

ATHENS TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS
Regular Meeting
February 26, 2025 6:00 PM

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Chairwoman Tressa Heffron called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Present were Supervisors – Tressa Heffron, Bonnie Petruschak and Ronald Reagan; Matthew Moore attended online via TEAMs. Superintendent of Public Works Garret Stocks, Secretary Meagan Carling, Treasurer Lauren Hotaling and Solicitor John Thompson were also in attendance. Tressa led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Michael Freeland was sworn in to the vacant Supervisor position on the Board, Oath of Office recorded.

Voice of the Residents: none

Athens Twp. Planning Commission

No representative in attendance; no report as they did not have a meeting.

Ross – zoning map amendment hearing scheduled for 3/26/25 at 6pm. Noted.

Athens Twp. Volunteer Fire Co.

Fire Chief Austyn Merrill was in attendance to present the January report. He also discussed the new sign location to be where the current ‘Smokey Bear’ sign is next to the Township Municipal Building; plans for “Smokey” are still in the works but he will be stored until then. The sign is slated to be up and running sometime in March.

Athens Twp. Parks Commission

No representative in attendance.

Report received noting Parks & Rec Committee meeting days/times, members and part-time employees; additional information received via email updating on parks annual inspections / opening process timing and tentative plan to open weekend of May 10th pending no delays and noting some Eagle Scout projects still in the planning phase. A letter of interest was received from William Steimel and another letter expected, for the committee vacancies.

Athens Twp. Public Works Dept.

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

Garret presented some road work (bundled) options and estimates that he worked on with Steve Kehoe (PennDOT).

Options / estimates for Westbrook, Hillcrest, Center, Rosh & Pine Tree (bundle):

- 1.) FDR & prime / double-seal - approximate cost \$104,500
- 2.) mill existing / replace with 19mm asphalt - approximate cost \$386,000

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Estimate for sections of Meadowlark, Highland, Weaver, Sutliff, Pump Station to prime with asphalt double seal coat – approximate cost \$341,500

Estimate for Erin Rd section for FDR, 19mm asphalt binder and 2A backup (each side) – approximate cost \$193,500

Options / estimates for Owasco Rd section:

- 1.) FDR, 2A or millings and 19mm asphalt binder – approximate cost \$52,000
- 2.) prime with asphalt double seal coat – approximate cost - \$32,000

The BCCD assessment of the DGLVR sites was reviewed, all roads scored well above average for the continued maintenance needed for continued program consideration. Garret is working with Joe Quatrini from BCCD on options for additional roads consideration / submittal.

LDG Bridge Inspection reports received for T-862 Round Top Road (over Murray Creek), T-876 Miller Road (over Satterlee Creek) and T-321 Murray Creek Road (over Murray Creek); results and finding did not change for any of these three from the last inspections – no additional attention needed to current maintenance / repair plans.

On motion of Tressa, seconded by Ronald; motion passed to advertise for fuel bids to be received at the Township Building by a deadline of 3pm Wednesday, March 26th 2025 to be opened at that evenings Supervisors meeting at 6pm; bids requested for:

- 1.) 6,000 gallons (more or less) On-Road, low sulfur – clear Diesel fuel with winterized cold flow additive; delivered as needed
- 2.) 14,000 gallons (more or less) Dyed, LSD Diesel fuel; delivered as needed
- 3.) 11,000 gallons (more or less) Unleaded Gasoline – 87 Octane; delivered as needed

Aggregates presented for bid - TABLED. The aggregates discussed are to be confirmed with Steve Kehoe (PennDOT) to ensure verbiage is correct for what the Township is required to use; bring updated information / confirmation to the next meeting 3/12/25.

Asphalt Draggttec – dragbox purchase order was discussed; it is a non-heated paver attachment that mounts universally to pave and do crown / shoulder work. Will make some jobs normally contracted out, able to do in-house; saves on scheduling, time, and money. TABLED to next Supervisor meeting 3/12/25, need time to consider.

On motion of Bonnie, seconded by Ronald; motion passed to execute the Project Agreement for the Moore Road Bridge Strengthening; contactor L.C. Whitford.

On motion of Bonnie, seconded by Ronald; motion passed to approve the “Notice to Proceed” for contractor L.C. Whitford to begin the Moore Road Bridge Strengthening Project; noted date of completion being 6/30/25.

Garret explained the winter weather incident that occurred on 2/20/25 with Truck #4. With the roads icing over and the trucks out salting, Truck #4 (Volvo) slid into the ditch while on

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Meadowlark Drive; no damage to truck or land and no injuries. The angle was too steep for another Township unit to pull it out, a tow truck was called. The invoice for recovery is for \$3450. TABLED to next Supervisor meeting 3/12/25, need to determine if sending into insurance before proceeding with paying invoice.

