

ATHENS TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS
December 5, 2024 6:00PM Budget Workshop & Special Meeting

Chairwoman Tressa Heffron called the budget workshop & special meeting to order at 6:04 PM. Supervisors also present were Ronald Reagan, Bonnie Petruschak, Matthew Moore and Cori Lasco. Treasurer Ruth Casterline and Secretary Meagan Carling were also in attendance. Superintendent of Public Works Garret Stocks and Police Chief Clink attended in reference to their departments budget proposals.

Commencement of budget workshop:

Stocks presented a third loader quote for discussion and answered resident inquiries about the condition of the Township's current loader and explained why he was not looking into "used" options for replacement.

Options for Erin Road were discussed, the proposed figures for a complete repair are too high – will need to look into possibly taking out a loan cover the costs. Core sample reports were received and reviewed.

Residents Rosemary Firestine and Nancy Whitt asked for more information on a handful of line items whose figures were proposed during prior budget workshops and offered suggestions to cut some costs.

Chief Clink provided information for what was covered under a few line items and was able to make some cuts from the Police Departments' previously proposed figures; noting that the new reporting system through the county is still going to be due starting in 2026.

After moving some funds around and recalculating, Ruth confirmed the 2025 proposed budget was balanced.

No further budget items to discuss.

Commencement of special meeting (7:43pm):

On motion of Ron, seconded by Cori; motion passed to donate \$300 to the Sirens for Santa Program. In lieu of using Township funds, Cori will donate this from his Supervisor 4th quarter earnings on behalf of the Township. Matt abstained - he was not present / was out of the room at the time the vote was taken.

On motion of Tressa, seconded by Ron; motion passed to approve the payment to the Spalding Library per the Ordinance. Matt abstained - he was not present / was out of the room at the time the vote was taken.

On motion of Bonnie, seconded by Cori; motion passed to approve payment to Conrad Siegel in the amount of \$3690 from general fund. Matt abstained - he was not present / out of the room at the time the vote was taken.

On motion of Ron, seconded by Bonnie; motion passed to ratify Resolution 2024-17 designating two Supervisors, Tressa and Ron, to execute documents in the event the Township is awarded funds for the LSA grant applied for. Matt abstained - he was not present / out of the room at the time the vote was taken.

On motion of Tressa, seconded by Ron; motion passed to authorize the credit application be submitted, noting Tressa as the designated signatory, to 1st Equipment Finance in regard to the interest in a lease program with Medico Equipment for a 2024 Case Wheel Loader. Corrections to original documents from Medico Equipment need to be shown, along with details of the lease contract; for review at December 18th meeting.

Purchase order for Township Office Alarm System was reviewed; the Supervisors would like more clarification on why it is quoted for 8 panic buttons and the need for an indoor camera. TABLED until December 18th meeting.

Garret gave an update for Truck #7, newly purchased box (used) has been installed successfully.

The need to appoint a Township Resident to the third Auditor vacancy was noted; TABLED.

A summary of the information session held 12/2/24 the Township had with PennDOT and Larson Design Group in regard to current status' of Moore and Miller Road Bridges and current / near future options for TIP (programs) were discussed.

- Miller status reviewed and potential repairs discussed; application for Multi-modal grant submitted with funds set aside for Township's costs already, TIP option to fund for completion in 2029 or put back on the request list for next round for TIP funding and prevent additional deterioration based on latest inspection report.
- Moore at standstill with three options:
 - 1.) Continue with strengthening project at 10ton weight limit, permit emergency vehicles / mutual-aid through LDG – estimated completion spring 2025.
 - 2.) Pivot to super-structure plan (would increase weight limit to 14ton / estimated completion fall 2025) to see if feasible; if not - some preliminary work done towards permanent structure.
 - 3.) Cancel temporary structure plans, start preliminary work for permanent structure – estimated completion 2029.

On motion of Cori, seconded by Matt; motion passed to choose option #1 - continuing with the strengthening project with reduction in weight limit to 10tons and having LDG permit emergency vehicles / mutual-aid.

Act 13 funds, budget allocation of \$761,800:

- On motion of Tressa, seconded by Bonnie; motion passed to designate \$18,500 to Police Capitol / Car Camera's.
- On motion of Tressa, seconded by Ron; motion passed to designate \$32,000 to Zoning / Planning Professional.
- On motion of Tressa, seconded by Bonnie; motion passed to designate \$11,500 to Snow / Ice Removal Materials.
- On motion of Tressa, seconded by Matt; motion passed to designate \$7,000 to Road Repair / Patching.
- On motion of Tressa, seconded by Ron; motion passed to designate \$307,100 to Road Maintenance Project / 2025 Erin Road.
- On motion of Tressa, seconded by Bonnie; motion passed to designate \$280,500 to Miller Road Bridge.
- On motion of Tressa, seconded by Cori; motion passed to designate \$5,200 to Bridge Repair Materials.
- On motion of Tressa, seconded by Matt; motion passed to designate \$50,000 to Moore Road Bridge.
- On motion of Tressa, seconded by Bonnie; motion passed to designate \$50,000 to Murray Creek Road Bridge.

On motion of Tressa, seconded by Bonnie; motion passed to advertise the Township's "2025 fiscal years' proposed budgets for all funds" open and available for public inspection.

Personnel – to be discussed in Executive Session.

Voice of the Residents: none.

Chairwoman Heffron took the Board into executive session at 9:01 PM for personnel.

Supervisor Matt Moore left the meeting at 9:55 PM.

The special meeting reconvened at 10:05 PM.

On motion of Tressa, seconded by Bonnie; motion passed to accept Cori's letter of resignation from the Athens Township Board of Supervisors; effective December 31, 2024.

There being no further business, on motion of Tressa, seconded by Ron; motion passed to adjourn the meeting at 10:07 PM. Matt abstained – he was not present at the time the vote was taken.

Respectfully submitted,

Meagan Carling
Athens Township Secretary