

Minutes of the Regular Athens Town Board Meeting Held December 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, Steve Strandlund, Jolene Buberl, Billy Larson, Richard & Joann Popp, Cindy & Jon Anderson, Jason Ross, Bill & Carol Kahle, Curt Carpenter, Jonas Norberg

The meeting was called to order by Todd Christensen, vice chair, at 7:00 PM and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

M/S Chris Olson/Barb Kilpatrick to approve the minutes of the November 4, 2019 meeting as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

M/S Barb Kilpatrick/Chris Olson to approve the minutes of the December 2, 2019 special 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 Chris Olson/Todd Christensen 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 was held on 12/3/19. Work began on training members and updating them on previous surveys.

-Andy is preparing a yearend report for P&Z. We issued 98 permits at a value of just under 2 million dollars.

-A new app was created for land use applications.

-Andy gave an update on document retention.

-A discussion was held about the fence that was installed on 27430 Polk Street within the right of way. A letter is being mailed to the homeowner regarding concerns about snow plowing and possible damage to the fence.

-We have code enforcement concerns on 11 different properties.

-26325 Chisholm Street NE is currently a big concern – animals run loose onto neighboring properties, complaints have been received about smells and contamination, etc. Andy will follow up with Peter regarding a course of action.

-A discussion was held regarding a choice for the new zoning administrator. Candidate B was favored by the board.

M/S Dave Beckstrom/Chris Olson to offer the position to Candidate B, letting him choose whether he wishes to be an employee or an independent contractor. Motion passed unanimously.

-Richard Popp has been waiting on a lot split of acres to 2-20 acre lots. M/S Dave Beckstrom/Amy Peterson to grant Todd Christensen authority to sign off on a lot split until our new zoning administrator is in place. Motion passed unanimously.

-A discussion was held regarding requesting the county to change their ordinance so that we are no longer under their zoning authority. M/S Todd Christensen/Dave Beckstrom to pursue this issue with the new zoning administrator. Motion passed 4-1 with Amy Peterson casting a no vote.

-Steve Strandlund gave an update on 245th. Chris has emailed Brian with more questions.

M/S Chris Olson/Todd Christensen to approve spending up to 100,000.00 to fix 245th and pave it from university to the cul-de-sac, splitting costs with East Bethel. Motion passed unanimously.

Roads

-Lots of plowing this month.

-While doing culverts, there was utility disruption as a line was cut from CenturyLink.

-Chris sent a sign replacement update to the state.

-We are having trouble with the county pushing snow into our intersections after we have completed plowing.

Fire

-The fire district is continuing work on the JPA,

Parks

-The balance in the park fund was 36,670.15.

-We have received comments about plowing the walking path.

We will log requests.

-Barb will check with Bill regarding if the lawn mower was serviced this fall.

-No meeting this month.

Clerk's Report

-Diane will post the Board of Reorganization meeting which will be held at 6:30 PM on January 6th, just prior to the regular January meeting.

-Diane contacted CenturyLink regarding excessive charges on the phone bill. They are correcting it.

-The special meeting for P&Z was published.

- MAT attorneys are sending resolutions for township supervisors and their families to do township work.
- Comp plan meetings have been posted as ongoing.

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 6938-6978 plus IRS totaling 41,073.74). Motion passed unanimously.

-Marlys gave a budget update.

-M/S Dave Beckstrom/Chris Olson to transfer 100,000.00 from the general fund to P&Z. Motion passed unanimously.

M/S Chris Olson/Amy Peterson to transfer 50,000.00 from the general fund to Paving. Motion passed unanimously.

-Marlys is working on the budget for the levy.

Dave is working on the newsletter. He hopes to have it out this week.

M/S Amy Peterson/Chris Olson to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 PM.

Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Carpenter

Athens Township Clerk

Date _____