

ATHENS TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS

Regular Meeting

October 29, 2025 6:00 PM

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Vice Chairwoman Bonnie Petruschak called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Present were Supervisors – Bonnie Petruschak, Ronald Reagan, Matthew Moore, and Michael Freeland; Tressa Heffron was not in attendance due to a scheduling conflict. Secretary Meagan Carling and Treasurer Lauren Hotaling were also in attendance. Petruschak led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Voice of the Residents:

Pat Beers / Hickory Heights – inquired if there was any progress on determining if Hickory Heights was on the list for repairs in 2026; Supervisor Moore explained the budget for 2026 still being in process and the road inspection tour had not been completed but is aware of the need – will have a better answer once budgeting is completed.

Athens Twp. Authority:

No representative in attendance; monthly report received.

Athens Twp. Planning Commission:

No representative in attendance; monthly report received.

GreenKey Solar Development: On motion of Reagan, seconded by Petruschak; motion passed to grant the continuance, per GreenKey Solar Developments request, for review of their Preliminary Land Development application at the Board of Supervisors meeting on 12/10/25.

Athens Twp. Volunteer Fire Co.:

No representative in attendance; monthly report received.

Athens Twp. Parks Commission:

No representative in attendance; monthly report received.

Discussion was had regarding Eagle Scout, Elizabeth Denlinger, project completion at Round Top Park – developing / constructing a walkway around the backside of the pond leading up to the pavilions (#13, #14, #15) / restroom / playground area. Great job, thank you.

Discussion was had regarding the Endless Mountains Heritage Regions expressed interest in hosting an overnight event at Round Top Park in September 2026 for approximately 20 individuals.

TABLED to a later date when more information is available for both the event and what is needed for the overnight reservation.

Discussion was had regarding Round Top Park closing for the season on 11/16/25; arrangements are being made to put up the ‘STAR’ in the weeks to follow park closure.

Discussion was had regarding damages reported to a fence post at Jim King Park; Groundskeeper Barry Brosnan to assess for repair. Additional information will be relayed as needed. Noted.

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Athens Twp. Public Works Dept.:

No representative in attendance; no month-end report received – reviewed “tasks” list.

Discussion was had regarding an error made by Bishop Brothers Construction on Franklin St.; while they were contracted to pave for Sayre Borough they were unaware that a portion of the road (approximately 185 ft.) off of the intersection with Center St. is actually the Township’s responsibility and mistakenly milled a 4ft wide length before it was brought to their attention. Bishop Bros. replaced the milled material and paved the section at no cost to the Township. Noted.

Discussion was had regarding the purchase order for dirt characterization testing on the road materials cleaned-up after the truck #12 fire on 7/9/2025.

On motion of Moore, seconded by Freeland; motion passed to approve the purchase order for Microbac Testing in the amount of \$598.00 from the general fund (430.450); once the results from the analysis are received – method for disposal will be provided.

Discussion was had regarding the purchase order for dump box up-fit for the former truck #12 replacement (2026 WesternStar).

On motion of Freeland, seconded by Moore; motion passed to accept the up-fit quote from Bradco Supply in the amount of \$104,337.55 from the general fund (437.200).

Discussion was had regarding the purchase order for cutting edge / plow parts needed, quotes reviewed. On motion of Moore, seconded by Reagan; motion passed to approve the quote from Chemung Supply in the amount of \$3,598.40 from liquid fuels fund (437.740).

International unit (truck #13) recall; confirmation that the repairs were completed briefly noted.

Discussion was had regarding quotes received for anti-skid and sand for winter road maintenance.

TABLED until more detail can be provided; for the anti-skid – none of the quotes are comparable as all list different materials (AS3, AS2, etc.) and the sand commodity quotes are not specifying a commodity equivalent to the verbiage on COSTARS. Moore to get additional details for the next meeting.

Discussion was had regarding the PennDOT Reimbursement Agreement for Moore & Miller Rd Bridge replacements (permanent) and concern about condition of Miller Rd Bridge / ability to withstand until the project begins.

