



ATHENS TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
ATHENS TOWNSHIP HALL

JANUARY 3, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor S Irons. Present were Clerk Deb Denney, Deputy Clerk Amy Heath, Trustee Steve Tuttle, Supervisor Steve Irons, Treasurer Mike Irons Zoning Administrator Phillip Goodrich, Deputy Fire Chief JR Brunner, and Sherry and Greg Amaro. Trustee Cliff Denney was absent.

Motion by M Irons 2nd by Tuttle to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Motion by Tuttle 2nd by D Denney to approve the minutes from the December 2022 meeting. Motion carried.

S Irons and Tuttle have a meeting with the road commission on the 10th of January. The meeting will be held at the Indian Reservation with the Tribe being involved. The road commission will do road repairs at a 50/50 split. They will do \$100,000 on road repairs every other year.

Motion by M Irons 2nd by Tuttle to budget \$100,000 for our share of the road repairs this next fiscal year. Motion carried.

S Irons will check to see exactly what they are planning.

Civil Engineer Randy Ramsey, JR Brunner, Casey Brunner, and Mike Alverson met to discuss the drain situation in the southeast corner of the Village. They discussed a lot of different ideas. M Irons suggested that we should split the cost with the Village and get some bore holes done.

Matt Yoder might be able to work a "Pond" low spot and put a berm on one side to stop the water from going any farther.

Motion by D Denney 2nd by Tuttle to table the flood/water situation until the February meeting. Motion carried.

Michigan employment law is possibly going to have some changes in regards to part-time employees having paid sick time.

Brunner reported on the fire board meeting. See attached.

Goodrich reported on the planning commission meeting. See attached.

Motion by M Irons 2nd by Tuttle to get someone to help Goodrich do permits at \$21.00 per hour. Motion carried.

Missy Irons reported on the library board meeting. See attached.

S Irons asked about getting new tables or get someone to put the molding around them.



M Irons reported on the treasurer's report.

Motion by Tuttle 2nd by D Denney to accept the treasurer's report and place it on file as presented. Motion carried.

Motion by Tuttle 2nd by D Denney to pay accounts payable in the amount of \$103,560.47. Motion carried.

See the attached regarding the Metro Act Permit, Right-of-way Telecommunications Permit.

Motion by M Irons 2nd by Tuttle to communicate with Josh in Attorney Catherine Kauffman's office with questions about the Midwest Energy Cooperative. Motion carried.

Attorney Kauffman verified that it is ok for Phillip Goodrich to sit on the Board of Review even if he is the zoning administrator.

Motion by D Denney 2nd by M Irons to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Debera Denney, Township Clerk

APPROVED

ATHENS TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
ATHENS TOWNSHIP HALL

FEBRUARY 7, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor S Irons. Present were Clerk Deb Denney, Deputy Clerk Amy Heath, Trustee Steve Tuttle, Supervisor Steve Irons, Trustee Cliff Denney, Treasurer Mike Irons, Assessor Marcia Bail, Library Director Missy Irons, Zoning Administrator Phillip Goodrich, Patrick Hudson from South Central Planning Commission, Deputy Chief JR Brunner, Village President Mike Alverson, Jan Mango, Rick Salyer, Julie VanDermeer, Sherry and Greg Amaro, and Prosecuting Attorney Gilbert.

Motion by M Irons 2nd by Tuttle to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Motion by Tuttle 2nd by M Irons to approve the minutes from the January 2023 meeting with the correction that Steve Irons and Steve Tuttle also attended the meeting with the Civil Engineer. Motion carried.

Tuttle and S Irons met with the road commission at the Tribal Offices. The estimate for Skip & Chip from where the road commission stopped on O Drive South around the curve onto 3 1/2 Mile stopping at Q Drive South is approximately \$1,000,000. This is a first come first serve program.

Re-graveling will cost \$15,000 per mile for 3" of gravel. Asphalt will cost \$80 to \$120 per ton but we don't have an answer as to which cost it will be, therefore, our estimate has been figured with \$120 per ton being used. See the engineer's opinion of costs for W Drive South – M-66 to gravel Rd – chip seal – 0.511 miles and O Drive South 3.5 miles – 2 MR to Q Drive South – skip and chip – 1.949 miles.

Motion by M Irons 2nd by Tuttle to allocate \$154,000 for road work per the bids from the County with the work to be done by September 1, 2023. Motion carried.

Corey from the road commission agreed that we need to get the ditch on W Drive South cleaned before they start the road.

The Village can't come up with \$100,000 to \$200,00 for the work on the drains.

The Township is discussing with Matt Yoder the possibility of digging a ditch and using the dirt to make a 4' berm on the west side of the ditch about ¼ mile from W Drive S on his property to the north. C Denney will check with Swartout Excavating to see what he would charge to do this so that we have an idea how much we could help Yoder out, financially.

Bail reported on the Poverty Exemption Income Guidelines, 2023. See attached.

Motion by Mike Irons 2nd by Cliff Denney to adopt the Resolution that the Board of Review shall follow the stated policy and federal guidelines in granting or denying an exemption. Motion carried. See attached.

