

Minutes of the Regular Athens Town Board Meeting Held July 1, 2019 at the Town Hall

Board members present: Dave Beckstrom, Barb Kilpatrick, Todd Christensen, Amy Peterson, Chris Olson, Clerk Diane Carpenter, Treasurer Marlys Balfany and Ryan Grittman

Guests: Curt Carpenter, Billy Larson, Lyle Reynolds, Mike Warring, Angie & Steve Fennell, Jared Hass, Jim Kilpatrick, AJ Ondrey, JH Nelson, Elisha Long, Steve Strandlund, Jerome Pikus

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

M/S Todd Christensen/Barb Kilpatrick to approve the minutes of the June 3, 2019 meeting as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Action items were reviewed. Those remaining were:

-Quotes for library stations. We will add birdhouses to the quote request.

Approve Agenda

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

Elisha Long from the Isanti County Assessor's Office gave the board a presentation about tax valuations for commercial property versus non commercial property. She provided a handout and explained the valuation process. A discussion was held by board members and they will have P&Z look at this, with

the possibility of identifying property we may wish to zone commercial. Residents will be notified by postcard.

Planning and Zoning

-There was no P&Z meeting in June, due to lack of an agenda.

-Todd received a question from a resident regarding keeping chickens and birds. Ryan will check to see what other townships do.

-Code enforcement letters were sent out to several residents.

-A discussion was held about amending the fee schedule. Some issues included adding administrative fines and driveway permits.

M/S Amy Peterson/Chris Olson to table the proposed ordinance for legal review by Peter. Motion passed unanimously.

-Discussion was held regarding the abatement process.

M/S Chris Olson/Amy Peterson to pass Ordinance 2019-01 amending the abatement procedure ordinance. Motion passed unanimously.

-Regarding the camper issue on Lever, the certified letter was delivered the second time. Ryan is following up on the issue.

-Lyle gave a county update.

Lyle gave an update on the comp plan from 2004.

M/S Chris Olson/Barb Kilpatrick to appoint Lyle to head the comp plan committee. There can be up to seven members and the chair will not have voting privileges. Dave Henderson will help with this. Compensation will be 18.00 per hour and a per diem for meetings. Motion passed unanimously.

-Steve Strandlund updated the board on the issues regarding the housing development with East Bethel. East Bethel has backed out on all road agreements. Residents affected by the proposed road changes gave input. Chris will try to talk to Jack from East Bethel again, and some of the supervisors will do an onsite inspection of the area.

-We received a letter from Isanti County regarding tax forfeited land available for township acquisition. The property address was 24725 6th St NE. The township will take no action regarding the property.

Roads

- Gravelling is done and grader maintenance is done.
- The chloride is done and it was a good job.
- Mowing is just starting.
- Regarding culverts on 253rd and Lever, we are waiting on utility location from Centurylink.
- Pat is trapping the beavers affecting Larch.
- M/S Barb Kilpatrick/Chris Olson to close the Spring Road Review on 7/1/19 @ 9:30. Motion passed unanimously.

Fire

- No report.

Parks

- The balance in the park fund was 41,920.19.
- No meeting was held this month.
- Rebecca is working on the butterfly garden.
- We are looking for a new person for the park board.
- The picnic is coming up in September.

Clerk's Report

- Please have all claims in by July 31st this month to get them paid.
- We need to coordinate rides to township training so that we are not paying double mileage.
- Enclosed in your packet is a cleanup day recap. This will change slightly as the bill from Waste Management was incorrect.
- Diane sent a letter to the county for cleanup day reimbursement.

Todd has researched lawnmowers. John Deere seems to be the best product for the best price.

M/S Todd Christensen/Dave Beckstrom to purchase a lawn mower for the township at a cost of 7500.00. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

M/S Chris Olson/Todd Christensen to approve the Treasurer's Report, Claims List for Approval, and Net Pay Account Distribution Report (checks 6808-6848 plus IRS totaling 107,704.55, with check 6833 being voided). Motion passed unanimously.

-Marlys gave a budget update.

Jerome Pikus asked the board what he should do to have his property revalued, due to the solar farm. It was recommended that he have an appraisal done and compare land values near other solar farms.

M/S Chris Olson/ Amy Peterson to adjourn the meeting at 9:57 PM.

Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Carpenter

Athens Township Clerk

Date _____