

Chairwoman Tressa Heffron called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

Present were Supervisors Tressa Heffron, Bonnie Petruschak, Ron Reagan, Matt Moore and Cori Lasco; Treasurer Ruth Casterline, Secretary Meagan Carling and Superintendent of Public Works Garret Stocks were also in attendance. Tressa led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Voice of the Residents:

Aaron Brotzman, Weaver Road:

Mr. Brotzman explained conditions of roads around his residence (Weaver and Bobcat mainly), since Garret and the road crew finished work on them, are the best they have been in almost 25-30 years. Mr. Brotzman thanked them all for the great job they did, and noted they were fixed correctly. Garret replied repairs have been made, the right way, and they have a plan in place to keep up on maintenance.

Athens Twp. Planning Commission:

Marion Carling represented the Planning Commission. She presented the board with the maps and documentation for two cases.

IR Federal Credit Union / final land development on Elmira St. (#24-08): The Chairwoman's signature on the O&M agreement was the last item for the four deficiencies being met. On motion of Ron, seconded by Bonnie; motion passed to sign the agreement and accept the Planning Commission recommended approval of the final land development.

Blow, Roberta / 2-lot subdivision on Wolcott Hollow Road (#24-09): On motion of Tressa, seconded by Cori; motion passed to accept the Planning Commission recommended approval of the subdivision, contingent upon the two Executors' of the Will's signatures being witnessed by a notary.

Athens Twp. Volunteer Fire Co.:

July 2024 report received; no representative present.

A ceremony will be held on Tuesday, September 3rd at 12pm at the Athens Township Volunteer Fire Company; ATVFC will be receiving keys to a Ford F250 pickup truck donated by Energy Transfer, which will aid in the department's emergency response efforts. Sen. Gene Yaw and Rep. Tina Pickett will be in attendance, along with representatives from Energy Transfer and the ATVFC.

Athens Twp. Parks Commission:

Michele Browning represented the Parks Committee.

On motion of Tressa, seconded by Matt; motion passed to accept the resignation of Committee Chairman, George Crowell. Michele has the information posted on the PARKS social media pages and the vacancy will also be advertised next week.

Tressa and John (Solicitor) will review the materials regarding the Blanchard – North Branch Canal Property with Meade Murtland from PARKS to ensure a decision can be made based on all aspects and get any questions answered. TABLED until the next meeting.

PARKS had inquired about getting a waiver or consent form drawn up for anyone wanting to volunteer to help with trail cleanup, painting, equipment assembly, etc.; John Thompson will look into this – TABLED to next meeting.

Athens Twp. Public Works Dept.:

Superintendent of Public Works Garret Stocks was in attendance to represent the department.

Moore Road Bridge Strengthening Project – TIP: Supervisor Ron Reagan attended the Western / Eastern Bradford Co. COG Annual Dinner Meeting on August 26th; discussions were had in regard to the TIP changes that may affect funding and he would like to get some more information. He is looking into getting an information session set-up with Northern Tier Regional Planning & Development / PennDOT / BC Progress Authority and also reach out to other municipalities who have done TIP to get an idea of any issues, concerns or recommendations.

<VOR:>

Mr. Brotzman asked if taxes would be increasing next year; Tressa stated the budget had not been discussed yet but do not plan to do so.

Jenna, Jacklin Road:

Jenna apologized for missing the beginning of meeting but wanted to know if there was a list of the upcoming road projects; she would like to see more dirt roads completed and have an idea when Jacklin would be coming up. Garret replied his plan is to be on Jacklin by the end of next week; he also followed-up with a neighbor of hers (Ms. Storch) on this too.

Moore Road Bridge Strengthening Project Status Report from Joshua Setts – Project Manager received; email noted some design issues that needed to be addressed, putting the project behind – he has put in on an expedited schedule to catch up. There are no current action items for the Township at this time. Noted activities completed: finalized E&S plans and design structure, complete deed & ROW research, define ROW / TCE on plans, prepare/send temporary construction easements. Activities scheduled for the next two months: obtain temporary construction easements, obtain PennDOT structural adequacy approval, complete construction plans, prepare contract documents, advertise / let project, award to contractor.

Round Top Park will be hosting the Eastern PA Greenways Summit this September 18-20th. Ron wants to have the park roads work done before that event as RTP has been the “Shining Star” of the Township for years, even if have to band-aid / level off for now. Garret explained that they would need belt-loader to fix them. Resident, Rosemary Firestine (of Moore Road), interjected her disapproval of this idea; Jenna (of Jacklin Road) expressed her disapproval of this idea as well – adding in the lack of access of emergency vehicle to her road and Moore. Cori stated while it would be nice to have the RTP roads fixed before the event, let’s leave Garret to his current plans for repairs.

