

ATHENS TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS
January 25, 2017 7 PM

Chairman Cheryl Wood-Walter called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM. Supervisors also present were Susan Seck, George Ballenstedt, Christine Vough and Ronald Reagan. Solicitor John Thompson, Treasurer Ruth Casterline and Secretary Robin Smith were also in attendance. Cheryl led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Voice of the Residents: None

Cheryl had a letter regarding a parking issue on Tannery Road. The letter stated the road is not delineated from the business parking lot next to it, and people are parking in the actual road. Susan said the letter is not signed, and the residents can still get out on the road. No action was taken.

Cheryl kept the assigned Board committees the same as they were in 2016:

Cheryl:	Finance, Insurance, Right-To-Know
Ron:	Office, Buildings/Grounds, Planning, Zoning
Christine:	Sewer, Insurance, Safety
Susan:	Roads, Parks, Junkyards
George:	Fire, Police, Recycling

Cheryl also told the press that they did a good job of covering our lighting issue on the Athens Bridge. PennDOT picked up on it and said we can't change to LED lighting without having it engineered. We contacted Representative Tina Pickett and Senator Gene Yaw concerning this to make them aware of the situation and to enlist their help. We will be replacing the bulbs with the same type of bulb and will not be upgrading to LED at this time.

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

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

On motion of Ron, second by Susan, it was unanimous to have Ruth attend the Government Finance Officers Association of Pennsylvania State Conference in State College on April 23 – 26 instead of the PSATS conference (which is held at the same time).

Richard Bean reported for the Parks Commission. Insinger is done for the winter. The pavilion, boardwalk, docks, playground area and benches are complete and the parking lot is ready for tar and chip. Insinger will be back in the spring to plant grass and dress up/roll the trails. Richard agreed with the work stoppage for the winter. So far his 'fine' is up to \$9,600. He asked Skip to calculate the percentage completed so he can be paid. Richard also wants a completion deadline in the spring with a penalty phase if he goes over.

They will be installing the electric in the spring. Playground equipment is ready to go up and they need volunteers to help put it together. They hope to finish Phase III and have the whole project completed by September 1st. Phase III will be another pavilion in memory of Jack Walter, a composting toilet and a trail with one or two bridges over the wetlands. We have not heard from Mustang Carriers concerning the \$3,000 for the damage to the Tozer's Landing sign. It is in the court system. The star was taken down by the fire company – Richard and Barry delivered it to the barn. Richard talked to the American Lung Association regarding the smoke-free signs. They want a copy of the resolution. Robin has forwarded it to them. Round Top Park is closed, but will be open for cross-country skiing when there is enough snow. The park truck is in for body work. The loan has not been approved yet by DCED – we're waiting on them. John Thompson said the hold-up was because of Authority loans that had not been closed out correctly.

On motion of Ron, second by Cheryl, it was unanimous to have Ed and Robin attend the Emergency Management webinar on February 1st at a cost of \$40.

On motion of Christine, second by George, it was unanimous to have Ed attend his annual Floodplain Management Course February 13 – 16 in Wilkes-Barre, and to pay reasonable expenses for his hotel and meals.

On motion of Ron, second by Cheryl, it was unanimous to issue a Proclamation declaring the Month of April, 2017 as "Pennsylvania 811 Safe Digging Month".

On motion of Ron, second by George, it was unanimous to allow webinar participation without board approval for webinars \$50 and under. The Board would like to be made aware when we sign up for webinars, and would like a short summary of the webinar upon completion.

Susan presented a spec for the purchase of a used dump truck. Discussion was held. Changes made to the spec were to have bidders bid a price with trade-in and a price without trade-in, and to add a maximum mileage amount of 130,000 miles. On motion of Susan, second by George, it was unanimous to bid for a truck with bid opening at our February 22nd meeting.

Ron asked if we need to be bidding for summer materials. Susan said she is getting a list together for our February meeting. Robin said our fuel bid runs out in February so we need to make sure that gets bid for opening at our February meeting. Robin said we need to have our salt amounts in by March 15th for next season if we want to participate in the COSTARS contract.

Ralph Blowers said he would like to have us do corrections to the intersection at Pitney Street and North Keystone Avenue, because the stop bar needs to be moved back about 20 feet to allow for trucks to make the turn. He was told these are PennDOT roads and are in South Waverly, not the township.

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Robin presented a correction to the December 28, 2016 minutes. Page Two, Paragraph 5 needs to be changed to add the words “in memory of former supervisor, Daryl Parks” after the donation of \$50 to the Orange Hill Cemetery. On motion of Ron, second by Cheryl, it was unanimous to approve the minutes of December 28th with the correction, and the minutes of January 3, 2017 as written. George abstained from the December 28th minutes as he was absent from that meeting.

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

Correspondence/Information was as listed in the meeting agenda.

Cheryl told everyone that dog licenses would be available at the township building on February 15th from 9 AM to 2 PM.

Ron Reagan thanked everyone for their thoughts and prayers for the loss of his mother.

Chairman Wood-Walter took the Board into executive session at 7:55 PM for personnel issues. Robin left at 8:50. The regular meeting reconvened at 10:40 PM and the remaining minutes were taken by Cheryl Wood-Walter.

Ray Brobst will be retiring on February 9, 2017 after 38 years of service. On motion of George, second by Susan, it was unanimous to get a \$300 gift card for Ray to be paid for from General Fund.

On motion of Cheryl, second by Ron, it was unanimous to pay Ray for his unused vacation, sick, personal and floating holiday days after February 9, 2017 in the amount of \$12,120 (before taxes), with the funds coming from the retirement account.

On motion of Cheryl, second by Christine, it was unanimous to run an ad for a Heavy Equipment Operator.

On motion of Ron, second by Cheryl, it was unanimous to amend the “Athens Township Non-Uniformed Employees Pension Plan, Originally Effective July 1, 1987, As Amended and Restated Effective January 1, 2008” as adopted by ORDINANCE 2008-09, as follows: Page 8, Article II – Participation, Section 2.2(a)(2)bullet point 3 to be changed to read: Part-time non-uniformed employees where part-time is defined as working less than 1664 hours per year; retroactive to March 9, 2015. The motion passed with Susan abstaining.

On motion of Christine, second by Susan, it passed to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Police Department bargaining unit to use January 1st of the calendar year

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as the date to allocate (be given) annual vacation days. The anniversary date shall be used for additional days earned for years of service. Ron Reagan voted no.

On motion of Christine, second by Susan, it passed to direct the Treasurer to use January 1st as the date for annual vacation allotment beginning January 1, 2017 for the police department. Anniversary date is to be used for the additional days earned for continuous service, only; the following officers have already received annual leave credit in January of 2017 – Keith Stackhouse and Daniel Thomas, so therefore do not need their annual leave adjusted. Ron Reagan voted no.

There being no further business, on motion of George, second by Christine, it was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 10:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin L. Smith
Township Secretary