

## **Minutes of the Regular Athens Town Board Meeting Held February 5, 2024 at the Town Hall**

Board members present: Dave Henderson, Todd Christensen, Chris Olson, Dave Beckstrom, Clerk Diane Carpenter, Treasurer Marlys Balfany(online), deputy treasurer Erin Olson

Guests: Jason Ross, Mike Warring, Lyle Reynolds, Curt Carpenter, John and Cindy Anderson, Billy Larson, Janell Harwell

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

M/S Chris Olson/Todd Christensen to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2024 meeting as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Action Items**

Remaining action items

- Tom will check on shed turbine that is missing.
- Articles to Mike for the Newsletter.
- Trailer for gopher machine Todd

### **Approve Agenda**

M/S Chris Olson/Dave Beckstrom to approve the agenda as amended. Motion passed unanimously.

Lyle Reynolds gave a county update.

Mike Warring gave a county update.

### **Planning & Zoning**

-Mike was not in attendance, due to vacation. Todd gave the P&Z report.

-This past month we had an issue with keys. A key was broken off in the lock of the office door. It was recommended that we install cameras showing the doors to the town hall. Todd will check out different options and report back.

-Jon and Cindy Anderson are having problems again with their neighbor Russell Holmes. The neighbors have multiple dogs and other animals that are not allowed by township statute on the property. They were advised to come in and see Mike as complaint needs to be filed in writing before the township can respond.

-Diane will have the new keys in her possession and will hand them out with board approval, keeping a key log. Every key is numbered and will be the responsibility of the person to whom it was issued. Each board member, clerk, treasurer, zoning employee, and cleaning employee will have a master key. One key will be issued to each of the following: Ambulance, sheriff and state patrol. Keys have already been issued to Steve Hass and Russ Mann for grading and parks.

-We are kind of on hold regarding Ian Ebling, seeing how he responds to previous communications.

-Mike may be back in time for February P&Z meeting. Neighbors of the proposed frontage road and Chris Olson have been invited to attend to discuss the matter.

-There will be a PH in February regarding the Tool Rental for Brian Hogie.

## **Roads**

-Roads are in good shape as we have had hardly any snow so far this year.

-We received the road maintenance contract for 2024. There is a 10 percent increase when using our grader and a 7 percent decrease on the cat hoe which is used for culverts. For snow

removal, there is a 3% increase when they use their grader. They would also like to increase the monthly guarantee to 3500.00 per month for December through March. Chris will check with Steve. Does the minimum include any labor? Would it roll over month to month?

M/S Todd Christensen/Chris Olson to approve 2024 pricing with grading labor included in the minimum. Motion passed unanimously. Minutes will show that we are continuing with the 2022 contract for services currently on file.

### **Fire**

The fire district would like to be able to spend funds on fitness programs for firefighters. Athens township approves this expenditure.

### **Parks**

- There was no meeting this month. There will be a meeting in March. The balance in the park fund is 87,361.34.

Marlys has still not received a budget for parks.

5600.00 for swings, plants, signs, and lights and 10,000.00 for the garden was allocated last year.

### **Clerk's Report**

-Everything is ready for tomorrow's election. Additional election judge training has been completed.

-The Annual meeting has been posted and published. As supervisors, please try to attend. It will be held on March 12<sup>th</sup> at 7PM. All documents for residents are prepared. The State Auditor will be attending.

-The Board of Review will be held on April 15<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM. It has been posted and published.

-Arranged for Spring Short Course attendance. March 26<sup>th</sup> at the Holiday Inn in St Cloud.

- Attended Clerk's election meeting.
- Contacted LePage regarding large increase in the cost of garbage pickup and resolved the issue.
- Prepared the Board of Audit report for the annual meeting.
- Please send payroll and regular claims early as the meeting immediately follows Easter weekend.
- Chris has prepared a policy for keys for the town hall.  
M/S Tom Heinen/Chris Olson to approve the key policy. Motion passed unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report-**

M/S Chris Olson/Todd Christensen to approve the Treasurer's Report, Claims List for Approval, and Net Pay Account Distribution Report & IRS (checks 8213-8226 plus IRS totaling 40,779.50).

Motion passed unanimously.

The clerk and the treasurer are in balance.

- Marlys went over the budget.
- Marlys contacted First Bank and Trust about collateral issues.

M/S Todd Christensen/Tom Heinen to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 PM. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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Diane Carpenter

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Athens Township Clerk

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Date \_\_\_\_\_