

## **Minutes of the Regular Athens Town Board Meeting Held December 9, 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, Lyle Reynolds, Billy Larson, Curt Carpenter, Janet Schaak, Sandy & AJ Ondrey, John Lass, Tony Fontaine, Steve Strandlund Jr., Brionna & Everett Gray, Danie Arneberg, Eric Pfeifer, Josh Heppner

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

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

M/S Todd Christensen/ Tom Heinen to approve the minutes of the November 12, 2024 Board of Canvass meeting as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Action Items**

Those remaining:

- Mike will contact MAT regarding township liability for the horse arena.
- Tom & Jason will locate survey stakes at Fred Cross Park.
- Tom will see about getting bids to take care of the oak wilt at Fred Cross Park.
- Mike will help finish setting up the website.

## **Approve Agenda**

M/S Chris Olson/Todd Christensen to approve the agenda as amended. Motion passed unanimously.

Lyle gave a county update.

## **Planning & Zoning**

-Mike explained the Cannabis ordinance that has been put together with portions of the city of Isanti ordinance and the Isanti county ordinance. Only 4 locations will be allowed in Isanti county, based on population. Most regulations will be handled by the county. All P&Z members recommended passage with the 1000 ft setback change.

M/S Tom Heinen/Todd Christensen to approve ordinance 24-06 regarding the sale of cannabis products with changes made. Motion passed unanimously.

M/S Chris Olson/Tom Heinen to approve Resolution 24-14 to publish a summary of Ordinance. 24-06. Motion passed unanimously.

M/S Todd Christensen/Tom Heinen to approve Ordinance 24-07 prohibiting the use of cannabis products in public places. Motion passed unanimously.

M/S Tom Heinen/Todd Christensen to approve Resolution 24-15 to publish a summary of Ordinance 24-07. Motion passed unanimously.

M/S Todd Christensen/Chris Olson to approve Resolution 24-16, delegating authority for cannabis regulation to Isanti County. Motion passed unanimously.

-A discussion was held regarding the cameras at the town hall. Mike does not like them on while he is working. The consensus of the board was that the cameras will be left on for safety and security reasons. Resident Janet Schaak remarked that they could be a deterrent to the township being falsely accused of things.

Mike updated the board on violations that have been going on for a few months. We have issued a ticket to Patrick Sandbothe regarding his shed on the neighbor's property. The township will go no further with this.

Gail Gottwaldt's nephew is making progress on her cleanup. The St Hilaire property is slowly getting cleaned up. 27496 Polk has been sold, unfortunately to the guy that was storing his junk there.

There are no PH for December and we will not be holding a P&Z meeting since it would be so close to Christmas. Mike will be signing up for his 2025 CE classes soon.

### **Roads**

-Slow month for roads. We are still looking for someone to help with installing road signs.

### **Fire**

-It is a general consensus that Oxford should pay for using the fire station on Cty Rd 9. Dave Henderson has expressed this to the fire board.

### **Parks**

- Russ will be training Tom on the security system for the parks. We will need to know who will have access.

Lots of problems again at Anderson Park with hunting etc. Tom does have some new locks for the gates. Some suggestions were made such as automated gates, barriers, etc, many of which have been tried in the past to no avail. Barriers are moved, or driven around, people go in other ways, etc. Tony Fontaine pointed out that our ordinance prohibits firearms in parks. Tom is looking at cameras and stressed that we all need to work together.

### **Clerk's Report**

-All remaining election duties were completed and the board of canvass meeting was held on November 12<sup>th</sup> to certify the results of the local election.

-Please remember that the January meeting will be held on the 6<sup>th</sup>, with the Board of Reorganization preceding the regular board meeting at 6:30.

-If you are no longer a board member, please turn in your keys to Diane.

-If you know of or are promoting a candidate for the vacancy of Todd's seat, please have that person in attendance at the January meeting.

M/S Dave Beckstrom/Tom Heinen to accept Todd Christensen's resignation from the town board, effective January 2, 2025.

Motion passed unanimously.

Tom will be attending the MAT meeting in December.

### **Treasurer's Report**

M/S Chris Olson/Tom Heinen to approve the Treasurer's Report, Claims List for Approval, and Net Pay Account Distribution Report (checks 8459-8501 plus IRS totaling 35,158.42).

The clerk and the treasurer are in balance.

-Marlys went over the budget.

-P&Z is 46,691,29 in the red.

M/S Tom Heinen/Todd Christensen to transfer 50,000.00 from the General Capital Project Fund to Planning & Zoning. Motion passed unanimously.

M/S Todd Christensen/Chris Olson to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 PM. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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Diane Carpenter

Athens Township Clerk

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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