CPI - 7.9% taxable value capped @5%. See attached.

The Village will get a higher increase than the Township.

The assessment notices are double sided this year. The back will show what the property owners can do if they disagree with the assessment.

She is working on the deeds, names, and addresses.

Brunner reported on the fire board meeting. See attached.

We were awarded the AFG Grant. The Branch-Calhoun Fire Fighters Association was awarded the Volunteer Fire Capacity grant totaling \$5,880 for PPEs.

There was nothing to report from the planning commission.

There will be a "rural business" meeting on the 28th of February.

The County returned the marijuana ordinance and made two recommendations. Use air make-up units and don't approve another marijuana business within 1,000 feet from the other.

The ordinance is done except for Attorney Kauffman adding the recommendations from the county.

Missy Irons reported on the library information. See attached.

Motion by C Denney 2nd by Tuttle to appoint the current members of the library board. President Jean Goodrich, Treasurer Shirley Damrow, Secretary Hannah Klein, and Trustee Kendra Faulk. Motion carried.

D Denney asked that the gutter be fixed above the office door. It gets very, very slippery because it drips right in front of the door. Brunner said he would clean it out, that is probably all that is wrong with it.

Jan Mangold wants 2 Mile Road fixed. We can try to get the road commission to fix the potholes.

The Tribe will put a new bridge in on S Drive South next year.

VanDermeer complimented 911, the fire department and Life Care on a wonderful job that they did when her husband had a tree fall on him.

M Irons reported on the treasurer's report.

Motion by C Denney 2nd by D Denney to accept the treasurer's report and place it on file as presented. Motion carried.

Motion by Tuttle 2nd by C Denney to accept the allocation on parks. Motion carried.

Motion by Tuttle 2nd by C Denney to approve the Metro Act Permit, Right-of-Way, Telecommunications permit. Motion carried.

ATHENS TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING

PAGE 3

FEBRUARY 7, 2023

Motion by M Irons 2nd by D Denney to approve the "Employee Leasing Services Agreement dated this date. This will be renewed at the annual meeting. Motion carried.

The annual meeting and budget hearing will be held on Thursday March 26, 2023, at 6:00. Motion carried.

Motion by C Denney 2nd by Tuttle to approve the April 2022 through March 2023 revised budget. Motion carried.

Motion by C Denney 2nd by D Denney to pay the accounts payable in the amount of \$37,295.35. Motion carried.

Motion by Tuttle 2nd by C Denney to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Debera Denney, Township Clerk

APPROVED

ATHENS TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING

MARCH 7, 2023

ATHENS TOWNSHIP HALL

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Steve Irons. Present were Clerk Deb Denney, Deputy Clerk Amy Heath, Trustee Steve Tuttle, Supervisor Steve Irons, Treasurer Mike Irons, Assessor Marcia Bail, Zoning Administrator Phillip Goodrich, Fire Chief Steve Wart, Deputy Fire Chief JR Brunner, Library Director Missy Irons, Greg Amaro, Sheri Amaro, Rick Salyer, Jan Mangold, Julie VanDemeer, Barbara, Ester, Irene, Laurain and Aaron Delegrange and County Commissioner Diane Thompson.

Motion by M Irons 2nd by Tuttle to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Motion by Tuttle 2nd by D Denney to approve the minutes from the February meeting as presented. Motion carried.

The Road Commission isn't doing much. Most of the time they were plowing snow and moving trees from the storm.

S Irons did talk with the Road Commission about patching Jan Mangold's Road. She lives at 3160 2 Mile Road.

Bids went out for the work on O Drive South and W Drive South but haven't been approved yet because the Road Commission only has so much money.

S Irons also talked with Cory about the project (flooding) for the southeast corner of the Village. Cory took this back to the Engineer and Director. The property is a wet land, and we cannot put water in a county ditch. EGLE is now involved. Maybe we can talk to EGLE and get this approved. This is not something that happens every year. Can Matt Yoder do this instead of the Township?

Greg Amaro wanted to let everyone know that he went to the Dentist at the Indian Reservation and was very pleased.

M Irons stated that there will be 500 to 600 bicyclist that will be coming through Athens and would like to use our parking lot as a stop for water and fruit. They are traveling from New Buffalo to Trenton.

Missy Irons reported on the library for the month of February. See attached.

Motion by M Irons 2nd by Tuttle to appoint Yvonne Chapman to the Library Board. Motion carried.

Motion by M Irons 2nd by D Denney to let the library distribute, as they see fit, the old computers to the public. Motion carried.

Bail said that the assessment notices are out. Taxable value went up. The board of review will meet on March 13 from 9am to noon and 1pm to 4pm, also on Tuesday March 14 from 2pm to 5pm and 6pm to 9pm.

Wart reported on the fire department for the month of February. See attached.

Heath reported on the zoning map. This was basically just updating.

Motion by M Irons 2nd by D Denney to approve the zoning map as presented. Motion carried.

Motion by D Denney 2nd by M Irons to adopt the Micro Marijuana Ordinance. Motion carried.

