended if we want to change it, and John said yes. Susan, George and Cheryl all vote no to adopt the policy. The policy is not adopted.

Ralph told the Board that the sewer authority had paved Meadowlark Drive, but it's a horrible job and they need to fix it before the township accepts that job. They also left Winslow Street in awful condition at the end.

On motion of Ron, second by Susan, it was unanimous to adopt ORDINANCE 2014-05 to continue with the PSATS Unemployment Compensation Trust.

On motion of George, second by Christine, it was unanimous to reappoint Cheryl to both pension boards for terms to expire 1-1-18. Cheryl abstained from the vote.

On motion of Christine, second by George, it was unanimous to adopt RESOLUTION 2014-13 appropriating \$93,100 to the fire company for 2015.

On motion of Christine, second by Cheryl, it was unanimous to adopt RESOLUTION 2014-14 setting 11 mills as the 2015 millage rate.

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On motion of Christine, second by George, it passed to adopt RESOLUTION 2014-15, adopting the budget for 2015. Ron voted no, because the contracts have not been settled yet and there are other employees who have not been settled with either.

On motion of Cheryl, second by Christine, it was unanimous to appoint George Ballenstedt as the second alternate voting delegate to the Tax Collection Committee (TCC). On motion of Ron, second by Cheryl, it was unanimous to adopt RESOLUTION 2014-16 appointing Ruth, Robin and George as representatives to the TCC committee.

On motion of Ron, second by Cheryl, it was unanimous to appoint EFP Rotenberg, LLP to do our audits of the 2014 funds.

On motion of Ron, second by Cheryl, it was unanimous to release the funds to the library.

On motion of Cheryl, second by George, it was unanimous to leave our meeting dates as the last Wednesday of every month for 2015 at 7 PM, exceptions being November 18<sup>th</sup> and December 16<sup>th</sup>.

On motion of Cheryl, second by Christine, it was unanimous to set the 2015 mileage rate at \$.575, which is the IRS rate for 2015.

PSATS Convention materials will be reviewed for the Organization Meeting and we will decide who will be going, if anyone.

On motion of George, second by Cheryl, it was unanimous to accept the Fire and Building Permits reports as presented. There were no Roads or Police Reports.

On motion of Cheryl, second by Ron, it was unanimous to approve the payment of the monthly bills, including the bridge inspection invoice and the PSATS invoice. 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.

Ron advised the Board that we will need to appoint a new "sign" person in the Public Works Department since Don Burgess left. He also said we need a road

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sign(s) at the intersection of Highland Drive and Weaver Road. It's not clear which road is which, and that could be a real problem in an emergency.

Christine asked if we were still planning on replacing the picnic table out front. Ron said we did that several months ago.

Chairman Wood-Walter took the Board into executive session for personnel at 8:30 PM. The Secretary was excused at this time and the remaining minutes were taken by Ronald Reagan. The regular meeting reconvened at 10:32 PM.

John Thompson will review the draft contract from the fire company that includes proposed changes they would like to see incorporated. The Board will review this at their January 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.

On motion of Susan, second by Cheryl, it was unanimous to have Ruth cut a check for Larry Hurley in the amount of \$300 for his 30 years of service and a check to Jim Shaw in the amount of \$250 for his 25 years of service; and to have Robin do a certificate with a frame for each of them.

John Thompson will review/research our firearms policy.

The Board will review the Public Works Safety Manual and will address changes and clarification at the January meeting.

On motion of Cheryl, second by Susan, it passed to adopt the Police Contract and the Public Works Contract for the next 3 years. Ron Reagan voted no.

On motion of George, second by Susan, it was unanimous to approve a 3% raise for the following employees: Ed Reid, Robin Smith, Ruth Casterline, Elaine Daddona, Larry Hurley, John Fives and Barry Brosnan.

There being no further business, on motion of Ron, second by George, it was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 10:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin L. Smith  
Secretary