

ATHENS TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS

Regular Meeting

February 25, 2026 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, Matthew Moore, Ronald Reagan and Paul Kelley. Secretary Meagan Carling, Treasurer Macen Raupers and Director of Public Works Anthony Lundy were also in attendance.

Heffron led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Voice of the Residents:

Aaron Brotzman, Weaver Road – Mr. Brotzman did an online search for what takes place at Township meetings but did not find the information on time limits for resident comment (referencing the Athens TWP 3-minute designation) as was noted at a previous meeting. Brotzman also wanted to compliment the Road Crew on winter weather work for keeping the roads in his area salted / cindered.

Alice Bennet, Mile Lane Road – Ms. Bennett wanted to thank the Road Crew for their help with the snow removal as well.

Rebecca Brown, McCardle Road – Ms. Brown received a newsletter in the mail from Franklin Township (where she owns some property) and suggested Athens Township consider developing a newsletter for residents.

Athens Twp. Authority:

No representative in attendance; monthly report received.

Athens Twp. Planning Commission & Zoning Dept.:

The monthly report received and Reagan noted working on updates to Zoning Ordinance and SALDO.

Zoning Hearing Board Chair Robin Smith was in attendance to present the report from their 2/24/26 hearing where reorganization was done and a special exception application was approved for placement of a double-wide mobile home on a Meadowlark Drive property located in the Residential Suburban District.

Athens Twp. Volunteer Fire Co.:

No representative in attendance; monthly report received.

The Fire Co. was recently awarded funds from the PA Fire & EMS Grant application submitted for funding miscellaneous equipment; \$13,663.17 total awarded.

Athens Twp. Parks Commission:

Parks Chair Meade Murtland was in attendance to present; monthly report received.

Murtland shared the Parks Committee decision to renew the annual agreement with Athens Little League for use of the Sarah Reid Softball Field at Jim King Memorial Park and the Green Space at

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Tozer's Landing from April 1st – June 30th (Monday – Thursday) for baseball / T-ball who will be developing the schedule, along with the Valley A.S.A. for softball as well. To deter traffic issues, a temporary adjustment will be made at Jim King Park to provide additional parking for this time period.

Murtland discussed the vendors doing utility / other work at Round Top Park and the towers becoming an issue with regard to the different locks / keys needed and contacts for these companies / programs in need of updating; working with Secretary Carling to develop an annual register for communication and single lock system to begin in May (start of the RTP open season); ensuring access authorization / contacts be revised on a yearly basis.

Murtland presented 3 quotes for new Grasshopper lawnmower (same model, from different vendors) and explained it would be replacing the current Grasshopper lawnmower with that becoming the back-up. Discussion was had regarding the machines presented and options for funding across PARKS & Township accounts; TABLED until the next Board of Supervisors meeting 3/11/26 to review those funding options.

Athens Twp. Public Works Dept.:

Director of Public Works Anthony Lundy was in attendance to represent the department; monthly report received. Lundy re-introduced himself for the residents in attendance.

Lundy discussed the current equipment status with noting the continued search for back-up dump truck and the rear axle in Truck #4 snapping the day prior – this had been replaced last year and will now need to look at replacing both. Noted.

Discussion was had regarding the draft bid for aggregates, DSA & R-3. Kelley voiced there would be savings if materials bid did not designate "PA Certified" materials only and stated there is not much difference between the two DSA materials; replies regarding the use of liquid fuels funds vs. general funds, and budgeted items through remaining months of 2026 were brought into question. TABLED until the next Board of Supervisors meeting 3/11/26 for additional information to review regarding materials & fund allocation.

Discussion was had regarding the draft bid for fuel.

On motion of Reagan, seconded by Moore; motion passed to advertise for fuel bids to be received at the Township Building by a deadline of 3pm Wednesday, March 25th 2026 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.) 10,000 gallons (more or less) Unleaded Gasoline – 87 Octane; delivered as needed

Lundy confirmed submission of the application to participate in the COSTARS Salt Contract with required amount total at 1300 tons for August 2026 – July 2027 season; same amount as last seasons' contract. Noted.

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NBIS (bridge inspection) 2026 schedule received and as follows; noted:

- T-109 (Moore Road) over Satterlee Creek in FEB / JUN / SEP / DEC
- T-876 (Miller Road) over Satterlee Creek in JUN
- T-862 (Round Top Road) over Murray Creek in JUN

Lundy presented information regarding the IRT Program (Innovative Readiness Training) with possibility for contracting projects through this military training platform; he will reach out to his point-of-contact to get additional information on the process for how this would work for Township projects. Noted.

Lundy presented a summary of the PAAMA Training - Pavement Preservation & Recycling he recently attended at State College, PA touching on some of the more informative topics regarding roadwork process determination and maintenance. He was able to get the course slides for future reference and to share with the road crew. Noted.

