

Minutes of the Regular Athens Town Board Meeting Held March 4, 2024 at the Town Hall

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

Guests: Jason Ross, Mike Warring, Lyle Reynolds, Curt Carpenter, Brian Hogie, Billy Larson

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

M/S Chris Olson/Todd Christensen to approve the minutes of the February 5, 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
- Cameras for town hall

Marlys checked on the credit card limits. They are 500.00 daily and 2000.00 monthly total.

The remaining salary issues were brought up for discussion.

M/S Todd Christensen/Tom Heinen to pay the clerk and treasurer 900.00 per month. Motion passed unanimously.

M/S Todd Christensen/Chris Olson to raise road and ditch work to 22.00 per hour. Motion passed unanimously. All other rates will remain as previously discussed.

Approve Agenda

M/S Chris Olson/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

-Mike explained the Public Hearing for an IUP for Brian Hogie.

M/S Todd Christensen/Chris Olson to approve Resolution 2024-01 granting an IUP to Brian Hogie for Red Barn Tool Rental. Motion passed unanimously.

-Mike is sending a letter to Ian Ebling with an updated notice of violations. Options of what to do about the situation were discussed.

M/S Tom Heinen/Chris Olson to send a letter for compliance, and request payment within 30 days for the violations, and the next step would be a lien on his property taxes. Motion passed unanimously.

-Jose Pesina, contracting business, has a PH scheduled for March P&Z.

-Mike still working on getting the sign fixed.

-Still waiting on getting the sound system hooked up. Tom will look at it.

-It was suggested that we set a time limit for speaking at PH at the P&Z meetings and also that we have a sign up sheet.

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 12th at 7PM. All documents for residents are prepared. The State Auditor will be attending.

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

-Arranged for Spring Short Course attendance. March 26th 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,

Diane Carpenter

Athens Township Clerk

Date _____