

ATHENS TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS

October 4, 2016 6 PM

Chairman Cheryl Wood-Walter called the meeting to order at 6:10 PM. Supervisors also present were Ronald Reagan, Christine Vough, George Ballenstedt and Susan Seck. Solicitor John Thompson, Secretary Robin Smith and Treasurer Ruth Casterline were also in attendance.

Voice of the Residents: None

Roger Clink was present to discuss some contract issues. He said they (members of the police department) used to always receive all their vacation days in January. Ruth started calculating it differently some time ago. Ruth said she has to go by their contract now, and they get their vacation on their anniversary date. Roger said they should get their vacation in January and if you're do for an increase in your vacation time that year, you get THAT on your anniversary date. Ruth said the contract doesn't read that way. Roger said a good part of the department doesn't agree with that.

Cheryl said the old contract was not with the Teamsters, so we have to now do things as the Teamsters contract reads. We can't just take a vote. It's a contract thing. George asked if they had talked to their union rep and Roger said no.

Roger said under the old system they would get 10 days in January. George said in reality, if you get 15 days in October, you can use them for the next year. Roger said they have been "taken out of rhythm" – he is out of vacation days but his anniversary date is in October so he will get more soon.

Ron asked how many officers have 15 years in and it is all but one or two. John Thompson said there is no ambiguity here. You may not have understood what the union negotiated for you. Cheryl said in section 1305, it uses the word "shall" concerning calculating your time at your anniversary date. Roger said that means you get your new days on your anniversary date and then get the rest of your days again on January 1st.

Ruth said prior to the Teamsters, you got your days in January. Roger said some would disagree. He said it depends on how you read it. It's not black and white. He says 'calculating' means determining the amount.

George asked can you manage your vacation over the year? Roger said they use their days in default. He said some get their days in December and then get reset in January. That doesn't happen anymore. Last year was a concern. Even Chief thought they had to use them or lose them by the end of December.

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Ruth told Roger he has 19 days carried over. Roger said those are for emergencies. George said it's still time you can take as you want. Ron asked what happens now after December and Roger said they still use their days in default.

Roger says they see it one way and we see it another way. He said he agrees that Ruthie has a defense the way it's written. It's a matter of perspective.

Roger said they also have concerns about the pay holdover. He told the Board that they may or may not know that the police department is not happy about it and wants to know if there's anything we can do about it. Ruth explained that if we have direct deposit, the bank needs to have the calculated payroll 2 days prior to deposit. Ruth also needs time to calculate it, which takes her 1-2 days. Roger asked why the employees have to sacrifice a week's pay. Robin explained that they aren't "sacrificing" a week's pay, and explained what is truly happening with this deferred week. Roger said he would appreciate it if the Board considered their requests.

Bruce Benish was present to discuss the Gerald J./Julie A. Stack waiver request to allow the septic system that services the lot they are subdividing on Ridge Road to be located on the neighboring lot. On motion of Ron, second by George, it was unanimous to grant the waiver contingent upon the recorded deed with the easement being included in the file. Christine also voted in favor. Susan and Cheryl abstained as they were absent from the September 28th meeting.

Susan said Jeanne from Paychex contacted her to say we have no contract with them and can drop our service agreement any time. She will send that in writing. John Thompson will follow up with a letter from the Board.

Our direct deposit will now be done through Citizens and Northern Bank at no cost to the township IF we open a Municipal Gold Checking account and keep a minimum \$50,000 balance in the account. We will be closing our Municipal Money Market account and depositing those funds into the Gold account. On motion of George, second by Christine, it was unanimous to complete these transactions.

On motion of Ron, second by Susan, it was unanimous to reject the bids received on September 28, 2016 for antiskid and rebid it for our October 26th meeting, stating that the material does NOT have to be PennDOT approved. Cheryl was not present for the vote.

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On motion of Ron, second by Cheryl, it was unanimous to reappoint Scot Saggiomo to the Planning Commission for a term to expire October 30, 2020.

On motion of Cheryl, second by George, it was unanimous to replace Robin's office computer with the new computer quoted by Kai Pan Consulting.

No action was taken on the notary renewal.

Susan received a quote in the amount of \$7,000 - \$8,400 for striping the 1.98 miles of King Road. The quote was from a firm in Endicott. The Board would like her to also get a quote from Hawbakkers and PennDOT. On motion of Cheryl, second by Ron, it was unanimous to approve Susan to move forward with the striping of King Road for an amount not to exceed \$8,000.

Robin said there had been a few issues at recycling lately, one being which employees can take the 5-cent recyclable cans/bottles for themselves. Discussion was held. On motion of Cheryl, second by Christine, it was unanimous that all 5-cent recyclables be put in the containers to be recycled with the other cans/bottles so that the township will receive the funds from them.

At this time we began the budget workshop.

There being no further business, on motion of Ron, second by Cheryl, the meeting adjourned at 8:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin L. Smith
Secretary