

Minutes of the Regular Athens Town Board Meeting Held September 11, 2023 at the Town Hall

Board members present: Dave Henderson, Todd Christensen, Dave Beckstrom, Tom Heinen, Clerk Diane Carpenter, Treasurer Marlys Balfany, and Mike Jungbauer

Guests: Jason Ross, Curt Carpenter, Lyle Reynolds, Janell Harwell, Billy Larson, Mike Warring

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

M/S Tom Heinen/Todd Christensen to approve the minutes of the August 7, 2023 meeting as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Action Items

Remaining action items

-Mike will get quotes for repairs for the sign and check out insurance coverage.

Approve Agenda

M/S Dave Beckstrom/Tom Heinen to approve the agenda as amended. Motion passed unanimously.

Lyle Reynolds gave a county update.

Mike Warring gave a county update.

Planning & Zoning

- A discussion was held on doing a study on marijuana and setting a moratorium. If you do that, you must find a way to prove you are studying the issue. We decided that we will just move

forward with the zoning that we are currently working on since the marijuana issue becomes valid in the first quarter of 2025.

- Mike developed a Data Practices Policy for the township.
 - Mike will answer questions that Isanti County was asking concerning the county comp plan. Board members will review his answers before he submits them.
 - Violation letters – 24941 Shanandoah – the nephew is working on the cleanup
 - 4263 249th NE – no change has been observed. In 30 days they will receive a monetary fine as they have already been warned
 - Red Barn Tool Rental needs IUP and a roofing permit
 - AR Construction needs IUP and building permit
 - Above All Exteriors – he is in the process of retiring and shutting down the business
 - The PH for Sanchez will be continued in September as they were not in attendance to answer questions.
 - P&Z will be looking at sizes and numbers of accessory buildings on parcels between 5 and 20 acres in rural residential areas.
 - Mike is working with residents whose properties are incorrectly marked as flood zones.
 - Mike requested paid vacation days.
- M/S Todd Christensen/Dave Beckstrom to grant Mike 10 vacation days or 80 hours of paid vacation effective January 1, 2023.
- Motion passed unanimously.

Roads

- Jason Ross gave an update on roads as Chris Olson was out sick. Hastings has been paved but they are still working on driveways and shouldering.
- There is a big hole on 6th.

Fire

-Dave Henderson gave a report on the pilot program of the fire district sending out less personnel on calls and doing triage with the dispatcher to see who needs to be sent. This will save money in the long run.

Parks

-Balance in the park fund is 75,647.19.

- The picnic was a big success. Residents like receiving the reminder post cards, but possibly a little sooner in the future.

Picnic costs were 2839.40.

M/S Tom Heinen/Todd Christensen to pay picnic workers. Motion passed unanimously. Tom will send a list of workers to Diane.

-We will revisit the issue of the blue 911 signs.

Clerk's Report

-M/S Dave Beckstrom/Tom Heinen to approve county administration of the Voter Account funds on behalf of the township. Motion passed unanimously.

-Mike and Diane both have tax exempt forms if they are needed.

-The health department sent the results of the water test and they are good.

-It was discussed that the Athens domain should not be in a certain person's name. Dave Beckstrom will create a general email for the township.

M/S Todd Christensen/Tom Heinen to change the town hall rental to 100.00 to cover cleaning costs etc. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report-

M/S Todd Christensen/Tom Heinen to approve the Treasurer's Report, Claims List for Approval, and Net Pay Account Distribution Report & IRS (checks 8071-8086 plus IRS totaling 16,868.83).

Motion passed unanimously. Check 8074 was not used and was voided.

The clerk and the treasurer are in balance.

-Marlys gave a budget report.

M/S Tom Heinen/Todd Christensen to adjourn the meeting at 9:02.

PM. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Carpenter

Athens Township Clerk

_____Date_____