Motion by M Irons 2nd by Tuttle that it will cost \$5,000 to apply for a license to grow marijuana within the Township of Athens. Motion carried.

The Rural Business Ordinance is at the County Planning Commission. Hopefully, it will be back next month.

There are ninety surveys back regarding the Master Plan.

Things to consider would be to let a home be built on only two acres, rather than the present requirement of 5 acres, on M Drive South, N Drive South, a portion of O Drive South and Q Drive South.

This would help with the excess property setting idol. An example is the house south of the Storage Units at 3156 M-66.

Motion by M Irons 2nd by D Denney to allow the planning commission to proceed with discussion on the future land use. Motion carried.

S Irons and Tuttle will meet with Commissioner Thompson next week to show her the flooding issue.

Motion by Tuttle 2nd by M Irons to approve the PA116 for Aaron Delagrange for the property on S Drive South, Section No 23, Town No 45, Range No 8W. Motion carried.

The Board talked about stopping the E-Faxing. M Irons will check into this and bring the information back to the board in May.

M Irons reported on the treasurer's report.

Motion by D Denney 2nd by Tuttle to accept the treasurer's report and place it on file as presented. Motion carried.

Motion by S Tuttle 2nd by M Irons to pay accounts payable in the amount of \$147,154.70. Motion carried.

Raises for the Supervisor, Clerk and Treasurer were discussed. They have not had raises since 2018. It was agreed that a \$1000.00 for the year would be agreeable.

Motion by M Irons 2nd by D Denney to adjourn. Motion carried.

Debera Denney, Athens Township Clerk

NOT APPROVED

ATHENS TOWNSHIP ANNUAL MEETING
ATHENS TOWNSHIP HALL

MARCH 23, 2023

Trustee S Irons called the meeting to order. Present were Supervisor Steve Irons, Treasurer Mike Irons, Clerk Deb Denney, Trustee Steve Tuttle, Trustee Cliff Denney, Deputy Clerk Amy Heath, Fire Chief Steve Wart, Assessor Marcia Bail, & Missy Irons.

Motion by C Denney 2nd by Tuttle to accept the minutes from the March 21, 2022, annual meeting. Motion carried.

Motion by Tuttle 2nd by Heath to keep Calhoun County as the health office, Southern Michigan Bank & Trust as the Township depository, give permission to the Clerk and Treasurer to solicit the best rates for money market certificates at area financial institutions federally insured, to keep Siegfried & Crandall for Township auditors and to keep Bauckham, Sparks, Thall, Seeber & Haufman, PC for the Township's legal counsel. Motion carried.

Motion by Tuttle 2nd by C Denney to appoint the Clerk, Supervisor and Treasurer as the election commission with the Clerk being delegated to carry out the duties as necessary. Motion carried.

Motion by C Denney 2nd by Tuttle the pay to increase by \$1000.00 for the supervisor, clerk, and treasurer. Motion carried.

Motion by C Denney 2nd by Missy Irons that the trustee salaries increase \$2500.00. Motion carried.

Motion by Missy Irons 2nd by Heath that the per diems to increase to \$75.00. Motion carried.

Motion by Missy Irons 2nd by C Denney that the Board of Review hourly rate to increase to \$21.00 per hour. Motion carried.

Motion by Missy Irons 2nd by C Denney that the fire chief's salary to increase to \$10,000.00 per year. Motion carried.

Motion by Heath 2nd by C Denney that the Election Chair wage increase to \$21.00 per hour and the Inspector's pay to increase to \$16.00 per hour. Motion carried.

Elections which the schools are responsible for paying wages will be per the Calhoun County Municipal Clerks Association recommendations.

Motion by C Denney 2nd by Heath that the Deputies' wages & Casual Labor remain the same at \$21.00. Motion carried.

Motion by Heath 2nd by Missy Irons that the Deputy Clerk, Deputy Treasurer & Casual Labor does not exceed \$16,000.00 per year between them. Motion carried.

Motion by Tuttle 2nd by P Goodrich that the mileage rate increases to .655 per mile per what is on IRS.gov. Motion carried.

Motion by C Denney 2nd by Heath that the fire run pay increase to \$28.00 for the first hour and \$23.00 each hour after and the drills will be paid at \$23.00 per hour for a maximum of 8 hours per month except for special trainings. Station labor and schooling will be paid at \$18.00 per hour. Motion carried.

Motion by Tuttle 2nd by C Denney to pay the accounts payable in the amount of \$53910.08. Motion carried.

Motion by C Denney 2nd by Heath to allow the Clerk and Treasurer to pay the regular monthly bills when due; namely, Verizon, Consumers, AT & T, Water, etc. in the amount not to exceed the balance due. Motion carried.

Motion by Heath 2nd by C Denney to keep Life Care Ambulance as our primary ambulance service. Motion carried.

Motion by Heath 2nd by C Denney to keep the building rent as \$1,200.00 per year for Life Care Ambulance. Motion carried.

Motion by C Denney 2nd by Heath to pay our LRSB representative and alternate to raise to \$75.00 per LRSB meeting when representing Athens Township. Motion carried.