Truck #9 2009 Chevrolet Tahoe (former Police Dept. unit) advertised in the Daily Review on 2/22 (running again 3/1 edition) to be up for auction on Municibid beginning 3/3/25, ending 3/16/25 and winner will be awarded on 3/26/25 at the Board of Supervisors meeting. If no bids received, it will be relisted for another round.

Garret explained the revised Maintenance and Service Plan for the trucks / equipment. Noted.

Personnel – to be discussed in Executive Session as needed.

Athens Twp. Police Dept.

No representative in attendance; report received.

Reports:

On motion of Matthew, seconded by Ronald; motion passed to accept the monthly reports from Fire Co., Parks, Roads, Zoning. No report received from Planning, they did not have a meeting - Noted.

Bills:

On motion of Bonnie, seconded by Tressa; motion passed to pay the monthly bills as presented.

Minutes:

On motion of Ronald, seconded by Matthew; motion passed to approve the Board of Supervisors regular meeting minutes from 2/12/2025.

Consider / Discuss

Assignment of Committees by the Chairwoman are as follows:

Matthew Moore – Building / Grounds, Roads, Safety

Ronald Reagan – Planning / Zoning, Parks

Bonnie Petruschak – Office, Public Relations

Michael Freeland – Fire Company, Junkyards

Tressa Heffron – Police, Shared Services

On motion of Ronald, seconded by Tressa; motion passed to adopt RESOLUTION 2025-09 updating the Tax Collection Committee voting delegates to Lauren Hotaling and Meagan Carling for 2025.

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On motion of Bonnie, seconded by Michael; motion passed to adopt RESOLUTION 2025-10 updating the bank account signatories to be Tressa Heffron, Ronald Reagan, Meagan Carling and Lauren Hotaling – removing Ruth Casterline as she is now retired from the Township.

On motion of Tressa, seconded by Matthew; motion passed to accept the “Athens Township Volunteer Agreement” as written by the Solicitor for participation by any volunteering with Athens Township and / or its Parks Committee.

On motion of Tressa, seconded by Ronald; motion passed to approve PAFPM (Pennsylvania Association of Flood Plain Managers) Membership renewal in the amount of \$50.00 for 2025.

On motion of Matthew, seconded by Michael; motion passed to accept the lighting repairs quote from ICR Power Co. in the amount of \$19,570 to repair / replace the yard, lot and perimeter lighting at the Township Building; additional quote received from JS Electrical for \$19,800. Additionally contacted for quotes: Mountain Lake Electric – not interested, and Brandon Rosh – booked out for months.

Penn Strategies, service contract – TABLED; the Solicitor will review this contract before the next meeting 3/12/25 and advise.

Litigation concerning zoning violation to be discussed in Executive Session as needed.

On motion of Bonnie, seconded by Tressa; motion passed to approve payment of the installment invoice in the amount of \$10,500 from General Fund (402.311) to Baker Tilly, CPA’s.

On motion of Ronald, seconded by Bonnie; motion passed to approve the Lowes Home Center Appraisal Agreement. Involved parties noted: Lowes, Athens Area School District, Athens Township and Bradford County.

Personnel to be discussed in Executive Session.

Correspondence / Information

Quitclaim deed received from Indigo Wireless / Americell per discussion with the Solicitor upon contract termination for the tower rental. Noted.

CDR Maguire Engineering – DEP permit notice S.R. 4022 aerial communication cable crossing project. Noted.

Federal Licensing, per FCC records, is set to expire in August 2025 for the radio station. Supervisors advised to get the information on the renewal process for a later meeting. Noted.

BCTOA, Spring Dinner Meeting to be held April 10th 2025 in Sayre PA (RSVP by 3/26/25). Noted.

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Notice of dissolution of Township business. Noted.

COG Meeting minutes and report received. Noted.

Teamsters notice review – union dues set to increase effective in March 2025. Noted.

Website review – TABLED to next meeting 3/12/25; Supervisors to advise after time to navigate through the temporary test site.

Email migration to be done in March, all information collected – Kai to schedule for a weekend.

Local / in-person LTAP courses 2/27 (Public Works Safety), 3/27 (Roadside Vegetation Control), 4/29 (Geosynthetics). Noted, Road Crew to attend if time permits.

Chairwoman Tressa took the board into Executive Session at 7:11 PM,
for personnel and litigation / appeals.

The meeting reconvened at 8:29 PM.

On motion of Matthew, seconded by Tressa; motion passed to approve moving Christopher Stocks to MEO-III level, pay rate of \$24.60 as per the union contract, effective 2/27/25.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Meagan Carling
Athens Township Secretary