

Athens Selectboard Meeting Minutes
April 21, 2022
Athens Elementary School Building

In attendance: Janet Perry, David Bemis, Denise Randall, Sandi Capponcelli, Darlene Wyman, Fact TV, Hannah Regier, Don Capponcelli, April Lyman, Sherry Maher, Tim Stevenson, Krista Gay, Wichie Artu

1. Called to order at 7:00

2. Adjustments to the Agenda

None

3. Minutes of Prior Meeting

David makes a motion to accept prior minutes. Denise seconds. 3 yes, 0 no

4. Public Comments

Sherry: Asks about the mulch behind the town garage. Janet suggests that Matt could move it out to where the sand was so people could pick some up. Asks about the sign board to go out for the special meeting. Asks to move Roads on the agenda to before the executive session. Wants to know what the personnel issue was that was discussed in executive session last month. She says it should have been either a contract or disciplinary issue in order to be in executive session. The board declined to comment on the nature of the executive session discussion. Sherry also asked about the status of ARPA funds, and David confirmed half has been received, half still to come and some type of community input will inform the use of these funds.

Sandi: Would like the board to do something to mitigate the dampness in the crawl space in the town office. Needs some plastic and insulation to avoid the damp affecting the floor structure. There is money already in the town office renovation account. Don says he can contact Chad Farnham for a quote.

David makes a motion to investigate the project. Denise seconds. 3 yes, 0 no.

Tim: Wants to know if the board gets reports from the town constable. The board does not. Tim suggests there be a regular report from the constable, just to inform what he is doing, since he is paid by tax dollars. Darlene says the constable hasn't been paid in the last year or two. David says the constable is an elected official does not answer to the selectboard, but he could have a conversation with Steve and see if he would be interested in reporting. Sherry suggests maybe a report for the town report annually.

5. Boards and Officials / Town Meeting time advisory group

Sandi, Listers: The listers had Cy Bailey in to help out with current use. Set the grievance day for the end of May — the exact date will be posted soon.

Don: CCAC emergency exit signs are completed for the contract price. They were awarded a \$1200.00 PACIF grant to apply to reimbursing part of the cost. Matt Shea and Don have started doing some drywall repair in the assembly room.

Krista, School Board: has been finalizing the separation from Westminster. There will be a public vote the week of May 16th on various articles, including if the school district continues to lease the school building from Grafton, and details about the size of the school board and how many seats from each town. It will be a floor vote at Grafton Elementary School. The SU is working on adopting a flag policy for the entire union. Right now the policy proposal would just allow the federal and state flags to be flown.

Sherry, Meetinghouse committee: The preferred bids for the window restoration project has been sent off to Preservation Trust Vermont. Waiting for approval from them before contacting the contractors. National Park Service also needs to approve the plan. The committee has decided they want to go with a bid that is for restoration of the windows, versus reproduction. They are looking into also putting storm windows on to further preserve the windows. There is a rental on May 10th to a resident. Owners of the property on the corner of Meetinghouse Road are ok with having the town remove some trees, but have not heard from Matt about it. There is also some other work that needs to be done to clean up from the drainage work that was done last year. David says the board will ask Matt to contact the owners and move forward with the work.

Tim, Weather emergency committee: Don, Lynn and Tim attended a workshop about setting up an emergency shelter. Information was more applicable for a larger town, but still useful. Tabletop exercise next week will be a walk through of how to respond to an emergency. Committee members are preparing for their biennial mailing of a volunteer questionnaire to residents. The committee needs to put together a protocol for a summer heat emergency.

Tim has also applied to be the Athens rep for the HS board. David asks Krista Gay, who received 7 write-in votes at town meeting, to write a letter declining the position. She can give it to Hannah to put in the town files.

David: Seeking people for the Town Meeting Time Advisory group. Wichie is interested — he asks for there to be a clear timeframe and a delivery report to the board. David suggests having the report by the September board meeting. Krista and Sherry will also be on the committee. *David makes a motion to appoint the three people who volunteered, with Wichie as the chair, to be the start of the committee, and report back to the selectboard at the September meeting. Official committee with Vermont open meeting requirements. Denise seconded. 3 yes, 0 no.*

6. Warrants and Mail

Mail was opened and warrants signed.

Denise asked about the Grader repair — Janet says the moldboard wore out and needed a lot of parts.

New contract from Decamp is up about a thousand dollars to \$37,596.00. Last year was \$36,501.00. Janet asks if Decamp could bring a small dumpster for the town garage garbage. She is looking into the cost.

David makes a motion to accept the contract for Decamp Trucking. Denise seconds. 3 yes, 0 no.

David makes a motion to approve weight permits for P&L Trucking, Beacon Sales Acquisition, Cota and Cota, Dead River, and Resource Management. Denise seconds. 3 yes, 0 no.

8. Roads

Janet reports: Matt got a whole pallet of underdrain pipe that will last a couple years. Getting cabinet for combustibles and disposal can for rags. They road workers did a big cleanout in the garage. They are also getting a Jersey barrier (concrete) for the gas tank. Have ordered signage for inside the shop. They still need to get a breakaway hose and nozzle for gas tank. Those are all things that were on the OSHA inspection list.

9. Further Business / Adjourn

Sandi says there are three two drawer safes, not in use, in the utility room that should be removed. The curtains are disintegrating in the town office. She would like to replace them with blinds. She will look into it and get quotes.

Sherry asks if there has been a decision about moving the town office to the elementary school building. No, there has not been a decision.

Denise reminds everyone about the special town meeting on April 26th.

David makes a motion to adjourn. Denise seconds. 3 yes, 0 no.

Adjourned at 8:05

Respectfully submitted,
Hannah Regier, Town Clerk