Motion by C Denney 2nd by Heath to increase the assessor's salary to \$23,287.00 (\$14.50 X 1606 parcels). Motion carried.

Motion by Missy Irons 2nd by Heath to keep the zoning administrator's pay at \$35.00 per hour. Motion carried.

Motion by Missy Irons 2nd by Heath to accept the attached Pay Increase Table for the Fiscal Year 2022/2023. Motion carried.

Motion by C Denney 2nd by Missy Irons to adjourn. Motion carried.

Debera Denney
Athens Township Clerk

APPROVED

ATHENS TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
ATHENS TOWNSHIP HALL

APRIL 4, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor S Irons. Present were Clerk Deb Denney, Deputy Clerk Amy Heath, Trustee Steve Tuttle, Supervisor Steve Irons, Trustee Cliff Denney, Zoning administrator Phillip Goodrich, Fire Chief Steve Wart, Deputy Fire Chief JR Brunner and Commissioner Diane Thompson.

Motion by C Denney 2nd by Tuttle to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Motion by Tuttle 2nd by D Denney to approve the minutes from the March 2023 meeting as presented. Motion carried.

We were approved to finish O Drive South then over to Q Drive South and then to W Drive South. We will put a time limit of September 1st to have our road work completed.

S Irons and Tuttle met with Commissioner Thompson on Tuesday, the 14th. She suggested we get our attorney to see if there are any laws stating that we can't put surface water in a County Drain.

Yoder will dig a ditch from North to South from the woods to W Drive South on his field to the east of the Village.

The library report was presented to the board.

Robin Crance has agreed to sit on the Library Board and Meghan Henckel will be hired as Library staff.

Motion by D Denney 2nd by C Denney to appoint Robin Crance to the Library Board and to hire Meghan Henckel as Library staff. Motion carried.

Wart reported on the fire board meeting. See attached.

The rural business ordinance is still at the County Planning Commission. They didn't have a meeting last month.

Commissioner Thompson said she wanted to check to see how we were doing with regard to flooding with all the rain.

The County is talking about creating a public transit authority under Act 196 of 1986; MCL 124.451.

The big question for this would be "can the people afford more taxes"?

Motion by C Denney 2nd by D Denney to accept the treasurer's report as presented. Motion carried.

Motion by C Denney 2nd by Tuttle to pay accounts payable in the amount of \$19,711.21. Motion carried.

Motion by C Denney 2nd by Tuttle to adopt the 2023/2024 budget as presented. Motion carried.

Motion by D Denney 2nd by C Denney to adjourn. Motion carried.

Debera Denney, Athens Township Clerk

APPROVED

ATHENS TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
ATHENS TOWNSHIP HALL

JUNE 6, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Trustee C Denney. Present were Clerk Deb Denney, Deputy Clerk Amy Heath, Trustee Steve Tuttle, Trustee Cliff Denney, Treasurer Mike Irons, Zoning Administrator Phillip Goodrich, Library Director Missy Irons, Fire Chief Steve Wart, Johnny Knowles, LRSB Representative Gregg Moore, Deputy Fire Chief JR Brunner, Commissioner Diane Thompson, Julie VanderMeer, Assessor Marcia Bail and from the Girl Scouts Cora Denney, Ella Denney, Hayley Denney, and Lynne Hack. Supervisor Steve Irons was absent.

Motion by M Irons 2nd by D Denney to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Motion by Tuttle 2nd by D Denney to approve the minutes from the May meeting with the following change. On page 2, H Drive South should read M Drive South. Motion carried.

S Irons talked with Cory from the Road Commission, and he said they are not grading anymore until it rains. After the grading is done, they will brine the roads.

No one has returned S Irons' calls from the Drain Commission.

S Irons and Tuttle took a drive around the Township to see what roads should be re-graveled. They really did not find any.

Missy Irons does not have a director's report this month, but she does have several concerns.

1) She had to terminate Madyson Vosburg. See attached. Motion by M Irons 2nd by D Denney to agree to the removal of Madyson Vosburg from the Library. Motion carried.

2) She hired Jaydrien Havener. Motion by M Irons 2nd by D Denney to approve of Jaydrien Havener as a new Library employee. Motion carried.

3) There is a need to ban Evan Taylor from the Library. He can into the library with open intoxicants. He was very argumentative, would not show his ID or what was in the sack. Tribal Police were called, and they said they would deliver the message to Evan Taylor as soon as they received minutes from the Township Boards stating that he was to be banned.

4) Eric Taylor was asked to leave because he had a Styrofoam cup with something in it besides water. They only allow water in the library.

5) There are several people hanging around the library at midnight. The police advised them to remove free wi-fi and have people come into the library to get the password.

There was much discussion about banning Evan Taylor from the Library. There was concern that it was not our position as the Township Board to ban him, it was the Library Boards. They do not meet until next month so they would have to have a special meeting, but the question remained who should do it. D Denney will contact Attorney Kaufman and get her opinion on this. Therefore, the decision was made to ban him for 30 days until we get an answer from the attorney.

