

Athens Special Selectboard Meeting Minutes
July 6, 2023
5:30pm at the Athens Town Office

In attendance: Sandi Capponcelli, Hannah Regier, Janet Perry, David Bemis, Denise Randall, Carmen Dresser, Darlene Wyman

Called to order at 5:30

Adjustments to Agenda

Janet has prices for pre-buy.

David wants to move the executive session to the beginning of the meeting.

Executive Session

David makes a motion to enter executive session at 5:31 to discuss a legal matter for which premature public knowledge would put the town at a substantial disadvantage. Sandi seconds. Put to a vote: all four in favor.

David makes a motion to come out of executive session at 5:55. Sandi seconds. Put to a vote: all four in favor.

No decisions were made in executive session.

David makes a motion that he contact the town's attorney, Michael Tarrant, to continue negotiations. Denise seconds. Put to a vote: all four in favor.

Public Comments

None

Set the 2023 Municipal Tax Rate

The amount to be raised by taxes is \$460,801.95.

David makes a motion to set the municipal tax rate at 1.26. Sandi seconds. Put to a vote: all four in favor.

Whitney Rd.

Carmen Dresser says there has been a huge ditch at the bottom of Whitney Rd. for a very long time. With the rain it has gotten worse. The ditch goes across the whole width of the bottom of the road. Denise says she went to see the road when Carmen and Ben contacted her and she has some photos to share.

Janet asks what work was done today on Whitney Rd. Carmen said they used a backhoe to back drag 4-5 feet but didn't fill the ditch. They drove the backhoe up the road and came back down in less than 4 minutes.

David talks about the stone lining program that the state helps with. Carmen says she talked with Eugene when he was out grading last week and he agreed to grade the bottom of Whitney Rd. and said that Matt was also bringing 3-4 loads of material out there that day. But the road wasn't graded nor received any new material. Carmen says that if anything the grader cut out more of a ditch as it went by on the main road. Carmen says her car drags on the edge of the road when she drives across the ditch. She wants to know who is responsible if something happens to her car – she doesn't think she should be. David doesn't think the town would be legally responsible but he agrees that the ditch should be taken care of. Carmen says that Eugene said that he couldn't drive the grader on the road because there's too much brush, but she thinks the road crew should cut the brush if that's the case. David says they will talk to the road crew about cutting the brush and fixing the bottom of the road. He thinks the bottom could probably use a culvert across it, but the town doesn't have the money. Carmen has heard that there is a catch basin being put in there in July.

Carmen wants to know who dictates what has to happen with the roads in what timeframe. She says the road crew is all over the place, including in other towns, with the town truck, apparently to get coffee. She offers to buy a coffee maker for the town garage so the guys don't waste taxpayer money to drive to buy coffee. David says they might be purchasing something in another town.

Further Business

Harold Noyes has resigned from the selectboard, effective today, and has returned his key.

Denise asks if the selectboard will appoint someone to the board. David says they probably will appoint someone to fill out his term until March. The vacancy will have to go on the boards first.

Janet has pre-buy prices. She just heard back from Lisa at BART Energy. Heating oil is \$3.15/gal. We are locked in at a \$.25 above rack price for diesel and last Friday that was \$3.21. Last Friday, Dead River quoted \$2.97 for heating oil, locked in for 3,200 gallons split between the three buildings. And \$2.999 for 4,000 gallons of diesel, locked in.

Denise makes a motion to go with Dead River and have David sign the contract when it is ready.

Discussion: Janet says she will check on the prices tomorrow and if they are the same, ask for a contract.

Sandi seconds. Put to a vote: all four in favor.

Janet says Katie Buckley sent an email that the town was pre-approved for Municipal Technical Assistance. Chris Campanay from WRC will be helping with this.

David makes a motion to accept the technical assistance if that is needed. Sandi seconds. Put to a vote: all four in favor.

Sandi says that Don got the MERP application and will be working on that.

Janet says that the chipper needed a flywheel and clutch and the one that the highway crew found was not the right one. Matt found a second hand one in Pennsylvania and asked Janet to use her credit card to purchase it for \$500.00 + \$109.56 for shipping.

David makes a motion to approve the purchase and reimburse Janet. Sandi seconds. Put to a vote: three in favor, Janet abstains.

Denise asks if the chipper will work when that part is in place. Janet says it should because it's the right one. Matt mentioned something about working on it but is also going on vacation next week.

Denise makes a motion to go into executive session at 6:20 to reference a legal matter for which premature public knowledge would put the town at a substantial disadvantage. Sandi seconds. Put to a vote: all four in favor.

David makes a motion to come out of executive session at 6:28. Sandi seconds. Put to a vote: all four in favor.

No decisions were made in executive session.

*David makes a motion to adjourn. Sandi seconds. All in favor.
Adjourned at 6:28*

Respectfully submitted,
Hannah Regier, Town Clerk