

Minutes of the Regular Athens Town Board Meeting Held September 9, 2019 at the Town Hall

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

Guests: Lyle Reynolds, Mike Warring, Rich Skordahl, Steve Hass, Steve Strandlund, Jolene Buberl, Zach Lundberg

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

M/S Amy Peterson/Todd Christensen to approve the minutes of the August 5, 2019 meeting as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

M/S Chris Olson/Barb Kilpatrick to approve the minutes of the special board meeting of August 26, 2019. Motion passed unanimously

Action items were reviewed. Those remaining were:

- Quotes for library stations and birdhouses
- Dave will check on a sound system for the town hall.

Approve Agenda

M/S Barb Kilpatrick/Amy Peterson to approve the agenda as amended. Motion passed unanimously.

Planning and Zoning

-Andy Schreder is our new zoning administrator. He will be taking over the P&Z duties that Ryan was handling, in addition to the permit work his company was already doing.

-Suggestions for members of the comp plan were presented by Lyle Reynolds and Dave Henderson.

M/S Amy Peterson/Chris Olson to approve the prospective members. Motion passed unanimously.

-Andy will receive a disc with previous comp plan work and the surveys on it.

-We are working on the issue with the DNR regarding the Beckstrom CUP.

-Dave has been working with Peter Tiede and Engie on the solar farm contract resolution. Peter has sent a contract to them for signature.

-Dave will contact Steve Gritman regarding things we need from Ryan, such as documents, minutes, files, and keys belonging to the township. If the issue is not resolved, it will be referred to Peter Tiede.

-Lyle gave a county update.

Roads

-Minimal grading was done this month.

-The DNR has been getting involved with the culvert issues we are having.

-The mailbox installation is complete on the newly paved road.

-We are still trapping beavers.

-We have received some complaints about tree trimming, which was done by the electric company.

-Chris will contact Tom Lundeen about some trees that do need trimming.

-The fall road review will be held on October 21, 2019 at 5:30.

Diane will post and publish this.

-273rd needs gravel and chloride. This will cost approximately 8600.00.

M/S Chris Olson/Amy Peterson to approve gravel and chloride for approximately 3500 feet. Motion passed unanimously.

-We received a quote from Fahrner Sealcoating with an estimate for sealcoating our paved roads, the walking path at the town hall, and striping Xylite. Brian Miller suggested we choose two roads to try it out.

M/S Todd Christensen/Barb Kilpatrick to approve the contract and do the whole project. Motion passed unanimously.

-Steve Strandlund met with Brian Miller and he will prepare a line item quote of what it would take to upgrade the road near the proposed housing development. Todd had contacted Connexus about moving the power lines that are in the wrong place. They stated that the 3 phase lines are harder to move than the older ones past 6th street. East Bethel feels like this will only benefit Athens township.

Fire

-Zach Lundberg presented the board with proposed changes to the joint powers agreement to address the issue of expensive fires. A resolution was presented to the board for approval. The board decided to have Couri Ruppe review the document and vote on the resolution at the October meeting. Amy will contact them.

Parks

-The balance in the park fund was 41,247.20.

-The picnic is this coming Saturday from 11-2.

Clerk's Report

-Diane posted and published the special meeting regarding replacing Ryan after his resignation. She also researched P&Z costs and hours for the past year.

-Research was done to locate Jim Braun's last contract.

-Several attempts were made to get information from Ryan.

Treasurer's Report

M/S Chris Olson/Amy Peterson to approve the Treasurer's Report, Claims List for Approval, and Net Pay Account Distribution Report (checks 6868-6881 totaling 7221.26). Motion passed unanimously.

-Marlys gave a budget update.

Please have payroll claims to Marlys by October 1st.

Please send newsletter articles to Dave Beckstrom before the next meeting.

Mike Warring gave a county update.

M/S Dave Beckstrom/Chris Olson to adjourn the meeting at 9:36 PM.

Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Carpenter

Athens Township Clerk

Date