Missy Irons did say that she would close the library, if necessary, until something is done.

Motion by M Irons 2nd by D Denney to ban Evan Jamie Taylor from the Library for 30 days. Motion carried. S Tuttle abstained.

The Girl Scout Troop was presenting the Township Board with cookies as they choose us as a hometown Hero. They also picked the VFW here in Athens. They told us that a hometown hero is someone or group who helps the town.

The American Red Cross wants a place to hold an Emergency Preparedness class. We do not have a problem with this if the conference is big enough.

Bail and M Irons will be exporting the data base in the next week or so. When this is done, M Irons can run taxes.

She also stated that she will be doing 3 – 6 sections for rechecks.

Wart reported on the fire board meeting. See attached.

There was not a planning commission meeting last month.

The public hearing for the 2-acre minimum Q Drive South from M-66 to 4 ½ Mile Road, O Drive South from M-66 to the curve, all of N Drive South and all of M Drive South. The 2-acre minimum would need a minimum width.

Moore reported on the revenue sharing board. This is the 14th year. There will not be a grant this year.

Knowles got the blocks out to the Stimpson Cemetery. Johnny Knowles and Jason Stanton donated the blocks, labor, and delivery. THANK YOU BOTH!!

M Irons reported on the treasurer's report.

Motion by Tuttle 2nd by D Denney to accept the treasurer's report and place it on file as presented. Motion carried.

Motion by Tuttle 2nd by M Irons to pay accounts payable in the amount of \$73,865.19. Motion carried.

While the Community Association was in a meeting here in the conference room, they had a car stolen right in front of the building.

We discussed the possibility of getting cameras for the Library and Township.

Motion by M Irons 2nd by Tuttle to adjourn. Motion carried.

APPROVED

ATHENS TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
ATHENS TOWNSHIP HALL

JULY 5, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor S Irons. Present were Clerk Deb Denney, Deputy Clerk Amy Heath, Supervisor Steve Irons, Treasurer Mike Irons, Trustee Steve Tuttle, Assessor Marcia Bail, Zoning Administrator Phillip Goodrich, Library Director Missy Irons, Robert Harrison, Vernetta Harrison, Cory Fox, Kathy Fox, Village President Mike Alverson, Assistant Fire Chief JR Brunner, Fire Chief Steve Wart, Levi Delagrange, Barbara Delagrange, Ruby Delagrange, Ester Delagrange, Aaron Delagrange, Abraham Delagrange, and Lorraine Delagrange. Trustee Cliff Denney was absent.

Motion by M Irons 2nd by D Denney to accept the agenda as presented. Motion Carried.

Motion by M Irons 2nd by D Denney to accept the minutes from the June meeting as presented. Motion carried.

S Irons reported that the black top is on 3 ½ Mile Road. There is water on the bridge and S Irons will contact the road commission regarding this.

The gravel roads have been brined. S Irons and S Tuttle took a ride around the Township, and they stated that there are not any gravel roads bad enough to be re-graveled.

No one from the drain commission has returned S Irons' telephone calls.

Vernetta Harrison asked about the rules and regulations on the oil/gas drilling. The board advised her that she could do whatever she wanted on her property.

The village is considering leasing property for drilling.

Missy Irons reported on the library. See attached.

Motion by M Irons 2nd by D Denney to hire Kaelyn Cole for the summer reading program. Motion carried.

Motion by M Irons 2nd by Tuttle to let Missy put an auto door opener on the library doors. Motion carried.

Jeannie Goodrich, M Irons and Missy Irons met with the Senior Citizens Program and the library will no longer hand out meal tickets. The library was managing meal tickets for the whole County, and it was getting to be too much. The librarians were not assisting the people in the library in a timely fashion.

Motion by D Denney 2nd by M Irons to authorize the library director to hire and dismiss personnel under her supervision. Motion carried.

Bail stated that the July Board of Review for clerical errors and omissions will be held August 18th at 6:30 p.m.

Letters for re-inspection for Sections 3 – 6 have been sent out.

Wart reported on the fire board meeting. See attached.

The planning commission held a public hearing June 27 regarding allowing an upholstery shop at 290 "O" Drive South.

Motion by M Irons 2nd by Tuttle to allow an upholstery shop at 290 "O" Drive South. Motion carried.

Another public hearing was held June 27 about allowing the building of pallets at 3837 S Drive South. They will be open for about 8 hours and there will only be one trailer taking pallets out per week.

Motion by D Denney 2nd by M Irons to allow the building of pallets at 3837 S Drive South. They will be open for about 8 hours and there will only be one trailer taking pallets out per week. Motion carried.

The master plan is moving right along.

The zoning district for M Drive South, N Drive South, L Drive South, part of O Drive South and Q Drive South change has been put on hold as the attorney wants to look it over.

The property that the Indian tribe is building on at 2548 S Drive South has a high-water table. They are not going to build on lots 4 & 5 because of this.

The \$5,000 establishment fee for marijuana, needs to be used for the administrative and enforcement costs associated therewith. We have received one application that we are currently processing.