Lundy provided an update for the Machine – Equipment Operator vacancy; 13 applicants to date and he, along with either Carling or Moore, conducted a handful of first interviews and have additional to schedule. Additional discussion to be had in Executive Session as needed.

Athens Twp. Police Dept.:

Chief Clink was in attendance to represent the department; monthly report received.

Discussion was had regarding the purchase order presented for payment to Mansfield University for two Officers to attend the ‘Police Firearms Instructor Course’.

On motion of Petruschak, seconded by Reagan; motion passed to approve the purchase order for the Mansfield University ‘Police Firearms Instructor Course’ attendance for Officers Condusta and Warren, in the amount of \$1486.26 from the general fund (410.174).

Discussion was had regarding the Chief of Police vacancy; 2 applicants (to date) for review. Additional discussion to be had in Executive Session as needed.

Reports:

Discussion was had regarding the reports received / reviewed.

On motion of Petruschak, seconded by Moore; motion passed to accept the monthly reports from Authority, Planning, Fire Co., Parks, Roads, Police & Permits.

Bills & Treasurer Report:

Raupers presented the Treasurers report detailing current account balances for general, liquid fuels, Act 13, Parks/Recreation and Capital Reserve funds.

A summary of the monthly bills was also provided.

On motion of Moore, seconded by Petruschak; motion passed to pay the monthly bills as presented and to accept the Treasurers report which can be added to the ‘monthly reports section going forward’.

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Kelley made a motion to add “Jim King Park” to the agenda for discussion; after identifying the topic he wanted to discuss was in regard to the ball field use, it was determined this would not need official action to be added to the agenda as it was listed as an item under the Parks Commission section previously discussed and this would be considered a ‘revisit’ to that item.

Kelley relayed his concern for the Township Parks ballfield areas (mentioned earlier) allowing teams / clubs from outside of the Township or Valley area to use the fields over local teams / clubs; Parks Chairman Murtland explained the agreement was with the Athens Little League, not any other suggested groups Kelley had questioned out of Elmira, and further discussion regarding the A.S.A Softball players being from ‘the Valley’ and surrounding areas and the schedule / use was developed between Little League and A.S.A.

Minutes:

On motion of Petruschak, seconded by Moore; motion passed to approve the Board of Supervisors regular meeting minutes from 2/11/2026.

Consider / Discuss:

Discussion was had regarding CPA options, revisiting the engagement letters with updated information requested. Raupers reviewed the rate details, expressed his concern over ‘box audit’ option, and answered resident questions regarding the purpose for the CPA’s performing the audit for a second year in a row. On motion of Reagan, seconded by Petruschak; motion passed to hire CPA from Guthrie & Co. for the audit of 2025 fiscal year with fees stated as \$16,500 - \$17,000; additional billing fee schedule included with engagement letter. Kelley abstained, related to one of the elected Township Auditors.

On motion of Moore, seconded by Petruschak; motion passed to approve Secretary Carling’s bond renewal through H.A. Thomson, for the period 2/21/26 – 2/21/27 in the amount of \$2467.00 from general fund (400.350).

On motion of Reagan, seconded by Heffron; motion passed to approve the AmTrust Financial Workers Compensation adjustment invoice in the amount of \$5491.00 following the policy audit; audit report provided.

Discussion was had briefly regarding the Snow Emergency Ordinance; TABLED until the next Board of Supervisors meeting 3/11/26 for additional time to review the draft and Solicitor attendance.

Discussion was had briefly regarding the updated status of Bishop Brother appeal, email correspondence from Solicitor presented stating “the argument on this matter is cancelled, and this matter shall be decided on the briefs previously filed”. Noted.

Penn Strategies, grant-writing and appropriations firm, information revisited (per request of the firms’ representative, Jason Fitzgerald). Noted.

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Correspondence / Information:

Notice received regarding Valley Energy planned excavations in 2026; listed is 'SR 220 at bridge over Murray Creek'. Noted.

Carling presented a summary of the EMHR's 2026 Grants Workshop she recently attended in Towanda, PA touching on some of the grants discussed; most relating to recreation, conservation and tourism but several mini-grants and statewide funding touched on as well. Additionally, general information and advice provided regarding any application submittal. Noted.

Western BC COG meeting agenda / minutes / treasurer report for FEB 2026 received; information regarding Electronics Recycling Day in May will be relayed once day / time determined. Noted.

LTAP Training opportunities discussed briefly, upcoming classes. Noted.

- 3/18/26 – Roadside Vegetation Control, 8am-3pm (Berwick PA)
- 3/24/26 – Public Works Safety, 8am-noon (virtual)

Chairwoman Heffron took the board into Executive Session at 7:07 PM,
for personnel – staff, applicant review.

The meeting reconvened at 7:59 PM.

There being no further business, on motion of Heffron, seconded by Reagan;
it was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 7:59 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Meagan Carling
Athens Township Secretary