

## **Minutes of the Regular Athens Town Board Meeting Held March 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, Billy Larson, Curt Carpenter, Dave Henderson, Lucas Chapman, Janell Harwell, Pam Johnson, Craig Bjorklund, Steve Hass

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 February 3, 2025 meeting as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Action Items**

Those remaining:

- Mike will contact MAT regarding township liability for the horse arena.
- Steve will get a price on blue 911 signs.

Bids for Fred Cross Park ranged between 15,000 to 25,000, depending on how far back they go. Trees may need to wait as they should be cut before April 15<sup>th</sup>.

Dan Poppie is coming this week to finish up the Website change to .gov.

## **Approve Agenda**

M/S Steve Strandlund Jr./Chris Olson to approve the agenda as amended. Motion passed unanimously.

Lyle gave a county update.

Todd gave a county update.

## **Planning & Zoning**

There will be a PH at the March P&Z meeting regarding Gabe Hanson and his cannabis extraction. P&Z was in favor of proceeding.

-The land near the tracks for the possible PUD was purchased by a different party.

-A discussion was held on whether landowners who are not residents could be on the comp plan committee.

M/S Jason Ross/Steve Strandlund Jr to approve nonresident landowners to serve on comp plan committee. Motion passed unanimously.

M/S Steve Strandlund Jr/Chris Olson to appoint Jason Ross to chair the comp plan committee. Motion passed unanimously.

The comp plan will need ideas to get a good start.

The same cleanup issues from the previous month are being worked on.

Always Auto has a mess again. Mike sent them a letter. If the issue is cleared up in three months, the fine will be waived.

Mike presented the board members with codification books. They are finishing it up with the legal review phase.

The newsletter is completed and has gone out to residents.

Mike will be taking a vacation soon and has 128 hours of vacation available.

## **Roads**

-Chris presented options on repairing the tar roads that need to be done this summer. Fahrner presented a quote for costs. A discussion was held on what to do with 249<sup>th</sup> since it has always been a problem because of the swampy land on both sides.

M/S Chris Olson/Jason Ross to use Fahrner for the repairs.

Motion passed unanimously.

M/S Chris Olson/Steve Strandlund Jr to go ahead with the repair plan which will cost approximately 105,000 excluding 249<sup>th</sup>.

Motion passed unanimously.

Chris and Steve will check out the condition of 249<sup>th</sup> and come up with a plan for its repairs.

Chris handed out copies of the road maintenance contract that will go out for bids that will be due at the April meeting.

M/S Chris Olson/Steve Strandlund Jr to post/publish the request for quotes, due at the April meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussions were held about paving this year.

M/S Chris Olson/Jason Ross to use MSA for paving project work up to 5000.00. Motion passed unanimously.

Some choices discussed were Pinto, 273<sup>rd</sup>, 276<sup>th</sup>, and 268<sup>th</sup>. Car counts were discussed along with residents living along these roads. A decision will be made at the next meeting regarding our paving choice.

We have been grading the last few warm days.

Three culverts are going in, two on Polk and one on 273<sup>rd</sup>.

## **Fire**

-Seven new firefighters have been hired and one left. A house south of the Green Barn will be burned this summer as a training exercise.

They are still working on changing the joint power agreement so that they can be allowed to charge residents for fire response.

## **Parks**

No report.

## **Clerk's Report**

- All regular duties were completed.
- Board of Appeals April 14<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM.
- Annual meeting March 11<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM.
- Spring Short Courses St Cloud March 25<sup>th</sup>
- Contacted the NM Benefit Association for beneficiary forms which are in your packet.
- Posted and published the annual meeting.
- Had a discussion regarding electronic poll books.
- Payroll claims are due for the first quarter by March 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Diane gave an overview of the open meeting law for new members.

Jackie and Tom Heinen will be doing the food for cleanup day.

## **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 8539-8551 plus IRS totaling 44,957.79).

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 Jason Ross/Steve Strandlund Jr. to adjourn the meeting at 9:46 PM. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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Diane Carpenter

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Athens Township Clerk

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Date

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