

ATHENS TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS
July 27, 2011 7:00 PM

Chairman Ronald Reagan called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM. Supervisors also present were Jack Walter, Cheryl Wood-Walter, Maurice Fay and Robin Smith. Attorney John Thompson was also in attendance.

Voice of the Residents:

Donald Jones of Bressler Street was present concerning the Williams Ford dealership at the end of his street. He said now that a new dealership is occupying this property, it is an opportunity to make it safer than it was previously. Right now traffic can enter anywhere along the 300' area from on Bressler Street east from Elmira Street. There are new vehicles on display that block the sight distance. He said there are curb-cuts off Elmira Street from which to enter the dealership, but the main "entrance" everyone uses is anywhere along that 300' stretch on Bressler Street from Elmira Street to the residential district. Mr. Jones has two suggestions: 1) abandon that 300' section of Bressler Street, giving that part to Williams and creating a cul-de-sac where Bressler would meet the dealership property. 2) Require Williams Ford to place curbing on the north and south sides of Bressler along their property, with specific curb cuts to designate entrance and exit points. He also stated we need some rigorous speed enforcement on Bressler Street. He would appreciate our consideration of these requests.

On motion of Cheryl, second by Maurice, it was unanimous to approve the minutes of June 28, June 29 and July 6, 2011 as written.

Robin presented the Chesapeake Athens Office Complex 4-lot subdivision by lease for review and approval. She explained this subdivision was initially approved as a 5-lot subdivision, but Chesapeake's plans have changed and they want to make this property a 4-lot subdivision instead. All deficiencies have been met. On motion of Robin, second by Jack, it was unanimous to grant preliminary and final plan approval to this 4-lot subdivision.

On motion of Jack, second by Maurice, it was unanimous to grant Walmart's request for a 90-day extension for their land development on Elmira Street. This will now expire on November 15, 2011.

On motion of Maurice, second by Cheryl, it was unanimous to grant Chesapeake's request for a 90-day extension for their Athens Office Complex Phase III land development on Mile Lane Road. This will now expire on October 29, 2011.

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Richard Bean was not present for the Parks Commission as they did not have a quorum at their meeting this month and no business was transacted.

On motion of Robin, second by Cheryl, it was unanimous to hire John Fives as the back-up groundskeeper for Barry Brosnan at John's recycling rate of pay.

On motion of Ron, second by Robin, it was unanimous to accept the resignation of Dean Morley as gatekeeper effective July 21, 2011.

On motion of Ron, second by Maurice, it was unanimous to ratify the hiring of John Fives as gatekeeper beginning July 21, 2011 at the rate of pay set by the Parks Commission.

Ray Brobst reported for the Public Works department. He said they are getting ready to chip roads. He will bring his list with cost estimates to the Board for approval.

Ron reported that he, Jack, Ray and Brad Cummings met with J. C. Christiansen at his property on Round Top Road on July 11th to discuss the clay bank problem at that location. They discussed what options were available as a fix to this. The most favorable scenario was to remove the trees from the top of the bank and seed the bank itself to try to stop the erosion. Ron said we need to get an agreement in place between the township and Mr. Christiansen before we do anything here. Robin asked how many trees we need to remove and we're not sure. It was decided to have Ray get with one of the tree removal companies to have them determine which trees should go and get a cost estimate for this work. The trees will be removed and the stumps will be left to help hold the bank. On motion of Jack, second by Ron, it was unanimous to have John Thompson draft an agreement between the township and the Christiansen's for the removal of the trees this fall and the re-seeding of the bank in the Spring.

On motion of Ron, second by Maurice, it was unanimous to send Mike Chilson and Bob Birks to the "Drainage: The Key to Roads That Last" LTAP class in Mansfield on August 9th and the "Unpaved and Gravel Roads" class in Mansfield on August 18, 2011.

Robin presented a resolution from Athens Township Authority (ATA) requesting their sewer line relocation for the Road C project be paid for from the Road C funding. We also received the agreement from Time Warner Cable for the relocation of their lines. On motion of Robin, second by Ron, it was unanimous

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to submit ATA's request, and to approve, sign and execute the agreement with Time Warner Cable.

As per Ray Brobst's recommendation, on motion of Robin, second by Cheryl, it was unanimous to participate in the 2011-2012 COSTARS salt contract (850 tons).