On motion of Petruschak, seconded by Reagan; motion passed to approve the Reimbursement Agreement document as written for this project and the processes to establish the accounts needed in ECMS / RAS for online submittal of information by the “user” set-up as Chairwoman Heffron and “administrator” Secretary Carling.

On motion of Petruschak, seconded by Reagan; motion passed to adopt RESOLUTION 2025-17 certifying this Reimbursement Agreement noting Chairwoman Heffron / Secretary Carling respective roles as well.

Discussion was had regarding the Public Works, Teamsters Union Contract review; copy in possession has outdated Appendix B - ‘Seniority List’.

TABLED to the next Board of Supervisors meeting on 11/12/25 – need new Appendix B to move forward with approval.

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MOU – Z.Guiles; confirmation this cannot be reviewed until the above mentioned Teamsters Union Contract is approved in relation to pay rates stated was briefly noted.

Athens Twp. Police Dept.:

No representative in attendance; report received.

Discussion was had regarding the purchase order for Axon Taser Equipment. Officer Wilson was present / on-duty and gave some insight as to the need for replacement equipment as many of the units currently in use have become obsolete – no available replacement parts / batteries / accessories.

On motion of Petruschak, seconded by Moore; motion passed to approve the purchase order for replacement taser equipment from Axon in the amount of \$4,429.63 from general fund (410.260).

Discussion was had regarding the request for an increase in fee for a Solicitation Permit Application submission with the Township.

TABLED – comparable information needed regarding options for raising the fee from \$1; check with PSATS and neighboring municipalities for input.

Reports:

On motion of Moore, seconded by Freeland; motion passed to accept the monthly reports from Authority, Planning, Fire Co., Parks, Police & Permits; Roads (Superintendent / Director position vacant).

Bills:

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

Minutes:

On motion of Reagan, seconded by Petruschak; motion passed to approve the Board of Supervisors regular meeting minutes from 9/24/2025.

On motion of Moore, seconded by Reagan; motion passed to approve the Board of Supervisors regular meeting minutes from 10/8/25. Petruschak abstained as she was not in attendance for this meeting.

On motion of Petruschak, seconded by Freeland; motion passed to approve the Board of Supervisors budget workshop / special meeting minutes from 10/19/25.

Consider / Discuss:

Discussion was had regarding the Baker-Tilly CPA and audit submittal status; letter from the Solicitor was received and an email reply provided to apologize for the delay / misrepresentation of requirements needed - should be ready for review by the end of next week. Noted.

Discussion was had regarding the Bishop Brothers invoice for the Erin Road Project increase in materials used versus estimated on bid / contract; Solicitor John Thompson has not received the information needed to date for this overage explanation. Noted.

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Discussion was had regarding an update to terms for the newly proposed gas lease from Expand Energy for two parcels of Township property (not the previously proposed Round Top properties). The counter-offer from the Township for \$1500 / acre return was accepted and an updated copy of the contract will be provided for review.

On motion of Reagan, seconded by Moore; motion passed for Solicitor John Thompson to move forward with the lease process with Expand Energy for \$1500 / acre contingent upon the contract verbiage still reflecting 'subsurface' access of Township property in consideration.

Spalding Memorial Library's 2024 Financial Review was briefly discussed.

On motion of Reagan, seconded by Petruschak; motion passed to approved the annual payment to the Spalding Memorial Library per the Ordinance.

Discussion was had regarding an idea for the LSA Statewide Grant application submittal being a salt shed for the Township yard to keep the winter materials from freezing up / becoming difficult to work with – currently have one shed but not large enough for all anti-skid and salt materials.

TABLED – a quote was requested but not received prior to this meeting, additional information may be needed once quote detail is reviewed. LSA Grant application deadline is November 30th 2025.

Discussion was had regarding attendance interest for PSATS BootCamp for Township Officials – 3 sessions (12/9/25, 2/7/26, 2/14/26) being held in Towanda PA.

