

## **Minutes of the Regular Athens Town Board Meeting Held January 6, 2025 at the Town Hall**

Board members present: Tom Heinen, Chris Olson, Jason Ross, Steve Strandlund Jr., Clerk Diane Carpenter, Treasurer Marlys Balfany (Remote), Deputy Treasurer Erin Olson, Mike Jungbauer

Guests: AJ & Sandy Ondrey, Todd Christensen, Janell Harwell, Billy Larson, Lyle Reynolds, Bill Stanley, Curt Carpenter, Craig Bjorklund and several residents that did not sign the sheet.

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM and the Pledge of Allegiance was waived, due to the Board of Reorganization meeting.

M/S Jason Ross/Steve Strandlund Jr to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2024 meeting as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Tom Heinen opened the floor for nominations to fill the vacant supervisor seat. Jason Ross nominated AJ Ondrey. No other nominations were made.

M/S Jason Ross/Chris Olson to appoint AJ Ondrey to the vacant supervisor seat. 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/Steve Strandlund Jr. to approve the agenda as amended. Motion passed unanimously.

Lyle gave a county update.

## **Planning & Zoning**

-Because of changes to the Board, we currently have two openings for P&Z. Nominations were as follows:

Billy Larson

Jackie Heinen

Bill Stanley

Josh Heppner

A vote was taken. The two highest vote getters were Billy Larson with 5 and Jackie Heinen with 3. Josh Heppner and Bill Stanley each received two. Josh was chosen as a P&Z alternate.

There was no P&Z meeting in December.

Allwayz Auto sales is a car repair shop. Now they are selling cars and our ordinance does not allow that. Mike will be sending them a fine for parking cars on the septic, etc and let them know with a warning that they are not allowed to sell cars.

The address on Rochester street is being cleaned up by the son, but he is currently in treatment.

We have still been unable to locate the person who purchased the property on Polk street.

There are no public hearings scheduled for January.

The septic for the ball fields is complete.

Mike has taken over working on the .gov website. He applied for it.

Lots of projects have been completed or almost completed in the past three years so costs for P&Z should decrease.

We may need to increase permit fees.

Mike is working on getting a newsletter sent out. Please send articles to Mike.

## **Roads**

-Slow month for roads. We are still looking for someone to help with installing road signs. We will also be ordering more soon. Janell has a couple of friends that might be interested in installation.

A resident requested a road sign at 249<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. Chris will check it out.

Some complaints were made about salting and sanding. We will work on doing better, especially on the tar roads.

Tyler Berres inquired about road bids and Chris let him know we will be sending them out in May. He obtained his contact info.

## **Fire**

-No fire report this month.

## **Parks**

- Russ will be training Tom on the security system for the parks.

We will need to know who will have access.

Curt and Russ will be burning the brush piles behind the town hall when we have enough snow cover.

## **Clerk's Report**

-All documents for funds spent on campaigning for the election have been filed.

-Please remember that the February meeting will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, with the Board of Audit meeting preceding the regular board meeting at 6:30.

- Keys have been exchanged and signed for.
- Township year end reports have been completed for the board of audit meeting.
- Oath of office forms and certificates of election have been issued and filed.

**Treasurer's Report**

M/S Chris Olson/Jason Ross to approve the Treasurer's Report, Claims List for Approval, and Net Pay Account Distribution Report (checks 8502-8519 plus IRS totaling 42,754.81).

The clerk and the treasurer are in balance.

-Marlys went over the budget.

A discussion was held regarding the levy for 2026. Expenses were discussed. Please review sheet as a discussion will be held at the next meeting.

M/S Jason Ross/Chris Olson to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 PM. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Diane Carpenter

Athens Township Clerk

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