

ATHENS TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS

February 26, 2014 7 PM

Chairman Maurice Fay called the meeting to order at 7 PM. Supervisors Susan Seck, Christine Vough, Cheryl Wood-Walter and Ronald Reagan were also present. Solicitor John Thompson and Secretary Robin Smith were also in attendance.

Chairman Fay called for the opening of the bids for 2000 Tons of Type 6S antiskid, delivered to the township yard as needed:

Porter's Sand and Gravel	\$ 9.98/ton
Eastern Industries, Inc.	\$12.27/ton
Glenn O. Hawbaker, Inc.	\$17.71/ton

On motion of Cheryl, second by Christine, it was unanimous to award the bid to Porter's Sand and Gravel.

Aaron Brotzman of Weaver Road said the trucks still aren't working well. Our equipment is not up to par. Christine said she received several of Aaron's calls and our trucks will be calibrated this Friday at no cost to us through LTAP.

Voice of the Residents:

Maurice introduced Frank Pilling of Empire Access/North Penn who spoke about a proposed cable franchise for the township. They will offer phone, broadband internet and cable through a fiber optic network they are currently installing. They expect to be operational in about 30 days. Their service area in Athens Township will be east of Route 220 to start. They are part of North Penn Telephone and their 'triple package' costs usually \$20-\$30 less per month than Time Warner. They have to get their core area up and running and then will look at branching out. Cheryl asked if they will have a local office and they have leased space at 140 Desmond Street. Susan asked how far east they will go and they will not cross the Susquehanna at this point. They will consider branching out into higher density areas after they are established. Randy Harford asked if they will be out of our pipes and right-of-way (ROW) and they will be. They want to work with us. John Thompson said he has reviewed the proposed franchise agreement and wants to go over it with the Board so they will be able to make a decision. One of his concerns is road access. They said typically their lines will be aerial, but if they do need to cross the road, they will bore instead of cut. Randy asked if they have a set of rules about pipes, depths, etc. He said here they don't do nothing right. Frank said they want to do it right and work with us. John will review this proposal with the Board and Robin will contact them with a decision.

Aaron Brotzman of Weaver Road asked how many times they are going to tar and chip Highland Drive before they fix it right. He said you've done it three times and patched it once. It needs to have a base. Christine said we are waiting to assess the roads

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after the thaw, then we will set a plan for the summer work. She said she drove out there with Randy last Saturday to look at it. Aaron asked what is being done to prepare for the upcoming storm this weekend. Things need to be done ahead of time. The ditches need to be cleared so the water will have somewhere to go besides the road. Ralph Blowers said there's not too much they can do ahead. Aaron said you can use the grader like they used to and drive the tire up the ditch to clear it. Ralph said with the last melt the snow in the ditches turned to slush and acted like a dam. Aaron said there's a thaw coming up. You're going to lose some roads. Randy said they need another wing plow. Aaron said you need to spend the tax money on the roads and not give \$50,000 away here, \$100,000 away here – use it on your roads!

Maurice asked John Thompson if he has anything to say to Mr. Hafer and John said they will discuss it in executive session. Maurice asked Dave Hafer if he had any questions for the Board and he asked when it is going to happen. Maurice said we will find out tonight. He said he will let Mr. Hafer know.

Richard Bean, Chairman of the Parks and Recreation Commission, said they have received some financial help from some of the Athens Township businesses. Northern Tier Regional Planning is writing 2 grants for the park. They will begin the park expansion project in the Spring and hope to use volunteers. The brochures are done and look great. The Fire Company has taken down the star and the highway department needs to bring it back to the building. Richard said we had 4 churches reserve pavilions for sunrise services on Round Top. The Parks Commission has decided they will just ask the churches for a "donation" if they're there just for an hour or so for a sunrise service. Robin asked if they would pay a fee if they reserve for other times or events. Richard said the churches would have to pay any other time the park is open. Round Top Park will officially open on May 10th. Barry will start April 7th. Barry also left a message that the park road is breaking up.

Ron had attended the COG meeting on Monday and had a packet of brochures and information from the Endless Mountains Visitor's Bureau (EMVB) that included a list of grants they have given out. He asked Richard Bean if the Parks Commission has ever applied to them for a grant. Richard said they do not qualify because they don't advertise outside of the Valley, but they hope to meet that criteria soon. Ron said the Commissioners want to split from EMVB and use those funds to improve the image of Bradford County, but they need 51% of the municipalities to approve that split before it can happen. Richard asked the board to think about where the new franchise money will be spent, since they will be competition for Time Warner, and the Parks rely heavily on the franchise monies they receive.

