

ATHENS TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS

Regular Meeting

July 29, 2026 6:00 PM

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Chairwoman Tressa Heffron called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

Present were Supervisors – Tressa Heffron, Bonnie Petruschak and Paul Kelley; Matthew Moore and Ronald Reagan was not in attendance due to a scheduling conflict. Solicitor John Thompson, 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.

Bid Opening:

Driving Surface Aggregate: 3 bids received

<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>(bid amounts per ton)</u>
(1) 7000 tons (more or less) of PA State Certified, Driving Surface Aggregate (DSA); delivered	

1. Marcus Cole Construction, Inc. 91 North Main St. Nichols, NY 13812

UNIT PRICE \$21.50 // TOTAL \$150,500.00

2. Johnson Quarries, Inc. PO Box 136 Leraysville, PA 18829

UNIT PRICE \$25.00 // TOTAL \$175,000.00

3. Stagecoach Transport & Crushing LLC. 3605 Old Stagecoach Rd. Wyalusing, PA 18853

UNIT PRICE \$26.00 // TOTAL \$182,000.00

Discussion was had regarding DSA material types and options for fund use noting General Fund / Act 13/ Liquid Fuels scenarios.

On motion of Petruschak, seconded by Heffron; opposed by Kelley, the motion did not pass to accept the lowest bid, submitted by Marcus Cole Construction, Inc., in the amount of \$25 per ton / \$150,500 material total for driving surface aggregate. Kelley stated his opposition for the type of material needed, stating non-certified DSA would suffice.

On motion of Kelley, seconded by Petruschak; motion passed to reject all bids received and re-advertise for bid opening at the BOS August meeting, 8/26/26. Petruschak noting to residents that by rejecting all bids, there will not be DSA material available to complete any road repairs until that next round of bids in August.

Voice of the Residents:

Michael Freeland / Wilawana Rd. – PMG status / TWP Manager status:

Mr. Freeland noted his topic “PMG status” was an item listed on the agenda so will hold to speak on this topic until that point of the meeting.

Freeland asked the BOS what the status was on hiring a Township Manager as the position was approved / developed / budgeted for back in late December (2025) and early January (2026); he has not seen any postings or heard of any further discussion since that organizational meeting. Discussion was had regarding research being done, communicating with other municipalities, as to what they do / what works / delegation of duties / etc.; Petruschak stated this groundwork needs to be done first to clarify the position / duties to best benefit the Township, she reassured Freeland “a” position would be finalized

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soon and changes made. Kelley, opposed to the idea of a Township Manager, offered to volunteer for this position – without pay.

Elaine Pierson / Riverside Drive – police presence:

Ms. Pierson expressed concern over reckless driving / speeding / etc. she observes often on Riverside Drive and would like to see more police presence to address this. Chief of Police Dan Thomas was in attendance, explained this is the first he is hearing of this and will make this area more of a priority moving forward.

John Cheresnowsky / Brookside Drive – road maintenance / BOS meeting operations:

Mr. Cheresnowsky inquired why there is a lack of funding for road maintenance noting the large number of commercial properties / businesses within the Township; he continued with the funding that is received needing a more strategic approach to how it is utilized for processes and prioritizing. Cheresnowsky also suggested the manner to which the Township BOS meeting are held be evaluated to facilitate more resident involvement by small improvements to support professionalism with the presentation of proceedings (raised level board seating, microphones, livestream / recordings posted, display of information discussed, etc.).

Athens Twp. Authority:

No representative in attendance; monthly report received.

Athens Twp. Planning Commission:

No monthly report received; no meeting was held in July.

Discussion was had regarding the Bradford County SALDO adopted amendment 2026-02, establishing Data Center Development Standards and how it relates to the Township Zoning Ordinance – Data Center section. Solicitor John Thompson included pending state legislations could limit municipalities standards / restrictions options; once the state finalizes – the Township will begin amending the zoning ordinance but currently can only communicate with other municipalities in the area and continue discussing possible restrictions. Discussion / updates will continue at the next BOS meeting 8/26/26.

Athens Twp. Volunteer Fire Co.:

No representative in attendance; monthly report received.

Athens Twp. Parks Commission:

Parks Chairman Meade Murtland was in attendance to present the monthly report; added their participation at the Seniors Expo on 7/17/26 was not included in the report (an oversight) but will be added to the next months’.

PARKS updated rules draft completed and ready to have proofed by Solicitor Thompson; TABLED until the next BOS meeting 8/26/26.

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Athens Twp. Public Works Dept.:

Director of Public Works Anthony Lundy was in attendance; monthly report received.

