

ATHENS TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS

August 28, 2013 7 PM

Chairman Maurice Fay called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM. Supervisors also present were Ronald Reagan, Christine Vough and Jack Walter. Cheryl Wood-Walter was out of town. Solicitor John Thompson and Secretary Robin Smith were also in attendance.

Voice of the Residents – None

Chuck Bement, Chief of Greater Valley EMS was present to discuss their request for \$7,342.00 towards the purchase a new \$25,000 breathing air compressor. Their old one is over 30 years old. They are approaching 6 of the municipalities they service for a per capita donation. He said they are the only service that provides mobile service to fire scenes and the dive team. This compressor refills the air packs they use. Christine said Athens Township Volunteer Fire Company purchased a new truck that has the capacity to refill tanks. Chuck asked if it was portable and Christine said it was. Chuck stated, however, that the fire personnel should be fighting the fires, not filling air packs. Maurice said we will take this request under consideration. Chuck thanked the Board.

Ray Brobst reported for the Public Works department. He said they are still plugging away at their road work. They have graveled the bad spots on Sunnyfield Drive. Maurice said he got a call today about the blacktop they took up. Ray said they will be putting calcium down on Friday. He said the water truck blew a piston and they've taken the tank off and put it on one of the dump trucks. He said we should junk the old truck.

On motion of Ron, second by Jack, it was unanimous to rename King Lane from Wilawana Road west to Lamoka Road and Road C north from Lamoka Road to Wilawana Road to King Road. John will prepare the ordinance for our next meeting.

Richard Bean was present for the Parks and Recreation Commission. The PVC pipe around the swing sets on Round Top and around the playground equipment at the Jim King Park is complete (Eagle Scout project). He has 2 other Eagle projects in the works. The Park Pond project was to come to the Supervisors tonight for approval, but they have more changes to make. They will be submitting the changes for the September meeting. We need to start a financial campaign for this project. He has met with Northern Tier Regional Planning so far about this. He said Clint Callear will be our forester for this project. He will be getting an estimate on the value of the lumber that will be removed and find someone to buy the trees. We will also hire Barry to grind the tops for mulch. He will do this during the winter. Clint will also inspect the rest of our woodlands for the oak bore that we had back in 1995. Cindy is working on the park brochure. Meade Murtland has provided the pictures. Mattison Tree Service has removed three trees from Jim King Memorial Park. We will also be looking for someone else to put the Christmas Star up (and take it down) at Round Top. Mattison's charges \$350 to place the star.

Ron presented the Raven Holding Co., Inc. 2-lot subdivision located off Wilawana Road in the Valley Business Park for preliminary and final plan approval. All deficiencies

have been met. The only issue left now is the sewer. The developer's engineer has met with Mary Neiley of Bradford County Sanitation Committee and she has outlined what needs to be done for temporary sewer. That will be handled with the land development. This is just the 2-lot subdivision. On motion of Ron, second by Christine, it was unanimous to grant preliminary and final plan approval to this subdivision.

Patrick Musto was present for Athens Township Authority (ATA). He said the developer's engineer had met with Valley Joint Sewer Authority and they have issued a capacity letter to them. ATA is drafting an agreement for them to be on holding tanks. Once the agreement is ready they will give them options on the fees. Hunt Engineers seemed agreeable to what is needed. They will need to complete a Component II for DEP. They should have sewer by the time Dresser Rand comes. Ron asked if Seaboard will still be using the port-a-johns and he was not sure. The financial package was finalized 2 weeks ago for the sewer upgrade project. The engineering is 60% complete. They are working on the necessary permits. The Act 537 update has been approved by ATA, and has been advertised for approval by the Supervisors at their meeting on September 25th. They are hoping to start the project the end of this year, weather permitting and should be done by early 2015 at the latest. Since this is an emergency, he's hoping all the agencies will expedite the permits.

Dr. Musto then asked if this is his chance to beg for money. He restated ATA's request. He said 80% of the residents are on sewer. He said they are looking at \$60-\$80/year increase in user fees. He said if we gave them all the Act 13 money their rates would go down \$200/year. Greens Landing is at a stand-still. They need to do an engineering study for that area.

On motion of Ron, second by Jack, it was unanimous to approve the minutes of July 31st and August 12, 2013 as written.

Ron Reagan attended the Western Bradford COG annual dinner meeting and said Code Inspections, Inc. is requesting a rate increase, which he has included for the Board's review. The COG will either approve or disapprove at their next meeting, so please get any comments/concerns to Ray Stolinas by the end of September. They have not had a rate increase in 5 years. This will be enacted November 1, 2013 if approved.

Robin reported that we have received the 2012 Spalding Memorial Library financial statements. On motion of Christine, second by Ron, it was unanimous to release the funds for the library.

On motion of Maurice, second by Jack, it was unanimous to bid out the 2 old police cars and the old water truck chassis.

On motion of Ron, second by Christine, it was unanimous to reappoint Rita Jo Swingle to the Zoning Hearing Board for a term to expire September 9, 2016.

Robin presented the 2014 Minimum Municipal Obligation for the Police Pension Plan (\$139,253) and the Non Uniform Pension Plan (\$93,598) for review by the Board. There was a slight increase in both plans this year, but not as large as last year. We will also be receiving a bit more in state aid. On motion of Jack, second by Ron, it was unanimous to approve RESOLUTION 2013-10, eliminating employee contributions to the plans for 2014.

We had allotted \$90,000 for the purchase of the new police cars, and the invoice came to \$92,632.78. On motion of Christine, second by Maurice, it was unanimous to pay this overage from the Act 13 funds we received this year.