Next was the Landlord/Tenant ordinance. Jack Walter said he went to the last Tax Collection Committee meeting and Berkheimer is encouraging municipalities to adopt ordinances of this nature to help them in their collection of our Earned Income Tax (EIT). Ron asked who do we know that are landlords? How do we get this information? Jack said we have tax lists in the office – people who are listed for several parcels of land are probably landlords. Ron asked who we are going to get to enforce and keep track of all this? Jack said things are changing with this new collection system, and it would behoove us make it work. Ron said in the discussion last month, this was the employer's problem. How do we keep track of the people who are not permanent residents? They come and go so quickly. Cheryl said one problem is 'the border'. She works in NY, and her employer doesn't take the local tax out. She, as a resident, is responsible to see that she pays it herself. She has to pay it in good faith. Not everyone does that. Some people don't even know where the municipal lines are. Jack said we've got to do something to help the EIT move forward. He thinks we should try it, and as we see problems or errors, fix them. Ron asked who will enforce this? John said that will be the hardest part.

Phyllis Finch commented that the form looks like it's for an employer and she is not an employer. She asked if this will be just for moving forward, not for existing tenants and it will be for all tenants.

Roscoe Smith said the 911 readdressing is still a mess after all this time, and he feels this will be the same. Are single family homeowners going to be required to sign up their kids when they're 18? What is the purpose of this – it's just for the gas people. Jack said that's not true – it's universal across the board. Roscoe said in Binghamton, he has to do reports. We should be moving toward less government and we're just doing more. Cheryl said the problem is not just in PA. We're right on the border. A number of people work in NY and don't pay PA. Ron said we have more homework to do and will do it before the next meeting.

Gary Gregory complained that we only advertise one day in the Towanda paper and post it on the window. That needs to change. Cheryl directed him to contact his legislators who have made that the law.

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On motion of Ron, second by Maurice, it was unanimous to adopt RESOLUTION 2011-06 appointing Robin as the Designated Agent for the FEMA-4003-DR-PA disaster project.

On motion of Maurice, second by Ron, it was unanimous to ratify the burning ban for the township effective July 21, 2011 and continuing until further notice.

On motion of Ron, second by Maurice, it was unanimous to purchase two American flags and one State flag for the 199 bridge. The flags will be installed by the Athens Township Volunteer Fire Company.

On motion of Robin, second by Maurice, it was unanimous to apply for the Lighting Retrofit Mini-Grant Opportunity through Northern Tier Regional Planning and Development Commission in the amount of \$2000 (maximum) at a 50/50 match.

On motion of Ron, second by Cheryl, it was unanimous to release the funding for the Spalding Memorial Library. The financial statement has been received. Maurice voted yes, but "with reservation".

On motion of Cheryl, second by Maurice, it was unanimous to appoint Ruth Casterline as the primary authorized representative for matters with Berkheimer Tax Administrator, Inc., Robin as the alternate authorized representative for the same, Ron Reagan as the Political Subdivision authorized signatory for the same; and to approve, sign and execute the paperwork designating Berkheimer as the Earned Income Tax Collector for Athens Township, including RESOLUTIONS 2011-07 and 2011-08.

On motion of Maurice, second by Cheryl, it was unanimous to hire Pauline "Penny" Estabrook as the back-up for the cleaning position at the rate of \$10 per hour. Penny will work when our permanent cleaning person is not available.

Discussion was held about having a picnic for the volunteers on our township boards up at Round Top Park. The date of September 14, 2011 at 6 PM was set for this picnic. The township will provide meat, beverages and table service and will ask everyone to bring a dish to pass.

On motion of Maurice, second by Cheryl, it was unanimous to accept the monthly reports as presented.

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On motion of Jack, second by Maurice, it was unanimous to approve the payment of the monthly bills as presented. A complete listing of revenues and expenditures is on file in the office of the Treasurer.

Correspondence/Information was as listed in the meeting agenda.

The Board discussed the fact that we have not received the agreement from Tennessee Gas Pipeline that we were supposed to have regarding their location in the business park, nor do we have the required paperwork from NOMAC that we were supposed to have by December 31, 2010. On motion of Ron, second by Robin, it was unanimous to direct Attorney Thompson to send a letter to both companies requiring their compliance in these matters.

Attorney Thompson requested an executive session for pending litigation. Chairman Reagan took the Board into executive session at 8:17 PM. The regular meeting reconvened at 9:06 PM.

Ron advised the Board that PENNDOT had rejected the construction inspection engineer (CECO Associates) that was chosen by the Consultant Selection Committee for the Thomas Avenue Bridge project. The Committee was required to meet again to choose another engineering firm. They chose the third-ranked firm, which was Dawood Engineering of Sayre. On motion of Ron, second by Robin, it was unanimous to approve Dawood as the firm to be considered by PENNDOT for the construction inspection engineer on this project.

There being no further business, on motion of Cheryl, second by Robin, it was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin L. Smith
Secretary