

**THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ATHENS
MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY NOVEMBER 10, 2025**

MEMBERS PRESENT Deputy Mayor Matt Smith
Councillors Darin Alguire, Anne Marie Dancy,
Greg Kearney, Rob Layng

REGRETS Mayor Herb Scott, Councillor Todd Evans

STAFF PRESENT Darlene Noonan, CAO/Clerk Treasurer
Chris Fenlong, Director of Public Works
Gerry Bell, CBO/Fire Chief

ALSO PRESENT Ashley Tremblay, Margaret Rusland, Emily Bohusz,
Sally Smid

CALL TO ORDER

- M. Smith – called meeting to order.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

- **D. Noonan** – regrets H. Scott and T. Evans

DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

- **None** -

MINUTES

MOVED BY A. DANCY

SECONDED BY G. KEARNEY

THAT Council approve the minutes of October 14, 2025 meetings as circulated.

CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- **None** -

DELEGATION(S)

- **A. Tremblay** – proposal representing many people who feel there may be a need for a dog park, foster a sense of community and socializing with pets and people commonality and wonderful place to sit and meet. – a lot of support from volunteers – Township requirements – financial, grass trimming and waste removal. – additional enrichment items like tree planting sensory gardens all could be maintained by volunteers – specific designated location, there are rules and risks and signage. - best location central and a lot of parking and a large enough area for the dogs to run 1st – Elgin to Henry South end of park behind chip wagon, 2nd is left of arena if facing it – where track goes around, 3rd behind arena but would need grass or clover to be planted. Cost analysis – rough idea – enclose a perimeter completely – double gate system – garbage can and with bag holders maybe – flood lighting or some lighting to walk after dark. – first phase \$16,000 other phases completely volunteer driven and whether funds are raised - shade trees – walnut, maple trees to support shade and maintain coolness – and fruit trees apple or pear and community collects fruit and self-sustainable and community sells to support park. – sensory gardens are new it's dog friendly plants and support odour control and pests - mints, sage, several covered benches, maybe people can't walk their pets but let them go, covered if it's raining or sunny for shade and protection – sanding area – designated dig area – 2026 funding – grants may be available. D. Alguire - staff report – buffer area didn't really say, support it but snowmobile trail runs there – four season snow will be an issue. A. Tremblay - gate opening and closing people bring a shovel to it. – R. Layng – nice job and presentation – looking at 3 locations and being member of Lions Club, location number 1, that is parking for Lions event which is 3 days at Farmersville – we need that for parking – A. Tremblay - in that case could create a removable fence flip back on to themselves in that location – R. Layng - park unavailable these three days and enrichment items around parking and snowmobile trail – 2nd area – quite often open used for Farmerville and it

floods. 3rd area – Farmersville – camping area for that weekend and Horse-A-Rama 4 -5 events.

- C. Fenlong – everyone says they will maintain but A. Sargent and I drive through all that stuff, we are being asked and I don't have a dog but I clean up after them but shouldn't have to clean up after every ones animals and bringing in flower gardens and all that and people maintaining and it drops off and down the road we would be looking at 3 hours a week weed eating and mowing around the fence and how hard it is for the two of us to keep up now.

- A. Dancy – great presentation – a few issues, R. Layng and C. Fenlong touched on it – you spoke to cities I support the idea in a city but not in a small village, I am north end a lot these days and see it's great for owners walking the track for exercise some let them off leash and come right back and in the Village walk their dogs and everyone has green space to let their dogs run, I wouldn't support this and it's a lot of money for a dog park – not a lot of our residents signed the petition a lot on the list are not from here.

– M. Smith - thank you and we will discuss it further closer to budget next year but good presentation, thank you.

PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

MOVED BY G. KEARNEY

SECONDED BY D. ALGUIRE

THAT Council approve the accounts for payment as circulated.

CARRIED

REPORTS OF MUNICIPAL OFFICERS

- **CAO – 2025 budget vs. YTD** - R. Layng – office supplies– over – copier maintenance – hard to judge needs - building maintenance over - \$2600 deficiencies in building smoke alarm testing.

– G. Kearney - steel grate at Main dock was breaking – in boat launch area – close to pavement first 3 or 4 rungs corrugated stuff.

– A. Dancy – last year or two years ago – maybe too late raising the rink for renters, costs per hour – December – rink rates – bring forward again to look at.

- **CAO – March 2026 meeting date** – A. Dancy - will miss March 9th 2026 meeting, remain normal date.

- **CBO – UCLG lower tier 2025 tax rate comparison (FYI)**

- **CAO/Fire Chief – Rescue Vehicle** – G. Bell - successful find from Invista donated, believe it's coming with all equipment on it, don't know what we can and can't use – also secured 12 sets of brand-new bunker gear - \$3200 a piece and outfitted some members and have some spares. G. Bell – tanker – had a couple reached out to around \$220,000-\$230,000 both sold and gone – am working with Fenton fire and keeping eye if something else comes before it hits market.

- **DOPW/Rd Supt – transfer site, fencing @ former Farmers Market** - all agree and thank C. Fenlong and A. Sargent to build small shelter at transfer site for staff near new recycling area.

- fencing –all agree talk to Y. Beck and take fence down.

- bridge at town hall – it's rotting safety issue– remove it.

CORRESPONDENCE

- None -

COMMITTEE REPORTS

JPCPAC - A. Dancy - JBC flooring – committee declined with no guarantee for the cost, see other contractors pricing for different flooring maybe.

PLANNING

MOVED BY R. LAYNG

SECONDED BY A. DANCY

THAT Council approve land division applications B-98-25, B-99-25 & B-100-25 – McClintock, McAvoy Road.

CARRIED

BY-LAWS

- None -

PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

- E. Bohusz – who’s voting at County Council – Darlene advised that Mayor Scott has been attending virtually – other questions surrounding votes and meetings – Township Council and Staff cannot answer on behalf of County or Mayor Scott – this was advised in an office phone conversation earlier in the day. D. Noonan - will check with county on alternate vote – believe we had sent something in past but only when authorized.

- A. Tremblay – when will I know about the dog park – will be discussed/visited at budget 2026.

QUERIES AND COMMENTS BY COUNCIL

- D. Alguire – nothing

- A. Dancy – nothing

- G. Kearney - Memorial Banners – positive, hats off to organizers – send thank you to B. Ward and P. Meek, a lot of people following suit to it.

- R. Layng – arena and employees schedule – everyone seems happy and scheduled, shout out to Heritage Committee and display on Saturday from 10-1, great display done really nice people were very impressed– kudos to workers that did that.

- C. Fenlong – Water Street complete, a little topsoil in spring. – A. Dancy - drainage report from village review? C. Fenlong - will review and get together with Council. - M. Smith - outdoor sign – C. Fenlong - took apart and can’t be fixed. M. Smith - speed signs -not working – need batteries.

- D. Noonan for T. Evans - firefighters have started a hockey league asking the possibility of reduced fee or waived? - Many scenarios and opinions addressed – agreed that as it was brought up last year (Pineview rentals) – Pineview school rentals and any firefighter rentals, regardless of time of day will be \$78.00/hour in appreciation of the service provided by the fire department(s) and to support the school providing activities for our youth.

NOTICE OF MOTION

- None -

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY A. DANCY

SECONDED BY R. LAYNG

THAT there being no further business this meeting of Council adjourn at 8:25 p.m., Council to meet again Monday, December 8th 2025 at 7:00 pm or sooner at the call of the Mayor.

CARRIED

MAYOR

CLERK