

Minutes of the Regular Athens Town Board Meeting Held January 8, 2024 at the Town Hall

Board members present: Todd Christensen, Chris Olson, Tom Heinen, Dave Beckstrom, Clerk Diane Carpenter, Treasurer Marlys Balfany(online), deputy treasurer Erin Olson, and Mike Jungbauer

Guests: Jason Ross, Mike Warring, Lyle Reynolds, Eric Pfeifer

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM and the Pledge of Allegiance was waived, due to it having been recited at the board of Reorganization meeting.

M/S Dave Beckstrom/Tom Heinen to approve the minutes of the December 4, 2023 meeting as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Action Items

Remaining action items

- Dave will send out the new email address for the township.
- Articles to Mike for the Newsletter.
- Trailer for gopher machine Todd
- Budgets

Dave Beckstrom will bring the old trailer to the town hall and Todd will check it out.

Approve Agenda

M/S Todd Christensen/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

- There was no P&Z meeting in December due to its proximity to Christmas.
- Mike is still trying to obtain info regarding Buck's tire and no one at the county is cooperating.
- We are speaking to lawyers regarding the Ian Ebling situation. We were referred to Kennedy & Graven as they are experts in these kinds of issues.
- P&Z is still working on the access road and retail and commercial areas of Hwy 65. No public hearings this month.
- Sandy is working on putting files together in the data base. She is approximately half done.
- Mike will be on vacation February 4th thru the 16th.
- Gary Ostman is looking for a variance on building a pole barn. The statute states that the house must be built first or at least started before a pole barn can be constructed.

Roads

- Chris is working on the budget for roads. We will be needing more signs and mailboxes.
- The railroad crossing that MN Dot was going to improve has been moved down the line so that will not be happening any time soon.
- A discussion was held about the fuel tank location and also disposal of the old tank. Jason Ross will move the old tank and also bring the gopher trailer to the town hall.
- Jason has been picking up a lot of trash. Cameras were suggested but no decision was made.

Fire

No report.

Parks

- No meeting in November and December.

Clerk's Report

-Diane has been contacting and setting up training for election judges for the March election.

-Reminder that the February meeting begins at 6:30 for the board of Audit and we will complete the board of Reorganization as well.

-All year end reports are completed and ready for the board of audit meeting.

-The Board of Audit has been posted and published.

Treasurer's Report-

M/S Dave Beckstrom/Todd Christensen to approve the Treasurer's Report, Claims List for Approval, and Net Pay Account Distribution Report & IRS (checks 8172-8193 plus IRS totaling 28,285.07). Motion passed unanimously.

The clerk and the treasurer are in balance.

-The budget overage you see this month is due to fall dustcoating.

-Marlys recommended that the levy remain the same, but that we adjust funds by moving 11,000 from Road and Bridge to Fire. The consensus was to leave the levy the same as we do have extra funds in accounts from the ARPA money.

Tom will get someone to check out the toilet problems.

Tom will check out the turbine missing on the shed on the southeast side.

M/S Dave Beckstrom/Tom Heinen to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 PM. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Carpenter

Athens Township Clerk

_____ Date _____