

## **Minutes of the Regular Athens Town Board Meeting Held April 1, 2024 at the Town Hall**

Board members present: Dave Henderson, Todd Christensen, Tom Heinen, Clerk Diane Carpenter, Treasurer Marlys Balfany(online) Deputy Treasurer Erin Olson, Mike Jungbauer

Guests: Jason Ross, Mike Warring, Curt Carpenter, Billy Larson, AJ & Sandy Ondrey, Jeri Johnson, Ava Dack, Derek Hasek

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

M/S Todd Christensen/Tom Heinen to approve the minutes of the March 4, 2024 meeting as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Action Items**

Remaining action items

- Tom will check on shed turbine that is missing.
- Tom will look at the sound system.
- Trailer for gopher machine Todd
- Cameras for town hall

### **Approve Agenda**

M/S Todd Christensen/Tom Heinen to approve the agenda as amended. Motion passed unanimously.

-Russ and Ann Mann attended the meeting along with the ball players from Cambridge Isanti. They presented the board with donations totaling 3500.00 for ball field maintenance for the upcoming season. Projects coming up are new faces on the 2

scoreboards and buying another scoreboard. They have already raised 16,000.00 in donations for the scoreboard.

M/S Todd Christensen/Tom Heinen to approve a balance needed of 4800.00 to be paid from the park fund. Motion passed unanimously.

Mike Warring gave a county update.

### **Planning & Zoning**

-Mike brought up the issue of cell tower contracts as we have been offered another buyout. Marlys explained amounts. We still have 27 years on the current contract and their offers have never been to the benefit of the township. She will review the documents and we will discuss it at the next meeting.

-Mike is sent a letter to Ian Ebling which he received.

-We are waiting for parts to fix the sign.

-Several PH are scheduled for April. They are listed on the sheet you received. They include Loon Labs, a machine shop, a cement company, changes to the septage ordinance and the moratorium on Hwy 65. The base ordinance be passed and approved by the May 6<sup>th</sup> meeting.

-Mike asked for a scanner for Sandy to use. Tom volunteered his for use so that we do not need to buy one.

-Mike is finalizing the newsletter.

-Mike will be taking some days off and may not be at the April P&Z meeting.

M/S Todd Christensen/Tom Heinen to approve three P&Z work meetings to be scheduled at a later date. Motion passed unanimously.

M/S Dave Henderson/Todd Christensen to appoint Billy Larson temporarily to P&Z as Dean Thompson is unable to serve at the current time. Motion passed unanimously.

## **Roads**

-No update as Chris was unable to attend the meeting.

## **Fire**

Athens contributes 14% of the fire district budget. This year's amount is approximately 111,820.00. We had 62 calls in 2023 which is down due to the new triage system.

We completed the purchase of the Isanti fire station which was a five year buyout contract.

## **Parks**

- There was no meeting this month.

## **Clerk's Report**

-The PNP election was held and receipts submitted to the State of MN for reimbursement.

-All election supplies and equipment were returned to the auditor's office.

-Documents from the Annual meeting were filed with the Auditor's office for the 2025 levy.

-The board of review will be held on April 15<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM.

-MAT spring short courses have been rescheduled for April 22<sup>nd</sup> due to the snow storm.

-Diane worked on the board of audit report for the annual meeting.

-The annual meeting was held and the minutes are on file in the clerk's office.

Cleanup day is May 4<sup>th</sup>. Todd will get a price list and Tom and Jackie will work with Amy on food. Vicki from Evergreen will not be able to be there but they will try to send someone else.

Derek Hasek from Solar Stone spoke about a solar project that is being worked on for northern Athens township and farther north. It will cover 400 to 500 acres of land. Studies are currently being done. This is permitted by the state and not by the township. It is estimated to have a 35-year life span. It is a 75 to 100 million dollar project. There will be public input and it will not reduce the cost of our electricity in the area. They lease the land from land owners. Derek will attend the meeting next month to answer any additional questions we may have at that time.

**Treasurer's Report-**

M/S Todd Christensen/Tom Heinen to approve paying donations from the annual meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

M/S Tom Heinen/Todd Christensen to approve the Treasurer's Report, Claims List for Approval, and Net Pay Account Distribution Report & IRS (checks 8227-8271 plus IRS totaling 41,817.84).

Motion passed unanimously.

The clerk and the treasurer are in balance.

-Marlys went over the budget.

-Marlys needs a new printer.

M/S Todd Christensen/Tom Heinen to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 PM. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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Diane Carpenter

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Athens Township Clerk

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Date \_\_\_\_\_