The North Athens Cemetery addition has been mapped out and we will get the road put in.

We will get bids for our parking lot to be sealed. Suggestions were Lakeland, Damron, and Aim Asphalt.

M Irons will call Ron Riley about the compressor for the air conditioner.

M Irons gave the treasurer's report.

Motion by Tuttle 2nd by D Denney to accept the treasurer's report as presented and place it on file. Motion carried.

He reported that the taxes are out, and our hours will begin Thursday from 1pm to 4pm.

Motion by Tuttle 2nd by M Irons to pay accounts payable in the amount of \$64,944.16. Motion carried.

Motion by D Denney 2nd by M Irons to adjourn. Motion carried.

APPROVED

ATHENS TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
ATHENS TOWNSHIP HALL

AUGUST 1, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor S Irons. Present were Clerk Deb Denney, Deputy Clerk Amy Heath, Trustee Steve Tuttle, Supervisor Steve Irons, Trustee Cliff Denney, Treasurer Mike Irons, Assessor Marcia Bail, Library Director Missy Irons, Assistant Fire Chief JR Brunner, and Julie VanderMeer, and Ron VanHouton. Zoning Administrator Phillip Goodrich.

Motion by Tuttle 2nd by C Denney to accept the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Motion by M Irons 2nd by Tuttle to accept the minutes as presented with the following correction. The Board of Review met July 18, 2023, at 6:30.

We received the road repair bill for O Drive South, Q Drive South, and 2 Mile Road.

Motion by M Irons 2nd by Tuttle to pay the road commission bill in the amount of \$114,092.27. Motion carried.

The Drain Commissioner is waiting for legal approval from the drain attorney and the Board of Commissioners.

M Irons presented a plaque from the Township Board to Ron VanHoughton for his hard work on our cemeteries.

Ron said he wanted to let us know that he commends us on how nice it was that the Board stuck with the project.

Motion by D Denney 2nd by M Irons to renew the franchise with WOW. We will receive 3%. Motion carried.

Missy Irons reported on the library.

The Library Board approved the purchase of 3 cameras for the inside and 2 for the outside at the cost of \$3,280.00.

A call needs to be made for service to put these up.

Motion by C Denney 2nd by D Denney to have Wayne Technologies provide cameras for the library and get them installed. Motion carried.

The door company is coming to the library to give us an estimate for handicap accessible doors.

Bail has the information that the planning commission needs for the rezoning.

There were 2 land divisions, and the Board of Review went well.

Brunner reported on the monthly fire report. See attached.

Heath reported on the planning commission meeting on the 24th. Attorney Kauffman was present. It was decided not to do anything about the RA Low Density Ordinance.

The Alligator Farm wanted to use the conference room for their training. If they call back, it is ok.

We have a proposal from Damron Brothers to pave our parking lot in the amount of \$26,888.00. The proposal from Aim was \$35,488.00 plus extras.

Motion by Tuttle 2nd by M Irons to have Damron rothers do the paving on our parking lot. Motion carried.

Amy and Deb will be going to a meeting at the County Building in Marshall regarding the 9-day early voting.

Motion by Tuttle 2nd by D Denney to opt into the county transit. Roll call vote

Tuttle -- No C Denney--No D Denney--No S Irons--No M Irons--No

Motion does not pass.

M Irons reported on the treasurer's report.

Motion by C Denney 2nd by Tuttle to accept the treasurer's report and place in on file as presented. Motion carried.

Motion by C Denney 2nd by Tuttle to pay accounts payable in the amount of \$59,189.46. Motion carried.

Ron VanHouten would like to know what to do with the equipment that was used for the cemetery renovation. We suggested that he donate it to the group doing restoration in Union City.

Motion by C Denney 2nd by D Denney to adjourn. Motion carried.

Debera Denney, Clerk

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor S Irons. Present were Clerk Deb Denney, Deputy Clerk Amy Heath, Supervisor Steve Irons, Trustee Cliff Denney, Assessor Marcia Bail, Zoning Administrator Phillip Goodrich, Deputy Fire Chief JR Brunner, Commissioner Diane Thompson, Greg Amaro, Sheri Amaro, Julie VanderMeer, and Mr. Hudson. Trustee Steve Tuttle and Treasurer Mike Irons were both absent.

Motion by C Denney 2nd by D Denney to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Motion by D Denney 2nd by C Denney to approve the minutes from the August meeting as presented. Motion carried.

The road repairs are caught up. The road commission called S Irons to see what we would like to do next year.

Motion by C Denney 2nd by D Denney to table the road work. Motion carried.

S Irons asked Commissioner Thompson if she had heard anything on the drains. She said not at this time.

Commissioner Thompson told us that the transit authority is back on the docket.

Bail read the "Resolution: 2023 Tax Millage Rate". See attachment.

Motion by C Denney 2nd by D Denney to adopt the "Resolution: 2023 Tax Millage Rate". Motion carried.

Bail stated that Robert is finished with all the inspections in sections 3 through 6.

There was no fire report.

There was a public hearing on Tuesday, August 29, regarding the adult use of marijuana.

