

Minutes of the Regular Athens Town Board Meeting Held February 3, 2025 at the Town Hall

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

Guests: Todd Christensen, Lyle Reynolds, Bill Stanley, Curt Carpenter, Jackie Heinen

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

M/S Chris Olson/ Jason Ross to approve the minutes of the January 6, 2025 meeting as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Action Items

Those remaining:

- Mike will contact MAT regarding township liability for the horse arena.
- Tom will see about getting bids to take care of the oak wilt at Fred Cross Park.
- Mike will 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.

Todd gave a county update.

Planning & Zoning

-Bill Stanley wishes to split his lot so that the front part is commercial. This would be an administrative subdivision and was recommended unanimously by P&Z.

M/S Jason Ross/Chris Olson to approve the lot split. Motion passed unanimously.

-Mike brought up the issue of directional signs that need to be approved by the State. We have been declined three times in our request for the brown signs for the ball park.

-A discussion was held to decide whether comp plan members could include land owners that do not live in the township. The board was split on the issue and no decision was made.

-The property on Polk (wedding barn) was sold for bankruptcy. The guy that has the junk there is the person who bought it. Mike is working on the problem.

-The St. Hilaire property cleanup is being worked on.

-Mike brought up a few ideas regarding a facelift for the town hall.

-Dan Poppie is working on the Website.

-Please have articles for the newsletter to Mike by Feb 24th.

Roads

-Roads are in good shape. We will be installing two major culverts before we dustcoat.

-Bids for road maintenance will be posted and published in May for the June meeting.

-A discussion was held regarding ditch cleanup and hauling away the trash. No decision was reached.

Fire

-We have 29 firefighters currently but we need 40. 14% of calls were for Athens township this quarter.

- Oxford township is still using station three for their meetings but they are looking for other locations.
- A discussion was held about the blue address signs. Steve will get an updated price to install them in the township.

Parks

- Russ explained the new security system.
- Jason and Tom walked Fred Cross Park trails. A neighbor has a deer stand and is using the park. Mike will check if Lyle would be able to survey for accurate property lines. There is also a lot of oak wilt in the SW corner of the park.
- Anderson park – is there a way to improve water drainage to make the road more usable?

Clerk's Report

- All documents completed for the Board of Audit.
- Marlys and Diane have been investigating fraud on the checking account. We will be opening a new account.
- New board members have been added to the group life insurance. Diane will obtain beneficiary forms for everyone to fill out.
- Diane contacted board members about training for the Board of Appeals meeting.
- Board of Appeals April 14th at 7 PM.
- Annual meeting March 11th at 7 PM.
- Spring Short Courses St Cloud March 25th

Tom gave a recap of Capital Day.

Treasurer's Report

M/S Chris Olson/Steve Strandlund Jr. to approve the Treasurer's Report, Claims List for Approval, and Net Pay Account Distribution Report (checks 8520-8538 plus IRS totaling 16,311.97).

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. It will remain the same for 2026.

M/S Steve Strandlund Jr./Chris Olson to adjourn the meeting at 9:28 PM. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Carpenter

Athens Township Clerk

Date _____