Discussion was had briefly reiterating the earlier discussion of needing more DSA (driving surface aggregate) material in order to continue with road repairs as the previous order has been depleted.

Discussion was revisited regarding the PMG (Pavement Management Group) 'RoadINsights' Program for use in scanning / documenting / rating road conditions, repair options / estimates, reporting platform; initial cost for set-up / scans / platform development is \$20,350 with an additional \$2000 / year for the dashboard / software / support.

On motion of Petruschak, seconded by Heffron, opposed by Kelley; motion does not pass to approve the purchase of the PMG Program system. Will revisit at the next BOS meeting for last opportunity to evaluate; proposal good through August.

Discussion was revisited regarding the estimate to pave the section of Erin Road from Wolcott Hollow Road to the far side of the small culvert, Bishop Brothers was not able to add it into the project or quote at the same rates as the paving bid received.

On motion of Heffron, seconded by Petruschak; TABLED to a future BOS meeting.

Discussion was had regarding recent bridge maintenance work by TWP Public Works Dept. and PennDOT's TIP program. Kelley suggested removing PennDOT's involvement by not placing the Township bridges on their 'transportation improvement plan' (TIP) program, shifting control back to the Township to be responsible for all steps of processes needed from engineering through construction, in addition to funding the projects.

On motion of Kelley, seconded by Heffron; motion passed to establish a committee to research and discuss the removal / exclusion of the Township bridges from PennDOT's TIP Program – with recommendation for the committee to include Kelley, the Director of Public Works and Supervisor Matthew Moore.

Discussion was had briefly regarding the fleet condition, recent repairs and noting that trucks 4 & 7 both need to have framework repairs.

Discussion was had briefly regarding the mower; PTO shaft broke again on TWP unit, utilized a rental unit for 2-weeks to make some progress, will need to research / have quotes for consideration at a later BOS meeting.

Discussion was revisited regarding the need for a Road Foreman as the road crew is still down one member and Lundy cannot cover those duties as well as his workload.

On motion of Heffron, seconded by Petruschak, opposed by Kelley; motion does not pass to approve to hire a Road Foreman. Kelley stated opposition because Public Works should be more focused on their equipment repairs than adding another supervisory role.

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Discussion was had briefly regarding both the LTAP Roadway Management Conference (in October) and the PSATS Public Works Expo (in November).

On motion of Heffron, seconded by Petruschak; motion passed to approve the attendance of two members of the Public Works Department for each of the above mentioned events – attendees to be determined and relayed back at a later BOS meeting.

Athens Twp. Police Dept.:

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

Chief Thomas informed the BOS of a federal task force he has submitted for the departments inclusion and would appreciate the BOS support. Kelley made a motion to move forward with this task force, Heffron seconded but Solicitor Thompson stated no motion was necessary for Chief Thomas to submit for inclusion. Chief to provide additional information to the BOS as it becomes available and asked for residents to contact him with any questions. Noted.

Reports:

Discussion was had regarding the reports received / reviewed.

On motion of Petruschak seconded by Heffron; motion passed to accept the monthly reports from Authority, Fire, Parks, Roads, Police, Permits & Treasurer report – Planning did not have a report / meeting in July.

Monthly Bills:

A summary of the monthly bills was provided.

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

Minutes:

On motion of Heffron, seconded by Kelley; motion passed to TABLE approval of the Board of Supervisors regular meeting minutes from 6/24/2026 – no quorum to approve those minutes, Petruschak was not in attendance for the 6/24/26 meeting, so would need to abstain from a vote to approve the minutes.

Consider / Discuss:

Discussion was had briefly regarding Audit status. Raupers provided the invoice for balance due upon completion of the audit preparation / e-filing, Guthrie & Co. supplied a draft of the report with the adjustments & filing approval – offered to present the audit detail at the Township office.

On motion of Petruschak, seconded by Heffron; motion passed to approve payment of the Guthrie & Co invoice balance for 2025 audit preparation / filing and signing to approve the adjustments for submittal to the state – also noting, an in house presentation would be appreciated.

Discussion was had briefly revisiting the Bradford County Commissioners request to renew the lease for the District Magistrate Office on Herrick Ave, Sayre PA; the current lease expired 4/31/26. Solicitor Thompson received late correspondence, will present at the next BOS meeting 8/26/26, after his review.

