

Minutes of the Regular Athens Town Board Meeting Held November 1, 2021 at the Town Hall

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

Guests: Curt Carpenter, Billy Larson, Jason Ross, Mike Warring, Josh Heppner, Dustin Anderson, Jordan Alfveby, Jeff Alfveby, Steve Hass

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

M/S Dave Beckstrom/Amy Peterson to approve the minutes of the October 4, 2021 meeting as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

M/S Chris Olson/Todd Christensen to approve the minutes of the Road Review held September 27, 2021 as amended. Motion passed unanimously.

Action items were reviewed. Remaining were:

- We will check on Leon Ohman being a backup for Mike.
- A new modem will be purchased for the town hall.
- Ideas will be presented on how to spend ARPA funds.

Approve Agenda

M/S Chris Olson/Amy Peterson to approve the agenda as amended. Motion passed unanimously.

Planning & Zoning

- Mike Warring gave a county update.

-A discussion was held about the Flood Plain Resolution.

M/S Todd Christensen/Chris Olson to approve Resolution 2021-11 approving the publication of summary of amendment to Chapter 20 Article X (Zoning Ordinance) Floodplain Overlay District.

Motion passed unanimously.

M/S Todd Christensen/Chris Olson to approve Ordinance 2021-02 amending Chapter 20 Article X of the town code relating to floodplain overlay district. Motion passed unanimously.

M/S Chris Olson/Todd Christensen to approve Resolution 2021-12 to apply to participate in the national flood insurance program.

Motion passed unanimously.

-The shoreland resolution was tabled until December's meeting so board could review the documents.

-Violation letters

John Straight – 25788 Durant Multiple shipping containers, trailers with trash, too many vehicles, unlicensed vehicles and trailers and many other violations

Charles Gottwalt-unlicensed vehicles, trash, farm animals on residential land (not enough acres)

-Ulysses – was supposedly zoned commercial but was never completed. It is still zoned A/R. Josh Heppner has applied for a permit to expanded Rachel's closet. This issue will be discussed at the P&Z meeting in November and a public hearing will be held at the December board meeting. There is board support for resolving this issue.

-There was some discussion about the ADU work going on at Isanti County. Nothing has been approved but comments are welcome.

-There was an update on the Alfveby car cleanup. 21 vehicles have been removed so far, but 27 should be gone by now.

-We discussed the township attorney policy and decided that we need to add a conflict of interest clause.

-Curt will fix the front door at the townhall.

Roads

- All maintenance is up to date on the grader. We do have two tires still to put on.
- We still need to gravel some roads, especially swamp road. M/S Chris Olson/Todd Christensen to approve gravel on 253rd up to a cost of 7000.00. Motion passed unanimously.
- The chloride is holding up well this year.
- We are also working on ditches.
- We will be placing an order for additional sign posts.
- A mailbox was struck on university. Chris will send an invoice to the resident to submit to his insurance company.
- A letter from Peter confirmed that if a road is maintained by the township for 6 years, it becomes ours. Written notification to homeowner will be required for the future.

Fire

- There will be a 7% increase in the fire board budget for 2022. This does not include money for truck replacement.
- JPA change is still at a standstill as a unanimous vote for change cannot be achieved.

Parks

- The balance in the park fund is 53,285.27.
- Town hall rental was discussed. Amy presented a proposed agreement. Some changes still need to be made in amount charged, deposit and insurance restrictions. Also the decision was made that we will not rent to nonresidents except for nonprofits. Dave Beckstrom will work with Amy on language.

Clerk's Report

- M/S Amy Peterson/Chris Olson to approve resolution 2021-13 designating Athens town hall as the official polling place. Motion passed unanimously.

M/S Amy Peterson/Chris Olson to approve Resolution 2021-14 returning Board of appeals duties to the township after Covid. Motion passed unanimously.

-Payroll claims for the 4th quarter should be to Marlys by November 30th.

-Please note your meeting schedule for 2022.

-Chris received documentation on the vacation of Rendova.

-Bills for cleanup day are still coming in.

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 & IRS (checks 7509-7533 totaling 32,006.10). Motion passed unanimously.

-The treasurer and the clerk are in balance.

-Marlys gave a budget update.

-We will try to keep the levy flat for 2022 annual meeting even with the fire increase.

M/S Todd Christensen/Chris Olson to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 PM. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Carpenter

Athens Township Clerk

_____ Date _____