

## **Minutes of the Regular Athens Town Board Meeting Held February 1, 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, Ron Schleif, Mike Warring, Kayti & Steve Strandlund, Diane Bjorklund, Steve Hass, Blake & Kaylee Bjorklund, Dave Henderson

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

M/S Lyle Reynolds/Chris Olson to approve the minutes of the January 11, 2016 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.

### **Approve Agenda**

M/S Lyle Reynolds/Barb Kilpatrick to approve the agenda as amended. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Planning and Zoning**

- One permit this month.
- Legal notice of the 4/40 will be in the paper 1/20/16.
- Discussion was held regarding an IUP for Steve Benolkin.

M/S Chris Olson/Lyle Reynolds to approve Resolution 2016-02 after revision striking item 6. Motion passed unanimously.

-Most cleanups are on hold until spring.

-Inspections are up to date.

-Bjorklund's have submitted a permit application for a second addition to Emerald Estates. It will be 60-90 days for soil borings and then the issue will go to P&Z.

-The vacancy on P&Z was discussed and candidates were presented. Jim will look at terms and the bi-laws and bring them to the March meeting.

Motion by Lyle Reynolds to reappoint Craig Bjorklund as the P&Z member. No second was received. Motion failed.

M/S Dave Beckstrom/Jan Palmer to nominate Ian Ebeling. Motion passed 3-2, nays from Lyle Reynolds and Chris Olson.

-Jan brought up discussing a succession plan for Jim's retirement, possibly someone to work with him part time.

-Carolyn is working on meshing the 2/40 with the 4/40 or possibly dropping 2/40.

-Lyle gave a county update.

## **Roads**

-Discussion was held about grader repairs.

M/S Chris Olson/Lyle Reynolds to approve up to 14000.00 for grader repairs. Motion passed unanimously.

-Gravel bids will be posted for the April meeting.

-A grading contract was discussed and it was decided we don't need one.

-M/S Jan Palmer/Dave Beckstrom that Bud/Bjorklund's will continue with grading as is for the upcoming season. Motion passed unanimously.

-Chris will contact an engineer to look at 253<sup>rd</sup>. Craig had mentioned putting a mat down and raising the road, estimated cost at approximately 14,000-17,000 dollars.

- Dave gave a Highway 65 update.
- There was no watershed report this month.

### **Fire**

-Shannon, the woman hired for the fire district, did not accept the position. Clint (from Brainerd) has been hired and will be staying at station 3. Jan Palmer was re-elected as chair of the fire board.

### **Parks**

- The balance in the park fund is 42,154.63.
  - No meeting was held this month. They will begin again in March.
  - There are grants available from the DNR that could be used to shore up the banks of the river in Anderson park.
  - The signing bonus for the cell towers will be sent to Jan and added to the park fund.
  - We received quotes for permanent bathrooms for the ball fields and also for a practice field open to everyone.
- M/S Chris Olson/Lyle Reynolds to proceed with the extra field.  
Motion passed unanimously.

### **Clerk's Report**

- Diane posted and published the Board of Audit meeting for February 1, 2016 at 6:30 PM.
- Spring short course date is March 22 at the Holiday Inn in St. Cloud.
- All 2015 reports are completed and printed.
- Board of Appeals tentative date is April 27 at 7 PM. All documents have been sent to the county.
- Please register at your caucus on March 1 for election judge duties.
- The date of the annual meeting is March 8, 2016 at 7 PM.

**Treasurer's Report**

M/S Lyle Reynolds/Chris Olson to approve the Treasurer's Report, Claims List for Approval, and Net Pay Account Distribution Report (checks 5547-5562 plus IRS totaling \$28,080.27). Motion passed unanimously.

-A levy discussion was held and it was recommended to move 10,000 from fire to Road and Bridge for the 2017 levy to be discussed at the annual meeting.

-Barb is working on getting the outside sign repaired.

-A date was set for the spring road review on April 18, 2016, leaving the town hall at 5:30.

-Mike Warring gave a county update.

M/S Chris Olson/Barb Kilpatrick to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 PM. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Diane Carpenter

---

Athens Township Clerk

---

Date

---