

Minutes of the Regular Athens Town Board Meeting Held November 4, 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, Steve Hass, Steve Strandlund, Jolene Buberl, Billy Larson, Mike Warring

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

M/S Chris Olson/Barb Kilpatrick to approve the minutes of the October 7, 2019 meeting as presented. 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 Todd Christensen/Barb Kilpatrick to approve the agenda as amended. Motion passed unanimously.

Planning and Zoning

- Lyle gave a county update.
- Lyle gave a comp plan update. The first meeting of the comp plan committee will be tomorrow night. They will be looking at past surveys.

M/S Dave Beckstrom/Chris Olson to pay Lyle for attending the regular board meetings to give comp plan updates. Motion passed unanimously.

-Andy wants to end the trial period of P&Z. He said that the workload is too much for his staff. He will continue to do permits and will also upload documents and files to the cloud. He recommended Liz Stockman as a possible replacement.

M/S Todd Christensen/Barb Kilpatrick to spend up to 5000.00 to continue the storage project. Motion passed unanimously.

-A discussion was held regarding code enforcement. Jolene visited 8 properties and said that the letters are having no effect. Andy made some recommendations and the board will consider them and make a decision.

-We will hold a special meeting on Monday December 2, 2019 to interview for a new zoning administrator. Diane will post the meeting.

-Todd Christensen made a motion to move forward with the rezoning of property along highway 65 to commercial. There was no second for the motion. A discussion was held about zoning for commercial property along highway 65. P&Z would like to hold off until the comp plan is completed. The comp plan committee will look into including it in the survey.

Roads

-Grading and gravel are done. We did wait a little too long between grading trips.

-Chris is addressing road review issues.

M/S Todd Christensen/Chris Olson to close the Road Review. Motion passed unanimously.

-Culverts are being fixed this week.

-Tree trimming should be completed in two or three days.

-We gave Robert Svare Steve Hass' info for plowing etc as the road by his home is not up to township standards.

-Chris outlined plowing plans for the upcoming snow season.

-Regarding the housing development on 245th, Chris has prepared a spread sheet of expenses from Brian Miller. He will send it to Steve Strandlund, and he will detail his contributions. Chris will then meet with Jack.

-27430 Polk Street- there is a white fence too close to the road. It is in the utility and township easements. Andy will check it out.

Fire

-M/S Todd Christensen/Barb Kilpatrick to approve the proposed 2020 fire budget. Motion passed unanimously.

-M/S Amy Peterson/Chris Olson to amend the JPA to include hardship issue beginning January 1, 2020. Motion passed unanimously.

Parks

-The balance in the park fund was 36,769.50.

-No meeting this month.

Clerk's Report

-Diane posted and published the comp plan meeting.

-Diane attended a clerk's meeting at the auditor's office regarding the 2020 Presidential primary election.

-The road review was completed.

-Diane presented meeting dates for 2020 and reminded everyone that the December meeting will be held on the 9th, due to Thanksgiving.

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 6916-6937 totaling 37,402.98). Motion passed unanimously.

-Marlys gave a budget update.

Dave is working on the newsletter. He hopes to have it out in late November or early December.

Mike Warring gave a county update.

M/S Chris Olson/Amy Peterson to adjourn the meeting at 9:22 PM.

Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Carpenter

Athens Township Clerk

Date _____