On motion of Petruschak, seconded by Moore; motion passed to approve attendance requests for Secretary Carling and Supervisor Reagan to attend this training.

Discussion was had regarding scheduling options for the next budget workshop; it will be held Saturday-November 15th 2025, 10AM at the Athens Township Municipal Office (45 Herrick Ave., Sayre PA).

Discussion was had regarding the decision to change the previously set 'Trick or Treat' night (Thursday-10/30/25), with other Valley municipalities change for weather, now to be held on Wednesday-10/29/25. On motion of Petruschak, seconded by Moore; motion passed to ratify the authorized change to 2025 'Trick or Treat' night from Thursday-10/30/25 to Wednesday-10/29/25, hours remaining 6p-8p, per expected stormy weather.

Township Employee / Volunteer Christmas Luncheon was mentioned briefly; interest noted.

Discussion was had regarding office coverage for Friday, December 26th 2025; the three current full-time employees have all expressed interest in using earned "paid time off" for this date, with the Treasurer position still being open – if not filled by that date, consideration for having the office closed.

On motion of Freeland, seconded by Petruschak; motion passed for the office to remain open with coverage on 12/26/25 - coverage to be decided amongst the current office employees (coverage being at least one employee working that day for normal office hours).

Discussion was had regarding the renewal of the Daily Review newspaper subscription (annual).

On motion of Moore, seconded by Freeland, opposed by Reagan; motion passed to not renew the subscription for the Daily Review newspaper.

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Discussion was had regarding the DEP – Safe Drinking Water annual fee invoice.

On motion of Moore, seconded by Freeland; motion passed to approve payment of the DEP – Safe Drinking Water \$50 annual fee.

On motion of Freeland, seconded by Moore; motion passed to re-appoint Ronald Reagan to the Planning Commission, new term to run 10/31/2025 – 10/30/2029.

The following Township employment openings for Director of Public Works, Machine-Equipment Operator (2 positions), Township Treasurer and other vacancies for Township Auditor, Zoning Hearing Board, Zoning Hearing Board Alternate, Planning Commission Alternate, Parks Commission Member were briefly noted. Police Chief will relay interest for the ‘Police Department Representative’ opening on Pension Board as well.

Personnel / Staff – to be discussed in Executive Session as needed.

Correspondence / Information:

Township office phone system update – forecasted for install 11/18-11/19/25; phone lines may be down for a short period of time, will post a notice. Noted.

PennDOT notice, proposed 2026 micro-surfacing project SR220 – section 211 (beginning at Tomahawk Rd in Towanda to approximately the Dandy Mini Mart in Greens Landing). Noted.

Murray Creek Road Bridge preservation project, completion certificate received. Noted.

Western Bradford County COG, August & September 2025 meeting reports received. Noted.

PSATS Youth Awards / Scholarship opportunities discussed briefly, sending the information to apply to AASD to relay for any interest. Noted.

LTAP Training opportunities discussed briefly, upcoming classes (virtual): TRUCKS ON LOCAL ROADS, 12/2/25 8AM-noon & newly added PUBLIC WORKS COMMUNICATION WITH RESIDENTS, 11/6/25, 11AM-noon. Noted.

Vice Chairwoman Petruschak took the board into Executive Session at 7:45 PM,
for personnel & legal.

The meeting reconvened at 8:58 PM.

On motion of Freeland, seconded by Moore; motion passed to extend an offer of employment to two candidates in consideration for the Public Works Department openings for Machine-Equipment Operators – offers being contingent upon completion / results of background check and pre-employment drug screen.

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On motion of Freeland, seconded by Moore; motion passed to extend an offer of employment to a candidate in consideration for the Director of Public Works opening – offer being contingent upon completion / results of background check and pre-employment drug screen.

On motion of Freeland, seconded by Petruschak; motion passed to extend an offer of employment to a candidate in consideration for the Township Treasurer opening – offer being contingent upon completion / results of background check.

There being no further business, on motion of Petruschak, seconded by Freeland;
it was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Meagan Carling
Athens Township Secretary