

ATHENS TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS  
February 22, 2023 5 PM Regular Meeting

Chairwoman Tressa Heffron called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM. Supervisors also present were Christine Vough, Bonnie Petruschak and Alan Burgess. Solicitor John Thompson, Secretary Michelle Rude, Ruth Casterline, and Chuck Wright were also in attendance. Supervisor Kirstie Lake joined via phone call during executive session and stayed for the remainder of the meeting. Tressa called for the opening of the bids. Solicitor Thompson read as follows:

<u>Bidder</u>	<u>DSA</u>	<u>3" Minus</u>	<u>R-4</u>	<u>R-5</u>	<u>R-8 Stack.</u>	<u>AASHTO</u>
<b>Lopke</b>						
Township	N/A	N/A	\$22	\$30	\$55	\$25.75
Job-site	N/A	N/A	\$38	\$46	\$74	\$36.75
<b>Marcus Cole Const., Inc.</b>						
Township	\$6.99	\$6.49	\$14	\$15	N/A	N/A
Job-site	\$14.99	\$14.49	\$22	\$23	\$29.50	\$22.24
<b>Dalrymple Gravel &amp; Const.</b>						
Township	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Job-site	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$32.50

On motion of Tressa, second by Alan, it was unanimous to table the acceptance of the bids until we have a better understanding of what is needed and where it will come from in the budget.

<u>Bidder</u>	<u>11,000 gal 87 Octane</u>	<u>14,000 gal LSD Diesel</u>
<b>WOC Energy</b>	\$2.84 delivered	\$3.44 delivered
<b>Mirabito</b>	\$2.8957 delivered	\$3.6195 delivered

On motion of Alan, second by Bonnie, it was unanimous to table the acceptance of the bids until the rate above rack for WOC's bid can be verified.

**Voice of the Residents:** Joseph Burns of 1472 Weaver Road addressed the board regarding the conditions of Sutliff Hill and Weaver Road. He stated that when he moved here 20 years ago he would maybe see 3 cars a day on those roads and now it is anywhere from 20 to 30. The traffic is impacting the quality of the road. He also addressed the quality of Round Top Road and the impact it has on the park. He stated that the structure underneath needs attention and the temporary fixes or "Band-Aid's" we keep using are not holding up. He wanted to know what the residents could do to get this fixed.

He suggested raising taxes. Tressa stated that the board is planning on raising taxes but that they wanted to make the residents aware ahead of time so they had time to prepare which is why they didn't do it this year. Tressa asked Chuck Wright to address his plans for Mr. Burn's concerns. Chuck explained what his upcoming road plans were and how the township would be addressing some of the issues. Mr. Burns asked if the township planned to oil and chip the roads as he is concerned with dust control. Chuck stated that he is reviewing materials to see what would work best to keep the dust down. Mr. Burns then addressed safety concerns with Round Top Road and how having to dodge potholes (particularly young drivers) can cause accidents. The board thanked him for his concerns and told him they are working on a plan to increase safety and road quality.

Matt Moore of 206 Blackbear Lane asked the board how the township prioritizes projects and how funds are allocated for repairs. Tressa stated that this year is different than past years as we have a new public works director who is developing a road rating system and a 5-year plan to address concerns. He asked if there was a contingency for emergencies in the event of a flood or disaster. Tressa stated that, in the past, we have received funding from various areas to help with disasters, however the paperwork required for that is tedious and it can take a while for the funding to come through. He suggested that the township put money into a project to see it through completion to avoid patching and putting "Band-Aid's" on bigger issues. He asked what the credentials are for the road crew and how many guys we have in the department. Chuck stated that there are 3 guys with CDL's and one new hire that is currently working towards his CDL.

Charles Lawton of 82 Erin Road stated that he spoke with Susan last year and she told him that her plan was to tar and chip all of the dirt roads in the township. Alan stated that this was the first the board had heard of that and they had no plans to do that.

Michelle Rude presented the parks report as there was no one present from the Parks Commission. The holiday star has been taken down for the season. The ATVFC Chief has suggested that, due to the road conditions, they may want to consider having someone else put it up/down next year. The weight of the truck is too much for the road as it is. They are looking into the park gate being left unlocked. The new parks logo was approved and new brochures should be printed soon. The annual parks inspection will be held on Sat, March 25<sup>th</sup> and Barry will be back to work in the beginning of April, pending the results of the inspection. The park will open on May 13<sup>th</sup> this year and Bryan will be opening and closing the gate as he did last year. They plan to have a concrete pad and stone dust handicap accessible walkway installed by the new overlook and pavilion #9 prior to the park opening. They are also hoping to remove several trees in the pond area prior to opening as well. They are actively looking for grant money to fund the Tozer's Landing development and plan on contacting a grant writer for help. They did review the 3-development plans from Larson Design group and will be in communications with them concerning their revised ideas.

