

**Minutes of the Regular Athens Town Board Meeting Held
January 11, 2021 at the Town Hall**

Board members present: Dave Beckstrom, Todd Christensen, Dave Henderson, Chris Olson (Remote) & Amy Peterson (Remote), Clerk Diane Carpenter, Treasurer Marlys Balfany, and Mike Jungbauer

Guests: Billy Larson, Jason Ross, Curt Carpenter, Tom Lundeen, William Stanley, Dennis & Julie Davis, Jeff Alfevby, Jordan Alfveby

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM and the Pledge of Allegiance was waived, due to the Board of Reorganization meeting prior to this meeting.

M/S Dave Henderson/Todd Christensen to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2020 meeting as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Action items were reviewed. Those remaining were:

-Dave H will follow up with Jerome on solar farm/tree issue.

Anderson park issue - Amy and Mike J. will discuss.

Approve Agenda

M/S Dave Henderson/Chris Olson to approve the agenda as amended. Motion passed unanimously.

Lyle gave a county update.

Planning & Zoning

-Peter Tiede is looking into the issue of Fay Olson, the three separate lots with one PID. A variance could be issued due to

practical difficulties. This is an unusual situation that we will probably never see again. Discussion was held about moving the road and driveways, with which we currently have plowing and grading issues. Old cases were reviewed to see what has been done previously in similar situations. Costs involved would have to be determined. Mike and Chris will speak with the attorneys.

- Mike discussed some zoning violations - 911 267th Ave NW - running a business out of a home. A citation was issued but we have received no response.

-Dennis Davis and Bill Stanley attended the meeting to discuss the sign issue on Hwy 65. Mike reviewed the ordinance. Mike will check to see if there are any applicable county ordinances.

Currently the sign is covered until the situation is resolved.

-Jason Ross has requested a change to his mining CUP which is being referred to P&Z.

-There will be a public hearing at P&Z this month regarding Patrick Cahill and his CUP/IUP to mine dirt to create wildlife ponds.

-Peter Tiede will send a letter to the cell tower company regarding them changing our contract without notification. They cannot just take back money that they have paid us, especially five years later.

-Jerome Pikus is looking into doing a lot split, which may need to be a plat.

-A replacement for the P&Z board was discussed. Board members should be ready to submit interested candidates' names at the next meeting. Dave B. will also check with Dan Woodfill to see if he wishes to continue on P&Z.

Roads

-Slow month for roads.

-We had an issue with a resident regarding a damaged mailbox. It was not our plows that damaged it, but Steve Hass repaired it at no cost to resident or township.

-There was discussion regarding the railroad crossings at 265th and 273rd. 265th crossing has now been moved to high priority. The state is looking at doing this work in fiscal year 2024. The township would pay 30% of the costs, which would be approximately 100,000.00 for us. 273rd is set to be improved in 2022 with more signage and extra tree trimming.

Fire

-No report.

Parks

-No report. Balance in the park fund is 41,241,47.

Clerk's Report

-The Board of Audit will be held at 6:30 PM on February 1, 2021 before the regular board meeting.

-Online training to be qualified for the Board of Review needs to be completed by interested supervisors. We will need to pass a resolution to get LBAE powers back from the county. Diane will contact MAT to see if they have a resolution to use.

-All year end reports are completed for the Board of Audit.

-Our garbage service has been changed to LePage in EB.

-M/S Amy Peterson/Chris Olson to approve Resolution 2021-01 for Steve Balfany to perform work for the township. Motion passed unanimously.

M/S Amy Peterson/Chris Olson to approve Resolution 2021-02 for Curt Carpenter to perform work for the township. Motion passed unanimously.

M/S Amy Peterson/Chris Olson to approve Resolution 2021-03 for Dave Beckstrom to perform work for the township. Motion passed unanimously.

Dave Beckstrom will help Dave Henderson or Mike Jungbauer get set up to host the remote meetings.

Treasurer's Report

M/S Dave Henderson/Todd Christensen to approve the Treasurer's Report, Claims List for Approval, and Net Pay Account Distribution Report (checks 7294-7306 plus IRS totaling 22,091.01). Motion passed unanimously.

-Marlys gave a budget update.

-The levy was discussed for the annual meeting. It was recommended that we keep it the same.

M/S Dave Henderson/Todd Christensen to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 PM.

Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Carpenter

Athens Township Clerk

Date _____