Garret discussed his plans for Erin Road & Hillcrest Drive repairs. The process for both will need to start with having core samples taken to determine what their fiber/moisture/clay content. Current issues may have been from cause from the base or could be lack of coating but will not know how to proceed until the samples have been taken. Cori suggested to start getting quotes now for these forecasted repairs. Garret added that Center St. is on his radar too.

On motion of Matt, seconded by Tressa; motion passed to appoint Garret Stocks as the preparer / signatory for the Multi Modal Grant application / submittal round; open to receive applications September 23rd through November 5th, 2024 – Miller Road Bridge to be resubmitted for this. Supervisors will be the backup for anything needed.

Garret discussed the purchase order for 6 infrared temperature guns for each driver to help determine what treatment roads need for winter conditions and overall safety; resident, Mike Freeland mentioned that Athens Borough does not use these but also does not have the hills / road conditions the Township has. On motion of Bonnie, seconded by Ron; motion passed for this purchase order to be TABLED until the next meeting.

On motion of Bonnie, seconded by Cori; motion passed to approve purchase order for 7 CB Radios and hardware in the amount of \$1636.32 from the ARP account; 430.327 is the new line item assignment.

On motion of Tressa, seconded by Matt; motion passed to set-up and account at Steve Shannon Tire; need an account to get quotes.

Garret updated the BOS that the anti-skid materials through Marcus Cole still not showing as approved by COSTARS; he wants to wait hoping their approval goes through but will need to place the order by latest, September 16th. The BOS advised he check in with Lopke and Johnson Quarries previous quotes to ensure they can hold those prices and get a couple more from the list of who has the approved materials to have on hand in case Marcus Cole cannot be awarded the order. On motion of Tressa, seconded by Ron; motion passed to rescind the awarded order for Marcus Cole AS3 anti-skid material if is not COSTARS approved by 9/13/24.

Truck #6 - 2009 Ford F250 auction winner through Municibid is unable to be reached by the Township; Municibid's process is to report the seller which generates a two-day warning for them to be in contact – if they have, the offer is sent to the second highest bidder. If they are unable to be reached or decline the awardment, Municibid will relist the item. On motion of Tressa, seconded by Cori; motion passed to move forward with the Municibid process to offer to 2nd highest bidder if winner is unable to be reached, and relist the truck if needed.

<VOR:>

Mr. Brotzman asked about stormwater runoff; Garret stated he has a plan to build up areas necessary.

On motion of Matt, seconded by Cori, opposed by Ron; motion passed to approve purchase order for a local, used truck box to replace the current deteriorating one before winter for the amount of \$6800.00. Resident, Rosemary Firestine asked Ron why he was opposed; Ron replied he is just hesitant on used equipment.

Calcium dust control application – finished. Noted.

Rental of the screen plant was longer than expected due to a breakdown/repair to the equipment; they were able to screen 4000 tons of millings in 25 hours. This resulted in roughly 2800 tons of good quality road materials that would cost \$32/ton to purchase on average; potential savings totaling \$89,600.

Zaccory Guiles started employment with Public Works Dept 8/19/2024 as laborer. Noted.

Superintendent of Public Works MOU to be discussed in Executive Session.

Public Works Staff to be discussed in Executive Session.

Athens Twp. Police Dept.:

July 2024 report received, no representative present.

Wage Appendix to be reviewed / discussed in Executive Session.

On motion of Ron, seconded by Tressa; motion passed to authorize Township SRO's & Fire Police to assist with parking and traffic control, along with the closure a portion of Penna Ave (section between Frederick St & Pine St) for the "Gold Out" football game / activities (beginning at 6pm on Sept 21st) and Homecoming football game / activities (beginning at 4:45pm on Sept 27th) until completion of each event.

On motion of Tressa, seconded by Ron; motion passed for the Police Dept Right-to-Know to be TABLED until updates are available.

On motion of Bonnie, seconded by Matt; motion passed to accept the monthly reports.

On motion of Tressa, seconded by Bonnie; motion passed to approve all monthly bills.

On motion of Tressa, seconded by Ron; motion passed to approve the minutes from July 31, 2024 regular meeting.

On motion of Tressa, seconded by Bonnie; motion passed to approve the minutes from the August 19, 2024 special Supervisors meeting – Cori abstained as he was not in attendance.

