

## Minutes of the Athens Township Annual Meeting Held March 14, 2017 at the Town Hall

The town clerk, Diane Carpenter, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Fifteen township residents signed the attendance sheet. More attended. See attached copy.

Nominations for a moderator were opened.

M/S Jan Palmer/Russ Mann to nominate Dave Henderson.

No other nominations were made.

Motion passed unanimously.

M/S Russ Mann/Jan Palmer to waive reading of minutes of last year's meeting and approve them. Motion passed unanimously.

M/S Russ Mann/Jan Palmer to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Marlys Balfany gave the treasurer's report.

M/S Russ Mann/Lyle Reynolds to waive the reading of the individual checks disbursed into the record. Motion passed unanimously.

M/S Russ Mann/Steve Balfany to accept the treasurer's report as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

M/S Jan Palmer/Lyle Reynolds to support 8 charities that we supported last year, with the following changes. Motion passed unanimously.

These charities include the following:

1. \$1.00 per household to Isanti County Historical Society.
2. \$700.00 to the Seven County Senior Federation.
3. \$2.50 per household to Family Pathways.
4. \$2.50 per household to Isanti County Safety and Rescue.
5. \$200.00 to Friends of Isanti Library.
6. \$1.50 per household to New Pathways.
7. \$1.00 per household to the Isanti County Agricultural Society
8. \$1.00 per household to 4-H.

M/S Marlys Balfany/Lyle Reynolds to continue our policy on culverts. The township buys culverts for residents and residents reimburse the Township in full. Motion passed unanimously.

M/S Marlys Balfany/Russ Mann to continue to fund the Neighborhood Watch Groups within the township by supplying two signs to organized watch groups who apply and allow use of the town hall for meetings without cost. Motion passed unanimously.

M/S Dave Beckstrom/Russ Mann to continue township's payment of \$2.00 a pair for gopher feet. The county no longer reimburses us for gopher feet and the township will absorb the entire cost. Motion passed unanimously.

M/S Jan Palmer/Marlys Balfany to continue to reimburse Athens residents for gopher poison applied to Athens township agricultural lands after completing reimbursement form. Motion passed unanimously.

M/S Jan Palmer/Russ Mann to approve weed and brush mowing for weed control along township roads. Motion passed unanimously.

The 2018 Levy proposal was presented to the attending town residents to consider:

\$300,000.00 Road & Bridge  
\$150,000.00 Revenue  
\$ 85,000.00 Fire Fund

M/S Dave Beckstrom/Lyle Reynolds to set the 2018 Levy at \$535,000.00 as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Lyle Reynolds gave an update on township roads. We have replaced a lot of signs this year, meeting the new safety requirements. We are currently checking pricing to complete paving on Rum River Drive this summer. Lyle also reminded residents of cleanup day coming up in May.

Barb Kilpatrick gave an update on the parks. She talked about the open ball field that will be built this summer, and cell tower funding. The DNR and soil and water are working together on issues in Anderson Park with bank erosion. Also, boulders have been placed to discourage big trucks from mudding there. One new park board member is needed. She also mentioned the addition of a bird watching platform in the Fred Cross park area.

The township celebration discussion authorized contributing \$2000.00(funding for a public celebration must be authorized by the Town per MN statute.)

M/S Jan Palmer/Lyle Reynolds to authorize the township board to make \$2000.00 available for a 2017 celebration with the understanding that all monies need not be spent. Motion passed unanimously.

Russ Mann gave an update on ball field construction and the new bathroom facilities.

Discussion was held about a county bike path. The county would like every township to donate 1000.00 toward this effort.

M/S Dave Beckstrom/Jan Palmer to donate 1000.00 to the bike path. Motion passed unanimously.

Clint Langerud gave an update on the Fire District. He is new to the fire district. EMS is a large portion of the fire calls and they are training people to handle these types of calls, state funded. We are also now able to assist with ice and water rescues.

Jan Palmer gave an update on the Athens website. We have hired Dan Poppie to manage it and it has a new look.

Dave Beckstrom gave an update on Planning and Zoning. He spoke about the rural tourism ordinance, and the winery ordinance. Also, the P&z board is being reduced from seven to five members, with the chair voting in case of a tie if members are absent. Training is also being scheduled for P&Z.

Mike Warring gave a county update.

M/S Marlys Balfany/Lyle Reynolds to continue to use Peoples and Flagship as the primary banks of the township and Community Pride as a secondary bank for the township. Motion passed unanimously.

M/S Marlys Balfany/Jan Palmer to use Isanti County News as the official newspaper of the township, and to give the town board authority to choose a second paper as well, for publishing bids. Motion passed unanimously.

M/S Marlys Balfany/Russ Mann to designate the town hall for official postings. Motion passed unanimously.

M/S Jan Palmer/Marlys Balfany to set the 2018 Annual Meeting for the second Tuesday in March, otherwise March 13, 2018, convening at 7:00 PM. Motion passed unanimously.

M/S Marlys Balfany/Jan Palmer to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 PM. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Diane Carpenter

---

Athens Township Clerk

---

Moderator \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_