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Discussion was had regarding proposals for survey / study for weight rating on Erin Rd. After contacting seven companies, only one proposal was received to accommodate this into their schedule. Larson Design Group's proposal total of \$6200 is over the budget for "engineering services" by \$200; BOS advised to contact LDG to inquire if they can accommodate to stay within that budget. TABLED to next BOS meeting 8/26/26 for re-consideration.

RESOLUTION 2026-14 allocating ACT-13 funds for seal-coating, TABLED – no quorum to adopt this resolution. Petruschak was not in attendance for the 6/24/26 meeting for the bid opening / acceptance / approval of allocation of funds from ACT-13, so would need to abstain from this vote.

Discussion was had regarding the BC Proposed EMS Sustainability Funding Process participation; nothing was budgeted for 2026. Noted.

Discussion was had briefly regarding the options and upgrades to the new Zoning vehicle (2026 Chevy Blazer). TABLED to a future BOS meeting, additional quotes requested to review as only one received.

Discussion was had briefly regarding the approved Municibid auction posting of the former TWP Zoning Vehicle; the Police Dept. has two older fleet vehicles that will not pass inspection / no longer in use and Lundy will evaluate Public Works Dept. equipment for any additional items to add to the advertisement / auction.

Discussion was had regarding the PennDOT SR 1069 TSO Project completion and final permit plans. On motion of Heffron, seconded by Petruschak; motion passed to approve signing of the final permit plans for the traffic signal timings along SR 1069 (Elmira St.) for all four signals – final plans will be filed at the Township once processed.

Discussion was revisited regarding the Expand Energy lease option presented to the BOS in March 2026 for 8 Township parcels, explanation provided to subsurface method of extracting natural gas for this lease proposal to clarify that nothing is being considered for these parcels above ground.

On motion of Kelley, seconded by Petruschak; motion passed to move forward with the lease process on 7 parcels presented, removing Jim King Park parcel from the contract option; Solicitor Thompson to respond to Expand Energy accordingly and will provide feedback at the next BOS meeting 8/26/26.

Discussion was had regarding correspondence received by Raupers from Kilmer Insurance Group requesting to consider their services for the Township insurance needs. TABLED, Raupers to schedule a meeting to have the detail to present when discussions for renewal / budget sessions later in the year.

Discussion was had regarding the Verizon Wireless account & administrator changed to Carling now. On motion of Heffron, seconded by Petruschak; motion passed to upgrade phones eligible / in need, disconnect unused lines and consolidate plans / accounts as able for two-year contract commitment.

Discussion was had briefly regarding the Sayre Borough request for funding toward the 2027 operating expenses associated with their Recycling Center. TABLED for budget sessions later in the year.

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On motion of Heffron, seconded by Petruschak; motion passed to approve one employee to attend the PA Assoc. of Floodplain Managers Conference in State College PA held 9/22-9/23/26.

Discussion was had regarding the Zoning Hearing Board letters of interest and recommendation received. On motion of Heffron, seconded by Petruschak; motion passed to accept the recommended appointment of Rosemary Firestine to the Zoning Hearing Board for the remainder of the term vacated by Tiffany Glielmi (through 9/8/28).

On motion of Heffron, seconded by Petruschak; motion passed to accept the letter of resignation from Cynthia (Cindy) Parrish with her last day being 7/15/2026. On motion of Petruschak, seconded by Heffron; motion passed to pay Parrish the balance of her unused sick / vacation time accrued in the amount of \$9,496.01 from general fund (414.140, Zoning Asst. Salary).

Until further notice, Right-to-Know Deputy duties to be assigned to Raupers - effective immediately.

Until further notice, Website Administrator duties to be covered by D3 WebDesign with Carling assistance – effective immediately.

Until further notice, Township Notary duties will not be re-assigned.

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

Correspondence / Information:

Blackhill Energy LLC., notice of drilling permit application (Smithfield TWP). Noted.

Expand Operating LLC., notice of well permit application (Ulster TWP). Noted.

J.D. Eckman Inc., notice of SR 6-219 Lockhart St. River Bridgework (8/2026). Noted.

PSATS Board Chair's Retreat, 8/6-8/7/26; Petruschak to attend – no cost to TWP. Noted.

BC COG, 7/2026 agenda & 6/2026 meeting minutes – not received prior to meeting. Noted.

PA-811, Safety Day @ Wilkes Barre PA 9/24/26. Noted.

Chairwoman Heffron took the board into Executive Session at 8:14 PM,
for personnel – staff, legal – bids, contracts, litigation.
The meeting reconvened at 8:34 PM.

There being no further business, on motion of Petruschak, seconded by Heffron;
it was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Meagan Carling,
Athens Township Secretary