Considered / Discussed:

Jolene DiMaggio presented on Marc Rosato's behalf for Rally Point's interest in two new parcels of Township property to lease. Ms. DiMaggio relayed leases are 5yr at \$1275/acre with 18% royalty, with ability to extend lease at \$1350/acre; this contract states "no surface" drilling. Discussion was had between BOS, Michelle – PARKS, Ms. Firestine – resident regarding the process, locations and possible contract detail from 1970's funding to PARKS that may negate leasing option that John Thompson – Solicitor is going to investigate. Cori asked for additional details from Rally Point to supply and suggested they review it along what John T. discovers – add to September meeting agenda to revisit - TABLED.

On motion of Tressa, seconded by Ron; motion passed to discuss allocation of Act 13 Funds during a budget meeting per BOS confirmation with Ruth-Treasurer. TABLED to budget meeting.

On motion of Bonnie, seconded by Ron; motion passed to add junkyard inspection reviews / license renewals to the September meeting agenda as BOS would like Ed Reid in attendance to discuss these / process – TABLED.

On motion of Ron, seconded by Tressa; motion passed to authorize registration & lodging for Ed Reid to attend the PA Assoc. of Floodplain Managers annual conference October 2, 2024.

On motion of Tressa, seconded by Matt; motion passed to allow John Thompson to initiate legislation / draft complaint against property owner for zoning issue Winslow St. / Empowered Solutions and look into further options.

On motion of Tressa, seconded by Bonnie; motion passed for request letter to be signed / submitted to PennDOT for right-of-way reimbursement, T-105 over Cayuta Creek.

On motion of Ron, seconded by Cori; motion passed to accept the Township MMO's for Police Pension Plan & Non-Uniformed Pension Plan drafted by Conrad Siegel / Township Secretary and Defined Contribution Plan drafted by Citizens & Northern Bank / Township Secretary; and authorization to sign and submit all three for 2025 year. Resident, Mike Freeland asked where does the money go and what is the extra used for; Ruth – Treasurer stated it goes into General Funds but the Township never gets it all back so there is no extra.

On motion of Tressa, seconded by Bonnie; motion passed to review CPA quote information received same day from Baker-Tilly and revisit along with previous quote at the September meeting – TABLED.

AED for Athens Youth Football, discussion TABLED until additional information available.

On motion of Ron, seconded by Cori; motion passed not to renew / enroll in any of the Wiles Valley Weather Plans offered at this time.

Township Tower maintenance is not being done, John Thompson to look into contract with Clarity Connect as it is believed it may be their responsibility to do so; revisit at the September meeting when additional information is provided – TABLED.

Township property on Sunnyfield Dr. (closed landfill) has not been maintained. Resident, Rosemary Firestine asked about looking for a grant to clean it up; Ron stated we just need a small machine and a plan for upkeep. TABLED to next meeting to get some ideas / options.

Township Secretary cell phone to be discussed in Executive Session.

Correspondence/Information:

Communications regarding Deficiency Letter #3 between DEP & Bishop Brothers / Minard Mine. Noted.

Election Day equipment delivery & voter services notice noted; Township office will be open / staff on hand.

TYPO ON AGENDA ACKNOWLEDGED & CORRECTION WILL BE POSTED ON WEBSITE / SOCIAL MEDIA: First Aid Trainings to be held at the Township Building Thursday, Sept 12th from 6p-10p AND Wednesday, Sept 18th from 9a-1p. Openings for both sessions still available - open to the public for up to 20 participants per session.

Tax Claim Bureau, upset tax sale 9/11/24 at 9am in the Courthouse. Noted.

Zoom Phone / Zoom for Government information. Noted.

<V.O.R.>

John Amato, King Road:

Mr. Amato expressed his frustration for calling in a handful of times to report King Road needing to be mowed to see it only completed around CabinetWorks and not the whole road. Garret stated he had someone mowing there roughly a month ago but was not aware it wasn't completed; he will get it finished and look into why it was not when assigned.

Chairwoman Tressa took the board into executive session at 7:42 PM for personnel and pending litigation. The meeting reconvened at 8:57 PM.

On motion of Tressa, seconded by Matt; motion passed to authorize two changes to the Superintendent of Public Works MOU specifying a 40 hours / week and correct "Garret" spelling for John Thompson to present to Garret Stocks on Friday, August 30th 2024 to sign.

On motion of Ron, seconded by Tressa; motion passed for John Thompson to write up "change order" for Bishop Brothers: 2A materials contract.

On motion of Tressa, seconded by Matt; motion passed to transfer the PSATS membership from Chuck Wright to Garret Stocks.

On motion of Tressa, seconded by Cori; motion passed to approve the Police Departments corrected wage appendix presented with the part-time information added.

There being no further business, on motion of Cori, second by Matt;
it was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Meagan Carling
Athens Township Secretary