

Athens Selectboard Meeting Minutes
December 15, 2022
7:00pm at the Athens Town Office

In attendance: FACT TV, Sandi Capponcelli, Hannah Regier, Janet Perry, Harold Noyes, David Bemis, Matt Perry, Denise Randall, Don Capponcelli, Dennis Mirante, James Trimble

Called to order at 7:06

Adjustments to Agenda

Moving executive session and roads to just after public comments.

Minutes of Prior Meeting

Denise makes a motion to accept the minutes from last month's meeting. Sandi seconds. Put to a vote: all in favor.

Public Comments

Donald asks when petitions for the town report are due. Preferred by the selectboard meeting in January, but the 25th is the deadline.

Dennis Mirante asks about the status of Taylor Hill. David says there will be a status conference at the court on January 9th. There is no decision from the judge as of this time. Dennis asks if there is a docket number. David reads off: 20CV00752. David says to look on the Vermont judiciary website for more information.

Executive Session

David makes a motion to go into executive session at 7:11, to discuss a legal matter where premature public knowledge would put the town of Athens at a substantial disadvantage. Matt is asked to stay. Denise seconds. Put to a vote: all in favor.

David makes a motion to leave executive session at 7:24. Sandi seconded. Put to a vote: all in favor.

No decisions were made in executive session.

Roads

Roads are good. A state official is coming down in January to look over policies and he would like to have some selectboard members available to meet with them.

David makes a motion to have Sandi and Harold meet with Matt and the official. Denise seconds. Put to a vote: all in favor.

Boards and Officials

Donald Capponcelli says the Cemetery Commission would like to level fund their 2023 funding request at \$3,000.

James Trimble says everyone should get their reports to the auditors by January 20th. David asks Hannah to email all the committees to have their reports turned in to the auditors in time. Petitions would be appreciated by the 19th, but can come in until the deadline defined in statute.

James says he knows that there are many people working on grants who should be recognized in the town report. He suggests the selectboard might recognize them.

David says the meetinghouse just received a \$20,000 grant.

Hannah shares a quote from an appraiser for appraising the two historical documents. The cost would be \$1000 - \$1200, with a 10% discount for the town. David thinks it's a lot of money. He suggests maybe copies could be made and the original documents could be stored better by the state archives or the Shelburne museum. Sandi is cautious because previously some Athens documents disappeared at the Windham County Historical Society. Hannah points out that the documents were restored in the 1980s. David says that the glass is special. Sandi says that when the TOV were doing renovations, they reframed the documents because they were falling down in the frames.

Sandi makes a motion to have the documents appraised. Denise seconds.

Discussion: David thinks it's a lot of money now when the budget is going up. Janet suggests it could be put as an article for the town to vote on. David doesn't think it's a big enough thing for that and that the selectboard should decide. Harold thinks the townspeople would think it's too much money. Denise also thinks it's a lot of money. Sandi withdraws her motion.

Janet wonders if there is a historical grant for the appraisal. David wonders if a grant could help secure them as well. Janet will look into it with Sandi's help.

Harold has the schoolboard report: the school is winding down for the holiday. They thought the budget had been finalized, but the accounting department found some additional stuff, so they are still working on it.

Budget / contracts

David says the town has ended its relationship with Saxtons River for fire and rescue coverage. He wants to thank Saxtons River for the years of service. The town has no complaints with the service. The town has now signed a contract with Grafton Fire and Rescue starting January 1st. He says people should still call 911, and it will be Grafton responding as of January 1st. The town still has a contract with Golden Cross ambulance.

David makes a motion to send a letter to Saxtons River Fire Department and Saxtons River Rescue to thank them for their service for all these years and express our gratitude for that. Harold seconds. Put to a vote: all in favor.

Dennis Mirante asks why the change in fire service. David says that after contract negotiations with both the Saxtons River Trustees and felt that it was best for the town of Athens to go with the Grafton Fire and Rescue. The board believes that is the best solution for the town. David says costs were comparable.

Sandi brings up the stormwater permit applications and admin fees. Hannah will submit the forms and pay the fees on Monday. It is unclear if there is BOTH a \$640 and \$240 fee, or just a \$640 fee. The DEC doesn't send invoices and Hannah can't figure out how to get notified by their system when these fees are due. Sandi will try to figure that out and will bring in the paperwork for the \$240 fee on Monday if it is still needed.

Denise asks when the selectboard gets paid. Payroll is next Monday.

Sandi says she will give Hannah the letter for the Saxtons River Fire and Rescue on Monday as well.

Denise has looked at the Warrants and requests that the road crew be more specific on their time cards. It is needed for grant reimbursement. Sandi agrees that the grants need specificity in the timesheet details. Janet says there needs to be a log of how well the crew is taking care of the road in case the roads goes out. David asks Sandi to speak with the road crew about it.

Warrants and Mail

Warrants were signed and mail opened.

The selectboard will need to come back in after Monday to sign the last payroll warrant of the year.

Further Business

David makes a motion to adjourn. Sandi seconds. All in favor.

Adjourned at 7:58

Respectfully submitted,
Hannah Regier, Town Clerk