

ATHENS TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS
December 28, 2016 7 PM

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

Voice of the Residents: None

No one was present from the Athens Township Volunteer Fire Company.

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

A check was received from Austin's for the Wildwood Road study, but it included two invoices for work done by Skip Schneider for Austin that was contracted privately. Ruth needs direction as to what should be done with this check. Robin said we shouldn't be running a private transaction through our township books. Discussion was held. On motion of Ron, second by Cheryl, it was unanimous to have John Thompson contact Mike Austin and/or his attorney and have them split our escrow out and pay their private invoices themselves, and we will hold the check 'in hand' until we receive the new escrow check.

Ruth is requesting to be able to carry over 4.75 days of vacation to 2017. Robin explained that with all the trouble with Paychex and trying to implement the direct deposit with them and with Citizens and Northern, she was unable to take these days because of having to catch up on her normal work she had to put aside. On motion of Cheryl, second by Ron, it was unanimous to allow Ruth to carry over 4.75 days of vacation from 2016 to 2017.

Richard Bean was present for the Parks Commission. Richard gave an update on Phase II of the Round Top Park Expansion project. They estimate they will finish by January 7th. We also received \$121,000 for Phase III from DCNR. They will do a pavilion in memory of Jack Walter, a composting restroom and a trail with a couple small bridges over the wetlands. Skip Schneider is no longer with CEI Engineering. Robin said they are allowing him to take his clients with him. John Thompson will send notice to CEI that we will not be working with them anymore and will also get an agreement together to continue with Skip. Ron asked about the loan and John said that should be approved any day.

Cheryl stepped out of the meeting at this time.

On motion of Ron, second by Christine, it was unanimous to have Kuharchik retrofit the Athens Bridge lights with LED lights.

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On motion of Christine, second by Susan, it was unanimous to give First Energy permission to cut trees just outside their power line right-of-way in Round Top that could affect their lines.

On motion of Ron, second by Christine, it was unanimous to donate \$500 to the Police Benevolent Association for their "Sirens for Santa" toy drive for needy families.

On motion of Ron, second by Christine, it was unanimous to approve the Bradford County Humane Society contract for 2017 in the amount of \$1,312.75.

Cheryl returned to the meeting at this time.

On motion of Ron, second by Cheryl, it was unanimous to send a donation of \$50 to the Orange Hill Cemetery, c/o Mr. Alan Bradley, Ridge Road, Athens, PA 18810, and to send flowers for Marge Walter's funeral.

Cheryl stepped out of the meeting again.

On motion of Christine, second by Ron, it was unanimous to reappoint Terry Depew and Arlene Lantz to Athens Township Authority for terms to expire December 31, 2021.

On motion of Ron, second by Christine, it was unanimous to reappoint Mike Chilson to the Non Uniform Pension Board for a term to expire January 1, 2020.

On motion of Ron, second by Christine, it was unanimous to reappoint Terry Depew to both the Non-Uniform and the Police Pension boards for terms to expire January 1, 2020.

On motion of Ron, second by Christine, it was unanimous to approve attendance at the PSATS conference in April, 2017 for Ed, Ruth, Robin and any board/commission member who wants to attend.

Susan said they are working on the McKinney Hill project and will be removing some trees for that. The snow fence has also been installed for the year.

Cheryl returned to the meeting at this time.

On motion of Christine, second by Cheryl, it passed to approve the minutes of November 30, 2016 as written. Ron abstained as he was absent from the meeting.

There were no police reports or road reports. On motion of Christine, second by Ron, it was unanimous to accept the monthly fire report and building permit report, and the building permit year-end summary report.

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Correspondence/Information was as listed in the meeting agenda.

Cheryl announced that recycling would be open regular hours Thursday, December 29th and Saturday, December 31st, but would be closed Sunday.

Robin advised the Board that we have a leak in the ladies room ceiling that needs attention. She was unsure who to call as we had the garage roof replaced a few years ago and wasn't sure if she should call that contractor or someone else to assess the problem. She was directed to ask Gary Webster to come in and assess the problem.

Chairman Wood-Walter took the Board into executive session at 7:30 PM for personnel and pending litigation. Robin left at 8 PM. The regular meeting reconvened at 8:29 PM. The remaining minutes were taken by Ron Reagan.

On motion of Ron, second by Christine, it was unanimous to have Attorney Thompson send a letter to Attorney Foster opposing the real estate assessment appeal on Bradford County Hospitality (Comfort Inn).

There being no further business, on motion of Ron, second by Cheryl, it was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin L. Smith
Athens Township Secretary