Motion by D Denney 2nd by C Denney to approve the marijuana permit application and conditional use permit for 4078 "2" Mile Road. Motion carried.

Mr. Hudson was present to answer any questions that we might have regarding the master plan.

Mr. Hudson explained that the board could have the final say to adopt the master plan or we can let the planning commission have the final say.

Motion by C Denney 2nd by D Denney to give the planning commission permission to finalize the master plan. Motion carried.

We have a sample ordinance from Attorney Kauffman for splitting property 1 time in 10 years. (See minutes from the planning commission.)

There was some discussion on the number of times and the amount of time that a person has to make a split. We will send the ordinance back to Attorney Kauffman and ask her to revise it to read 1 time every 10 years.

The public hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, September 27, 2023, at 6:45 pm.

The planning commission has decided to change their meeting dates from the last Tuesday of the month to the last Wednesday of the month.

S Irons and S Tuttle have both asked about putting the minutes on the web. We have been doing this but not in a consistent manner.

Amy and Deb went to a Clerks meeting regarding the 9-day early voting issue. It seems that no one really knows what is going to happen. Athens residents will be voting at the County Building in Marshall and each township will send at least one person to work. We will meet again on September 14. Hopefully, there will be more solid information.

Motion by C Denney 2nd by D Denney to have the public hearing for the fire millage on Tuesday, October 3, 2023, at 7:15. The millage will reduce to 2.6 mills. Motion carried.

Motion by D Denney 2nd by C Denney to table the issue on the transit authority. Motion carried.

We received 2 bids for the work at the North Athens Cemetery new road. NRK's bid was for \$13,700 and Knowles Excavation was for \$14,200 + extra materials if needed.

Motion by D Denney 2nd by C Denney to accept the bid from NRK for \$13,700 to build a new road at the North Athens Cemetery. Motion carried.

Motion by C Denney to accept the treasurer's report as presented and place it on file. Motion carried.

Motion by C Denney 2nd by D Denney to pay accounts payable in the amount of \$37,369.97. Motion carried.

Motion by C Denney 2nd by D Denney to adjourn. Motion carried.

Debera Denney, Clerk

The meeting was called to order by Trustee C Denney. Present were Clerk Deb Denney, Deputy Clerk Amy Heath, Trustee Steve Tuttle, Trustee Cliff Denney, Treasurer Mike Irons, Assessor Marcia Bail, Zoning Administrator Phillip Goodrich, Fire Chief Steve Wart, Deputy Fire Chief JR Brunner, Commissioner Diane Thompson and Calhoun County Clerk Kim Hinckley. Supervisor Steve Irons was absent.

Motion by S Tuttle 2nd by M Irons to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Motion by C Denney 2nd by D Denney to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Tuttle reported that there was a meeting with the Township, Tribe and County regarding the roads. The Tribe will split our cost with us for T Drive South/1 ½ Mile from 1 Mile to S Drive South.

Motion by S Tuttle 2nd by M Irons to get the road work done. Motion carried. (See the attached sheet.)

Tuttle talked with Ron Smith and the drain commission will get to work on the South Hiland Drain by Tuttle in the spring.

The County is moving along on the flood area. It is in the attorney's hands. Now they are talking about putting a ditch in behind the houses on South Avenue E. The ditch along W Drive South might become a drain.

Motion by M Irons 2nd by D Denney to put security cameras in at the hall, cost not to exceed \$5,000. Motion carried.

The library report is attached.

The library has asked for a \$160,000 grant. We as a township need to pass a resolution because we own the building.

Motion by M Irons 2nd by Tuttle to adopt the resolution for the \$160.00 grant dated this date. Motion carried.

Missy Irons is also going to apply for another grant for \$10,000.

C Denney will get a second estimate on the dry wall costs at the library.

Bail stated that the building permit letters will be going out soon.

She had a total of 3 PRE denials. The home owner still has 30 days after the denial to get their paperwork in. She sends letters to explain what it is and what they need to do.

She received 2 land divisions.

Wart reported on the fire department. See attached.

The planning commission has approved the distribution of the master plan.

M Irons reported on the treasurer's report.

Motion by D Denney 2nd by Tuttle to accept the treasurer's report and place it on file as presented. Motion carried.

Motion by D Denney 2nd by Tuttle to pay accounts payable in the amount of \$48,325.04. Motion carried.

Motion by Tuttle to opt in to the Transportation Authority of Calhoun County. No support. Motion dies. Athens township will opt out of the Transportation Authority of Calhoun County.

If the county doesn't receive a grant to help with the costs of the early voting, we may be responsible to pay \$11,653.08.

Motion by M Irons 2nd by D Denney to adjourn. Motion carried.

Debera Denney, Athens Township Clerk

The meeting was called to order by Trustee C Denney. Present were Trustee Steve Tuttle, Trustee Cliff Denney, Treasurer Mike Irons, Library Director Missy Irons, Assessor Marcia Bail, Zoning Administrator Phillip Goodrich, Deputy Fire Chief JR Brunner, Fire Chief Steve Wart, Deputy Clerk Amy Heath, Clerk Deb Denney and Julie VanderMeer.

