

Minutes of the Regular Athens Town Board Meeting Held August 5, 2019 at the Town Hall

Board members present: Dave Beckstrom, Todd Christensen, Amy Peterson, Chris Olson, Clerk Diane Carpenter, Deputy Treasurer Erin Olson and Ryan Grittman

Guests: Billy Larson, Lyle Reynolds, Mike Warring, Kathy Beckstrom, Steve Balfany, Steve Strandlund, Wally Putz

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

M/S Chris Olson/Todd Christensen to approve the minutes of the July 1, 2019 meeting as presented. Motion passed unanimously.
M/S Chris Olson/Amy Peterson to approve the minutes of the Spring Road Review. Motion passed unanimously

Action items were reviewed. Those remaining were:

- Quotes for library stations and birdhouses.
- Chris will talk to Jack from East Bethel. Supervisors will visit the site of the housing development.

Approve Agenda

M/S Dave Beckstrom/Todd Christensen to approve the agenda as amended. Motion passed unanimously.

Wally Putz presented the board with a brochure and information regarding pavement maintenance and crack sealing.

Planning and Zoning

-Steve Strandlund gave an update on his discussions with East Bethel regarding the housing development. Chris will try to contact Jack and discuss the issues with him. Also, Steve will need to contact Connexus to see if they are willing to move poles. Steve would also like to speak with Brian Miller, the township engineer.

-Ryan gave an update on a conditional use permit amendment. A CUP can only be cancelled if the person to whom it was issued is in violation. Todd Christensen took over as chair so Dave Beckstrom could address the board as a resident. In his original CUP, no overnight camping was allowed. He would now like overnight camping to be permitted. He would also like the CUP to allow temporary structures, which the ordinance currently allows. He would like this to be a part of the CUP, in case of an ordinance change. A few changes were made by the board over the recommendations of P&Z.

M/S Chris Olson/Amy Peterson to approve Resolution 2019-03, approving the CUP with changes. Motion passed unanimously with Dave Beckstrom abstaining from voting.

-At the P&Z meeting, they approved the zoning ordinance for address signs by a vote of 3-0. The board held a discussion of the expense and decided we will need more fact finding.

M/S Chris Olson/Amy Peterson to table the ordinance at this time. Motion passed unanimously.

-So-Cor was bought by a new company and Peter Tiede is working with lawyers on the unfinished paperwork regarding solar farm agreements.

-Lyle gave a county update.

-Lyle and Dave gave an update on work done on the comp plan. Dave is working on a list of prospective members from the community. Lyle has located the questionnaires from 2013. He has also located some of the work done in 2016.

Roads

- Mowing is complete and there was very little gravelling done this month.
- The beavers are back and Pat is trapping again.
- New road signs are being ordered.
- 265th East of Hastings needs gravel.

M/S Amy Peterson/Todd Christensen that we will not publish quotes for snow plowing but will award the contract to Hass Construction. Motion passed unanimously.

Fire

- We have purchased a new truck but it is about a year out.
- The IFD will attend the annual picnic.
- A discussion was held at the meeting about adding a fee schedule to the JPA to address the issue of expensive fires.

Parks

- The balance in the park fund was 41,742.04.
- Barb did not attend the meeting but had a printed report for the supervisors.
- The sign in front of the town hall was damaged by the wind. Barb contacted MAT to see if repairs would be covered and hasn't heard back yet. Todd will contact Sign Crafters for an estimate to repair or replace it or else Jim will see if he can fix it.
- Work will begin on the butterfly garden once it is not so hot.
- Picnic coming up September 14th.

Clerk's Report

- Diane contacted Waste Management again concerning the bills and late charges for cleanup day expenses.
- Town aid for the upcoming year will be 1275.00.

Treasurer's Report

M/S Amy Peterson/Chris Olson to approve the Treasurer's Report, Claims List for Approval, and Net Pay Account Distribution Report (checks 6849-6867 totaling 23,150.46). Motion passed unanimously.

-Erin passed out a budget update.

Dave Beckstrom will check on a quote for a sound system for the town hall.

Regarding maintenance for the new lawn mower, it was decided that we will use John Deere to preserve the warranty. Steve will monitor use, etc.

Some of the park rides are broken again. Steve will repair them.

M/S Chris Olson/ Amy Peterson to adjourn the meeting at 9:02 PM.

Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Carpenter

Athens Township Clerk

Date _____