

Minutes of the Regular Athens Town Board Meeting Held January 11, 2016 at the Town Hall

Board members present: Jan Palmer, Lyle Reynolds, Barb Kilpatrick, Chris Olson, Dave Beckstrom, Treasurer Marlys Balfany, Clerk Diane Carpenter, Staff Jim Braun

Guests: Cindy Reynolds, Curt Carpenter, Ron Schleif, Dave & Darlene Henderson, Mike Warring, Kayti & Steve Strandlund, Craig & Diane Bjorklund, Steve Hass, Gary Oman, Barb Peterson, Russ Peterson, Jerome Pikus, Ed Tiller, Blake & Kaylee Bjorklund, Chase Hennessey, Scott LaRowe

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM and the Pledge of Allegiance was waived, due to the Board of Reorganization preceding this meeting.

M/S Lyle Reynolds/Chris Olson to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2015 meeting as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Review Action Items

Action items were reviewed and discussed. Those remaining were:

- Russ will check to see what portion of the parking lot repair should belong to Connexus.
- Jim will estimate time needed for Carolyn to work on the Rural Tourism Ordinance.

Jim has a bid for the door repair.

M/S Lyle Reynolds/Chris Olson to spend up to 500.00 to replace the frame and sweep on the back door of the town hall. Motion passed unanimously.

Barb submitted a sheet detailing information she received from Wayne Anderson of Stanford township regarding their township employee.

St. Francis will be reimbursing us for taxes collected on the annexed property. They were paid in error.

Peter reviewed the cell tower contract and it has been signed.

Approve Agenda

M/S Lyle Reynolds/Chris Olson to approve the agenda as amended. Motion passed unanimously.

Planning and Zoning

-Not too many permits this month. We do have two CUP for the upcoming meeting.

-The signs have been finished on Xeon.

- Most cleanups are about 75% done.

-Inspections are up to date.

-Jan gave an update on 4/40. The motion tabled from last month was withdrawn.

M/S Lyle Reynolds/Dave Beckstrom to approve Resolution 2016-01 and Ordinance 2016-02 regarding the 4/40 issue. The max density will be 8/40 and land rights will be from contiguous parcels. If a new road is created, it must be blacktop. Motion passed 4-1 with a nay vote from Barb Kilpatrick.

M/S Jan Palmer/Barb Kilpatrick that there will be no discussion on the 4/40 issue for one year, to give time to see how this ordinance works. Motion passed 3-2 with nay votes from Lyle Reynolds and Chris Olson.

M/S Lyle Reynolds/Chris Olson to approve ordinance 2016-01: Fee schedule for 2016. Motion passed unanimously.

Lyle gave a yearly P&Z recap.

M/S Lyle Reynolds/Chris Olson to reappoint Craig Bjorklund to the planning commission. After some discussion, the motion was rescinded.

-Lyle gave a county update.

M/S Jan Palmer/Dave Beckstrom for Lyle to continue as P&Z rep to the county. Motion passed unanimously.

Roads

-Clarification was made on what areas around the town hall need to be plowed.

-Grader maintenance is being done by Bjorklund's.

-There are four areas of concern in the township regarding watershed issues. Randy Wesp walked areas around Hastings and gave us an estimate of 15,700.00 for reditching, tree removal, etc. The issue was tabled until research is done on the township policy.

Fire

-Randy Polizin retired at midnight, 12/31/15. Al Jankovich is now fire chief. A woman from Spring Lake Park (Shannon) has been hired to assist Al.

-Average response time by the district to fires is 7 minutes.

Parks

-The balance in the park fund is 41,535.09.

-No meeting was held this month. We are looking at outdoor exercise equipment for the walking path.

-The cell tower signing bonus will go to the park fund.

-Discussions were held regarding installing permanent bathrooms by the ball fields, a "casual" field for residents, and possibly some kind of park facilities by the fire station on 9.

