

**Minutes of the Regular Athens Town Board Meeting Held
August 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: Ron Schlieff, Mike Warring, Diane Bjorklund, Kathy Beckstrom, Steve Lundeen, Rich Johnson, Jacqui Baker

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

M/S Chris Olson/Lyle Reynolds to approve the minutes of the July 11, 2016 meeting as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Review Action Items

There were no action items this month.

Approve Agenda

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

Planning and Zoning

-A couple permits this month as it was a short month.

-Cleanups are progressing.

-Inspections are up to date.

-P & Z held public hearings this month on a CUP for Dave Beckstrom winery.

M/S Lyle Reynolds/Barb Kilpatrick to approve Resolution 2016-05 for a CUP allowing a Farm Winery. Motion passed unanimously with Dave Beckstrom abstaining from the vote.

M/S Lyle Reynolds/Chris Olson to approve Resolution 2016-06 for a CUP allowing a rural tourism business at the same location. Motion passed unanimously with Dave Beckstrom abstaining from the vote.

-A discussion was held regarding state statutes that control temporary health care dwellings. Townships may opt out of the state regulations.

M/S Lyle Reynolds/David Beckstrom to adopt Ordinance 2016-07 to opt out of the requirements of MN Statutes, Section 462.3593. Motion passed unanimously.

-In the future, P&Z members would like copies of all ordinances, resolutions, and permits.

-Carolyn will update the Ordinance Manual and get it ready to print.

-Lyle gave a county update, and also a recap of the Township Officers' Meeting.

Roads

-Still waiting on quotes for signs.

-Ditch mowing is complete.

-Jim and Barb Kilpatrick have been taking care of trash and brush.

-There was an updated quote provided by Randy Wesp for the beaver dams, also will estimate the Larch culvert cleanout.

-Snow plow bids will be published for the September meeting.

-It was decided we will not do anything with Swamp Road at this time.

-We have had a few rain washouts.

-No Hwy 65 or watershed reports.

Fire

-The fire chief would like to give awards to retired fire fighters but township funds cannot be used for that. It will be done by private donations and fund raisers.

Parks

- The balance in the park fund is 51,518.54.
- Anderson Park is temporarily closed due to road damage from a truck. Chris Caulk recommended closing the park.
- Discussions were held about what to do. (Boulders, repairs, etc.) Randy Wesp will come look at the damage. If we are considering boulders, we need to remember that Great River Energy needs access on the road.
- M/S Jan Palmer/Chris Olson to approve up to 750.00 for boulders. Motion passed unanimously.
- Things are coming together for the picnic which is September 10 from 11-2.
- The blue misters need a new valve. They are sending free ones.
- We bought a trimmer and blower for the town hall.
- M/S Barb Kilpatrick/Chris Olson to approve building a bird watching platform for the Fred Cross Nature Area, up to 5000.00. Motion passed unanimously.
- We should consider buying 5 additional acres, since Bob's property is for sale.
- Russ presented bids and designs for bathrooms for the fields. M/S Jan Palmer/Barb Kilpatrick to allocate 25,000.00 in park funds for their construction. Motion passed unanimously.

Clerk's Report

- Election judges are scheduled for next Tuesday's primary election. Diane will attend a meeting on Friday at the Auditor's office regarding the upcoming election.
- Filing for township offices opens tomorrow and lasts for two weeks. Diane will be available all day during the election and by appointment. Also, she will be available at her home in the township on the last day of filing from 1-5 PM.

The superintendent of SF schools has invited supervisors to attend a meeting on 8/16/16 at the high school to discuss school violence.

Treasurer's Report

M/S Chris Olson/Lyle Reynolds to approve the Treasurer's Report, Claims List for Approval, and Net Pay Account Distribution Report (checks 5738-5764 plus IRS totaling \$21,199.17). Motion passed unanimously.

-Marlys gave a budget update.

Mike Warring gave a county update.

M/S Lyle Reynolds/Chris Olson to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 PM. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Carpenter

Athens Township Clerk

Date _____