

## **Minutes of the Regular Athens Town Board Meeting Held October 7, 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: Janell Harwell, Pam Johnson, Jason Ross, Lyle Reynolds, Mike Warring, Eric Preifer, Billy Larson, Jack Cole

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 September 9, 2024 meeting as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Action Items**

Those remaining:

- Tom & Jason will locate survey stakes at Fred Cross Park.
- Dave B will check on getting the website to a .gov format.
- Chris will call the wild life science center regarding the disposal of dead animals from roads.

It was determined that we need some gravel at Anderson Park.

### **Approve Agenda**

M/S Chris Olson/Tom Heinen to approve the agenda as amended. Motion passed unanimously.

Lyle gave a county update.

Mike Warring gave a county update.

## **Planning & Zoning**

-We have until January 1 to do something with the Cannabis ordinance. Mike will rework the city of Isanti example to fit Athens Township needs. There will be a meeting at the town hall in Bradford on October 24<sup>th</sup> at 7PM of the Isanti Township Officers Association to discuss this issue.

-Zoning violations

Layton Beckwell has a forty foot container on his property and is also riding a four wheeler on Fred Cross Park land. Dave Beckstrom recommended that we send a trespass letter.

-Patrick Sandbothe has a shed and pool on neighbor's property. This is an issue that the citizen would take to court. The township is able to assess a zoning violation and the first round of fines.

-Dave Henderson, Tom Heinen and Mike will work on reviewing the first round of codification. Mike will let Diane know how much to pay them since every bill we get is a different amount.

-The sign has finally been fixed.

-Our community service person will work on the septic project for the park and we will negotiate with him for the use of his equipment to shave off hours.

-Kari Newman with the horse arena does not even meet Ag codes. We will send her a certified letter that all liability for any problems will not lie with the township. We recommend closing the facility. Mike will double check with MAT regarding our liability issues.

## **Roads**

-Grader extensions need maintenance.

-We will be doing fall grading shortly.

-We will be replacing the culvert on Packard.

-Tom Lundeen will be doing more storm cleanup. We will be recording storm cleanup costs since Isanti county has been declared a disaster area and we may receive some reimbursement.

## **Fire**

- A 2.5 percent wage increase is proposed in the new budget.
- A 2.5 percent overall increase has been proposed.

## **Parks**

- ADT has completed the security setup for the park and plans to do the shed and town hall this week. Fred Cross park has a lot of oak wilt. Tom will see about getting bids to take care of it.

## **Clerk's Report**

- Election judges must be approved by the board for November elections. Diane presented a list of the trained election judges. M/S Todd Christensen/Tom Heinen to appoint the list presented by the clerk as election judges for the November election. Motion passed unanimously.
- Diane called about changing the garbage service to winter billing.
- Diane called about the internet service for the town hall as we have not received a bill.
- Athens section of the ballot has been approved by the clerk, once corrections were made.

## **Treasurer's Report**

- M/S Todd Christensen/Tom Heinen to approve the Treasurer's Report, Claims List for Approval, and Net Pay Account Distribution Report & IRS (checks 8408-8444 plus IRS totaling 31,304.84). Checks 8422 and 8423 will be used for payroll next month. Checks 8421 and 8444 were voided. Motion passed unanimously. The clerk and the treasurer are in balance.
- Marlys went over the budget.

M/S Tom Heinen/Todd Christensen to adjourn the meeting at 8:18PM. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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Diane Carpenter

Athens Township Clerk

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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