Dr. Musto was not present to report for Athens Township Authority.

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Randy Harford said, getting back to Mr. Brotzman, we put 3 feet of fill in the park road. We are building deep with fill. Stone and oil doesn't hold. It's crumbling on every road. Bradley road is entirely gone. Oil and chip nowdays is water based. Not worth using it. Randy and Aaron continued their discussion.

Maurice said we've got to move on with this meeting. Aaron Brotzman told Maurice, "Hey! He (Randy) had the floor and was talking to me!" Maurice said the Board has been told about the equipment and the roads. Christine is in charge. Give her a chance.

Christine presented an email from Greg Dibble of PennDOT stating there is no additional signage needed at the Wilawana Road/White Wagon Road intersection and that he recommended increased enforcement at that intersection.

Christine said it has come to her attention that she has not explained her recent "No" votes. She said she voted no for the employees to go home early with pay on Christmas Eve because she doesn't believe the tax payers should be paying for that. She said she voted no for Robin "getting the day off with pay" to go to the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors standing committee meeting because she has numerous responsibilities here at the township and doesn't need to take on additional responsibilities on taxpayer money.

On motion of Maurice, second by Ron, it was unanimous to approve the minutes of January 29th and February 11, 2014 as written.

On motion of Christine, second by Cheryl, it was unanimous to have Robin bid fuel and Randy quote pipe, blocks and calcium – and have Robin bid the crushing to be completed no later than May 15, 2014.

Robin asked if the rest of the Board had followed-up with Ruth on the Positive Pay program. No one had. Ron did last month and pulled out the information he had on this program for the Board. He said it was \$75/month. Cheryl and Christine think \$75/month is pretty steep. The Board will wait another month so they can get with Ruth. Cheryl said that would give them another month to find out if other municipalities use this service. Susan asked if this was just with C & N and it is. Ralph Blowers suggested they check with M & T to see if they offer this as well.

On motion of Ron, second by Maurice, it was unanimous to have Maurice and Cheryl sign the IDP grant extension documents.

Monthly reports were presented. There was no fire report. On motion of Christine, second by Cheryl, it was unanimous to accept the monthly reports submitted as presented, and to hold the fire company check until we receive the past due report.

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On motion of Ron, second by Maurice, it was unanimous to pay the monthly bills as presented. A complete list of revenues/expenditures is on file in the Treasurer's office.

Aaron Brotzman asked why we give a check to the fire company. Are they paid now and not volunteers? He said they send him a request for a donation every year – does that mean he can just throw that out? They should be raising their own funds. Ron said we don't give them enough to cover their expenses. Aaron asked if a citizen can make a motion and he was told no. He asked if someone on the Board would make it for him and he was told no. He asked the Board to not spend their 'surplus' (Act 13 funds) before the end of the year so they can make sure they cover their own expenses before handing it out to others. Cheryl said her position was to let them line up and then we'll decide after we review our budget, but she is only one person. Aaron said you should wait until you know before you give it away. You gave almost \$100,000 to the fire company. These guys asked for a roller. Is that in the budget? Discussion continued.

Robin had received 2 webinar offerings: "The Importance of a Traffic Sign Inventory" and "Introduction to PA's New Mutual Aid System for Emergency Management Coordinators". Robin had sent an email to Keith Stackhouse (our EMC) but had not heard back from him. Ed and Robin, as Deputy EMCs, are both interested in the emergency management webinar. The traffic sign inventory webinar should be attended by someone in the highway department to get the update on the June, 2014 deadline for sign compliance. On motion of Ron, second by Maurice, it was unanimous to do both webinars.

Chairman Fay took the Board into executive session at 8:20 PM for pending litigation and personnel. The secretary was excused at this time and the remaining minutes were taken by Ronald Reagan. The regular meeting reconvened at 9:38 PM.

On motion of Maurice, second by Susan, it was unanimous to have John Thompson send a letter to Hafer's regarding the water test.

On motion of Ron, second by Maurice, it was unanimous to have John Thompson contact General Certified Appraiser, Richard Drzewiecki, to conduct an appraisal on the Rosh condemnation.

On motion of Christine, second by Maurice, it was unanimous to set a meeting with the union contract negotiator on March 19th or 20th at 6:30 PM.

There being no further business, on motion of Cheryl, second by Maurice, it was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 9:48 PM.

Respectfully submitted,