Robin said Ruth is looking for direction from the Board as to what fund she should use to pay the Webster invoice for the roof in the amount of \$31,590.95. Discussion was held. Maurice suggested the \$30,000 we budgeted for crushing could be used to pay this. Jack said he thought he'd have enough crushed material in the pit for this year, but we went through it quickly. He said he needs to crush this year. Jack said the only discretionary fund we have that we could pay that from would be the Act 13 money. He wants that for resurfacing his roads, but under the circumstances, he thinks we should use the Act 13 money. He said we do need to replace the roller. There are some really nice ones out there, but if we need one, we'll rent one. Robin said you would have to bid out the lease if there's a possibility it will go over the bidding threshold, and John Thompson agreed. Jack said the one company they are looking to lease from would put all the lease payments towards the purchase price of the roller. Maurice asked the Board if they have decided on what account we will be using to pay the Webster invoice. Christine asked what he thinks we should do. On motion of Ron, second by Maurice, it was unanimous to pay the Webster invoice out of this year's Act 13 money.

Greater Valley EMS's request was considered at this time. Chuck Bement said they will still have to fill our fire company's tanks. On motion of Jack, second by Ron, it was unanimous to give \$7,342 to GVEMS as our per capita cost for their breathing air compressor replacement. Ron asked if the other valley municipalities were on board. Chuck said Athens Borough has approved their share, Sayre has given it to committee, and he will be attending meetings with the others.

Christine said she has given great consideration and thought to the sewer authority's request for Act 13 money. She said it is in our best interest to help the residents and give money to the sewer authority. Jack suggested \$50,000. Christine said that is reasonable. She feels the residents that are on sewer should get some relief from rate increases and

added that school taxes are also being raised this year. Robin asked if we will need to raise township taxes this year and Christine said we don't know that yet. Jack asked if there was any indication as to how much Act 13 money we would get next year and Robin said none whatsoever, and added there is a challenge to the law requiring the impact fee again. Robin asked how much the resident's rates would be lowered with the \$50,000 and Dr. Musto said maybe they'll do the Greens Landing engineering study instead and not 'refund' it to the residents. Christine made the motion to give \$50,000 of the Act 13 money to Athens Township Authority. The motion was seconded by Jack and passed. Ron Reagan voted no.

Christine said she thinks we should give some of the Act 13 money to the Park Commission for their pond enlargement project. She said Richard mentioned a cost of \$836,000 and there are a few phases to complete. No action was taken.

On motion of Ron, second by Maurice, it was unanimous to allocate \$30,000 of this year's Act 13 money towards the purchase of a township vehicle to replace the zoning vehicle. This brings the total set aside for this vehicle to \$45,000.

Ron had been researching the smaller dump truck for the public works department. He said you can get the chassis for a Ford 450 or 550 for \$46-50,000, and around \$56,000 without the plow. Jack said that truck can wait – we have road surfaces that need to be done. The Board will need to decide. There are roads that need it. We need to prioritize. Discussion was held on the Vestal Asphalt estimate for 5 roads (Round Top Road, Bressler Street, Murray Creek Road, Moore Road and Pennsylvania Avenue) in the amount of \$156,154.24 for materials only. Equipment cost to complete the job would be \$5,500/day. Christine said Jack and the township got with Litchfield. They heard from the residents. They can pull it together and get it done. Jack said this year Erin Road needs to be addressed before winter. We need to grind it up and put a new surface on it. Ron asked where the 2 bridges are that are being replaced and Jack said Tom Taylor bridge and Highland Drive. He has \$100,000 for it, but thinks it will be a lot less – there is plenty of money to do it. He wants to do Tom Taylor bridge first. Ron said we need to have engineering done (H & H study) and do the permits. It's now September and we'll be looking at the end of October. Jack and Maurice said we don't need to do the engineering, it was done for the Meadowlark bridge. Robin said the bridge is in a FEMA study area and it needs to be engineered. They need to talk with Eddie about this. Robin asked if Jack wants to put any of the Act 13 funds towards a grader? A roller? Replacing the trucks you can't get parts for any more? Jack said he'd rather put the money into the roads. We can go another year with the grader. Ron said he thinks we should put the money towards roads in general – Road C, Wilawana/Mile Lane corridor, Greens Landing.... Discussion was held. On motion of Ron, second by Jack, it was unanimous

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to put the remaining Act 13 monies (approx. \$211,000) towards unspecified road work, and it will require board approval before anything is spent out of it.

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

On motion of Ron, second by Christine, it was unanimous to approve the payment of the monthly bills as presented. A complete list of revenues and expenditures is on file in the office of the treasurer.

Correspondence/Information was as presented in the meeting agenda.

On motion of Ron, second by Jack, it was unanimous to have Ed attend the Susquehanna Greenway River Towns Workshop on September 30th from 10 – 4 PM in Bloomsburg and to pay his expenses and his salary for the time he would have worked..

On motion of Ron, second by Maurice, it was unanimous to have Ed attend the PA Floodplain Managers Fall Conference on October 23rd and 24th at PSATS and to pay his expenses and his salary for the time he would have worked.

The Board set October 8th at 6 PM for the first budget workshop.

Chairman Fay took the Board into executive session at 8:45 PM for pending litigation. The secretary was included in the executive session until 9:08, when she was excused. The regular meeting reconvened at 9:58 PM and the remaining minutes were taken by Ronald Reagan.

The Board had received a letter from the police department concerning a request from the fire company to have some excess used emergency lighting and equipment the police no longer need from the old Tahoe. The Board agreed to this request. Discussion was also held about issuing a key to GVEMS for Round Top Park. It was decided that GVEMS can contact the township office and sign out a key when they are holding training in the park.

There being no further business, on motion of Christine, second by Ron, it was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 10:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin L. Smith, Secretary