Motion by M Irons 2nd by Tuttle to approve the agenda as submitted. Motion carried.

Motion by Tuttle 2nd by D Denney to approve the minutes from October with one spelling error, Histind Drain. Motion carried.

Tuttle reported that the road commission was supposed to start working on S Drive South between 4 ½ Mile and 5 Mile. They are supposed to fix the dip. Nothing has been started.

Missy Irons reported on the library activity for last month. See director's report.

The library has to become ADA compliant by 2025. This means that the aisles between shelves have to be wider and the book shelves need to be short enough that someone can reach the top shelf from a wheel chair. She will check to see if we might be able to fall under a grandfather clause.

Wayne Technologies, IT company, has been working with the library to get them up to par.

Bail stated that the building permit inspections have started.

The Tribe is putting in for the land on T Drive South next to the green house to become Tribal property.

Athens tillable ground is lower than every township around our area. Bail is trying to get equalization to change the townships they have us with. Right now, the townships we are with don't really have the agriculture property that we have.

We didn't have any state PRE denials.

Wart reported on the fire report. See attached.

There is a public hearing on November 29, 2023 at 6:45 pm regarding the land split ordinance.

There is also a public hearing on January 31, 2024 at 6:45 pm regarding the master plan.

Heath reported that the planning commission will continue to meet on the last Wednesday of the month.

The new election AV ballot mail box will be at the NE side of the building. It will be placed so that someone can reach it from their car. We will place bumper poles beside it.

Wayne Technology will be here at our December board meeting to see about becoming our IT company. They have already been working with the library and Missy is very pleased.

Thank you Brunner for placing the parking blocks, you did a nice job.

M Irons reported on the treasurer's report.

Motion by Tuttle 2nd by D Denney to accept the treasurer's report and place it on file as presented. Motion carried.

We now have a letter that M Irons can run right from the tax program that will let people know that we didn't receive their taxes.

Motion by Tuttle 2nd by D Denney to pay accounts payable in the amount of \$50,339.25, Motion carried.

Motion by D Denney 2nd by M Irons to adjourn. Motion carried.

Debera Denney, Township Clerk

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor S Irons. Present were Clerk Deb Denney, Deputy Clerk Amy Heath, Trustee Steve Tuttle, Supervisor Steve Irons, Trustee Cliff Denney, Treasurer Mike Irons, Assessor Marcia Bail, Fire Chief Steve Wart, Deputy Fire Chief, County Commissioner Diane Thompson, Mr. & Mrs. Koglin, Shawn Wayne, Julie VanderMeer, and Village President Mike Alverson.

Motion by C Denney 2nd by Tuttle to approve the agenda as submitted. Motion carried.

Motion by C Denney 2nd by Tuttle to approve the minutes from November as presented. Motion carried.

S Irons presented estimates for road repairs. See attached.

Motion by Tuttle 2nd by C Denney to do the work to the roads as per the enclosed agreements from the road commission signed by S Irons on this date. Motion carried.

The W Drive South drain is coming before the board of commissioners on Thursday. They want to turn the road ditch into a county drain.

The Koglins were present the see about Q Drive South being fixed. The road commission said they would fix it but they only came out and filled the pot holes. Cory (from the road commission tried to get out there in October but couldn't. He said that the road isn't good enough to fix and they want to put it back to gravel. They said they would get there is the spring.

Alverson asked about the trees out by Burr Oak Cemetery. Two are dead. S Irons will check with the road commission to see when they can get them removed.

Shawn Wayne was present to see what we can do about security cameras and what he can offer for our computers. He is about 2 to 3 weeks out on work right now. We said we would like 6 to 7 cameras. He has a system which would last about 5 to 10 years.

Motion by D Denney 2nd by C Denney to allocate \$7,000 for installing security cameras. Motion carried.

Wayne stated that he would look at our computers and see what we have and then suggest changes from there.

Missy Irons reported on the library for November. See report.

The \$186,000 grant that she applied for has been postponed until January.

She had a complaint about a book that she has on the shelf. She stated that she ran a public library and couldn't make changes that didn't apply to everyone.

Bail reported that the December board of review would be held on Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

Seventy- five to eighty percent of the building permits are completed.

She is working on Mr. Rice's PRE denial.

We will see a 5% increase in taxable value next year.

Wart reported on the fire department for the month of November. See report.

The planning commission had a special meeting regarding land divisions for parcels less than 5 acres. They will bring their recommendation to the board next month.

S Irons got a call from Attorney Kaufman. She wanted to know if we would have an issue if they accepted the Village of Athens as a client. She will assign the Village to a different attorney within the office. The board didn't have a problem with this.

M Irons reported on the treasurer's report.

Motion by D Denney 2nd by C Denney to accept the treasurer's report and place it on file as presented. Motion carried.

Motion by Tuttle 2nd by C Denney to pay the accounts payable in the amount of \$38,449.61. Motion carried.

Motion by C Denney 2nd by D Denney to adjourn. Motion carried.

Debera Denney, Athens Township Clerk