Chuck Wright presented his road report to the board. They welcomed Jaydon Gardner to the crew and he plans to test for his CDL by October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. He met with the crew to identify the proper storage

areas for materials in the yard. He gave an update on the Moore Rd. Turnaround and the Moore Rd. bridge structure. They are looking into several options. He submitted a draft Roadway Improvement Plan to the board and requested that a workshop be scheduled to review it. They are currently renting a backhoe and may need to try a different model to accommodate the crew's needs while they wait to see if the insurance company will total the township's backhoe. On Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup> the crew did ditch work and roadway repairs on Potter Rd. and repaired McKinney Hill Rd. where a spot was caused by a spring issue. They have patched a deep pothole on Meadowlark and will address other issues on this road as the cold weather subsides. Round Top Rd., near Wolcott Hollow, also had a pothole repaired on Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Bowman, Gameland, and Chamberlain roads are being monitored and they will grade several muddy areas when the weather breaks in the spring. Cold patch was placed in potholes on Gateway Industrial Park Rd, Owasco Rd., Erin Rd., and Round Top Rd. on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of February. They are working with PEMA/FEMA to close out the 2018/2019 repairs as well as reimbursement for past repairs. The 2009 Tahoe #9 had an antifreeze line break and was repaired. The spreader chain on dump truck #8 was replaced, the hydraulic pump for the spreader on dump truck #4 was replaced and all 4 dump trucks/snow plows are operational. The new Mack truck chassis has been built. It will go to SEI next week to have the hydraulics, snow plow blade, and box installed. The old wing plow we sent down will not fit so that will not be added. The Thomas Ave. Bridge project was bid out and accepted at \$7,662,150. The estimated township portion will be \$446,418.25 and the work should start early 2024.

John Palmer, Sue Williams, and Marty Barco addressed the board representing Carantouan Greenway. They would like the township's support in pursuing the ability to maintain the land and preserve the water ways, including a stream that runs from their greenway through Wildwood to the river. They would like to name the stream and would need the board to sign a resolution in support of that in order to file an application to do so. Sue explained to the board the importance of naming the stream. As of now, they like the name Wildwood Creek. The purpose of their attending the meeting is to make the board aware and gain their support. Once they have a more concrete plan in place, they will return with resolutions and request the board sign them to aid in their efforts.

On motion of Alan, second by Tressa, motion passed to add the acceptance of Cliff Cheek's letter of resignation from Planning Commission to the agenda.

On motion of Alan, second by Tressa, motion passed to accept Cliff Cheek's letter of resignation from Planning Commission.

On motion of Tressa, second by Alan, motion passed to add accepting Stacy Sickler's resignation from the Library Board, reappointing Bruce Carpenter as the 2023 representative to the Library Board, and appointing Lori Pruyne as a new Library Board representative to the agenda.

On motion of Tressa, second by Alan, motion passed to make the following changes to the following boards (Bonnie abstained):

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Planning Commission:       vacant -       Matt Cooper  
  vacant -       Robert Petruschak  
  alternate -     Jack Barrett

Parks Commission:         vacant -       Buck Place

Zoning Hearing Board:      vacant -       Robin Smith  
\*\*\*Move Matt Wayman from alternate to a vacant position

Athens Township Authority: vacant -       Michael Freeland

Library Board:             vacant -       Lori Pruyne  
\*\*\* Accept Stacey Sickler's resignation  
\*\*\* Reappoint Dr. Bruce Carpenter as Library board representative

On motion of Alan, second by Tressa, motion passed to pay M&K Truck Sales \$153,905.16 using both state Liquid Fuels and ARP funds for a 2024 Mack Truck chassis.

On motion of Tressa, second by Alan, motion passed to schedule a workshop to discuss the roadway improvement plan for March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 5 pm.

On motion of Alan, second by Bonnie, motion passed to pay the monthly bills as submitted. A complete listing of revenues and expenditures is on file in the office of the Treasurer.

On motion of Alan, second by Bonnie, motion passed to approve the minutes of February 16th as written.

On motion of Tressa, second by Alan, it was unanimous to accept the monthly reports as submitted.

Correspondence/Information was as listed in the meeting agenda.

Chairwoman Heffron took the Board into executive session at 7:01 PM for personnel and pending litigation. The regular meeting reconvened at 8:35 PM.

On motion of Tressa, second by Alan, motion passed to add allowing Solicitor John Thompson to respond to the union regarding John Fedorchak and Mike Chilson to the agenda

On motion of Christine, second by Alan, motion passed to authorize Solicitor John Thompson to provide correspondence to the union denying the grievance and request for reinstatement on behalf of John Fedorchak, Tressa and Bonnie abstained.

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On motion of Christine, second by Tressa, motion passed to authorize Solicitor John Thompson to prepare a performance improvement plan to be forwarded to Mike Chilson and the union and to reinstate Mike Chilson as a member of the Public Works Department beginning Monday, February 27<sup>th</sup> contingent upon the execution of the performance improvement plan.

There being no further business, on motion of Alan, second by Bonnie, it was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle A. Rude  
Athens Township Administrative Secretary