

## **Minutes of the Regular Athens Town Board Meeting Held May 6, 2024 at the Town Hall**

Board members present: Dave Henderson, Todd Christensen, Tom Heinen, Chris Olson, Dave Beckstrom, Clerk Diane Carpenter, Treasurer Marlys Balfany, Mike Jungbauer

Guests: Jason Ross, Mike Warring, Billy Larson, Jose Pesina, Lyle Reynolds, Russell Holmes, Josh & Erica Rhoades, Tim Jensen, Jon & Cindy Anderson

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 April 1, 2024 meeting as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Action Items**

-Trailer for gopher machine Todd

Tom will get a bearing turbine for the shed roof.

We will not sell the cell tower contracts as we will get more if we go the long route and get monthly income.

### **Approve Agenda**

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

Russ stopped in to tell the board that MN Little League will be holding their tournament July 12-14 at our fields and the ones in Cambridge. This is for the 13 year-olds and there will be 32 teams participating. The final games will be held here.

Mike Warring gave a county update.

Lyle gave a county update.

### **Planning & Zoning**

-Jose Pessina Cruz attended the meeting regarding his IUP request for a roofing business.

M/S Dave Beckstrom/Todd Christensen to approve Resolution 2024-02 approving the IUP for Jose Cruz. Motion passed unanimously.

-Gabriel Hanson from Loon Labs attended the meeting. He answered questions for the board regarding his IUP.

M/S Todd Christensen/Dave Beckstrom to approve Resolution 2024-03 approving an IUP for Loon Labs. Motion passed unanimously.

-A discussion was held regarding adopting the Isanti County Septage Ordinance.

M/S Todd Christensen/Chris Olson to approve Ordinance 2024-01 amending chapter 20 Article IV. Motion passed unanimously.

M/S Tom Heinen/Todd Christensen to approve resolution 2024-04 approving the publication of a summary of the amendment.

Motion passed unanimously.

-Andrew Robinson attended the meeting regarding his request for an IUP for a cement business.

M/S Todd Christensen/Dave Beckstrom to approve Resolution 2024-05 granting an IUP to Andrew Robinson. Motion passed unanimously.

-A final discussion was held regarding the zoning ordinance for the commercial zoning of highway 65.

M/S Todd Christensen/Dave Beckstrom to approve Ordinance 2024-02 regarding business zoning in the commercial district.

Motion passed unanimously.

M/S Todd Christensen/Dave Beckstrom to approve Resolution 2024-06 approving summary publication of the ordinance.  
Motion passed unanimously.

-A final review was done on the next proposed phase of Jason Ross' project.

M/S Todd Christensen/Tom Heinen to approve Resolution 2024-07 regarding the next phase of the project. Motion passed unanimously.

-Derek Hasek from Solar Stone answered any remaining questions from board members regarding the proposed solar farm in the northern part of the township.

Steve Strandlund attended the meeting. He would like to give the township some parcels of land that are under the roadway of 245<sup>th</sup> Ave NE that the township doesn't own. Mike will have our attorney draft a deed and will also speak to Isanti County about the strip that is in foreclosure for a tax forfeit.

-Kari Newman is in violation of township ordinance for her riding arena. It was built under an ag permit and it should be commercial. The state advised that we should contact our attorney and refer the matter to the state code department.

Jon and Cindy Anderson and Russell Holmes attended the meeting to discuss their differences regarding dogs and the township animal ordinance. It was discovered that the ordinance is unclear as things are different in the regular vs commercial areas of the animal ordinance. The ordinance states that you may have four adult dogs per household or apply for and IUP to have more than that as a personal kennel. Andersons had complaints that the dogs bark continually. The issue was tabled for the time being.

There were no PH scheduled for May P&Z.

Parts for the sign repair are on backorder.

Todd Dooley requested our township attorney info. We do not give this out nor pay our attorney to have discussions with our residents.

Mike is having computer issues. Dave Beckstrom will help with this.

M/S Tom Heinen/Todd Christensen to approve up to 200.00 for computer repair. Motion passed unanimously.

Mike will call to have the fire extinguisher checked.

### **Roads**

-Chris clarified that we do not grade roads if it is too dry or if chloride has been applied.

-The grader is currently being repaired as we are having trouble with the gears.

-We will be graveling 273<sup>rd</sup> from Larch to Rum River.

### **Fire**

No fire report this month.

### **Parks**

-Funds for spring improvement projects were approved last year. There was a park meeting in April.

### **Clerk's Report**

-Diane contacted the state auditor's office about PNP reimbursement.

-The auditor's office has received our levy for 2025 and did find the cord for the election equipment that they stated was missing.

-Notices are up for upcoming filing for county and state elections.

-Diane gave out info on the upcoming legal seminar.

Todd gave a recap of cleanup day. It was suggested that we change the hours next year.

**Treasurer's Report**

M/S Tom Heinen/Dave Beckstrom to approve the Treasurer's Report, Claims List for Approval, and Net Pay Account Distribution Report & IRS (checks 8272-8299 plus IRS totaling 28,394.49).

Motion passed unanimously.

The clerk and the treasurer are in balance.

-Marlys went over the budget.

M/S Dave Beckstrom/Chris Olson to adjourn the meeting at 9:42 PM. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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Diane Carpenter Athens Township Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_