

## Walnut Township Trustees Meeting

September 15, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM. Trustees Doug Leith, William Yates and Terry Horn were present.

Trustee Horn acknowledged the receipt of the Cash Summary by Fund, Payment Listing, Fund Status and Appropriation Summary by the trustees.

Trustee Leith made a motion to approve checks 24850 through 24860, and EFT 2015-606 through EFT 2015-660, after being certified that funds are available and appropriations have been made by Fiscal Officer Kraner. Trustee Horn seconded the motion. The motion passed with 3 yes votes.

The letter for the Fairfield County Commissioners regarding the Critical Infrastructure Grant and the grant from the commissioners was reviewed, approved and executed.

There was a discussion regarding the reimbursement of insurance premiums to elected officials and employees. The trustees stated their primary concern is reimbursing Mike for his premium. Fiscal Office Kraner stated that based on Ohio Attorney General opinion, that the township has completed the necessary due diligence and reimbursement should be made to Mike King for his insurance premiums.

**Attorney General Opinion 2015-021** -Reimbursing Township Officers and Employees for Out-of-Pocket Health Care Insurance Premiums under R.C. 505.60, R.C. 505.601, and R.C. 505.603

*Townships have been granted several options for providing health care benefits for township officers and employees. 2008 Op. Att’y Gen. No. 2008-018, at 2-199. R.C. 505.60 authorizes a board of township trustees to provide health care insurance coverage for township officers and employees, as well as their immediate dependents, in various manners. See also 2012 Op. Att’y Gen. No. 2012-027, at 2-235 to 2-236; 1992 Op. Att’y Gen. No. 92-068, at 2-283 (modified, in part, on other grounds by 2005 Op. Att’y Gen. No. 2005-038). Among the available options, a board of township trustees may procure and pay for “the cost of insurance policies that may provide benefits for hospitalization, surgical care, major medical care, disability, dental care, eye care,*

*medical care, hearing aids, prescription drugs, or sickness and accident insurance, or a combination of any of the foregoing types of insurance for township officers and employees.” R.C. 505.60(A); see also 2008 Op. Att’y Gen. No. 2008-018, at 2-200.*

*If a township officer or employee is denied coverage under a health care plan procured by the township under R.C. 505.60(A), or if an officer or employee elects not to participate in the township’s health care plan, R.C. 505.60(D) authorizes a board of township trustees to reimburse a township officer or employee for out-of-pocket premiums attributable to insurance benefits described in R.C. 505.60(A) that the officer or employee otherwise obtains. R.C. 505.60(D) limits the reimbursement to no more than “an amount equal to the average premium paid by the township for its officers and employees under any health care plan it procures under this section.”*

*A township that does not procure an insurance policy or group health care services pursuant to R.C. 505.60 also may reimburse a township officer or employee for any out-of-pocket premium attributable to coverage for insurance benefits described in R.C. 505.60(A) that the officer or employee otherwise obtains. R.C. 505.601. The board of township trustees shall establish a maximum monthly or yearly payment amount for each officer or employee beyond which the township will not reimburse the officer or employee. R.C. 505.601(B).*

*Finally, R.C. 505.603(A) authorizes a board of township trustees to offer health care benefits to township officers and employees through a cafeteria plan so long as the township first adopts a policy authorizing an officer or employee to receive a cash payment in lieu of a benefit otherwise offered to township officers or employees under R.C. 505.60, R.C. 505.601, or R.C. 505.602.1 The cash payment may not exceed twenty-five percent of the cost of premiums or payments that a board of township trustees would otherwise pay for benefits for the officer or employee under “another health insurance or health care policy, contract, or plan in the case of a health benefit” that is offered by the board. R.C. 505.603(A).*

#### Comments from the floor –

There were no comments.

#### Department Reports

**Chief Hite – Thurston Walnut Township Fire Department** – Chief Hite asked about the worker’s comp program and how it was reported. All employees are to report incidents to supervisors and complete the package for reporting.

Trustee Horn made a motion to approve Chief Hite’s personnel recommendations from the September 1, 2015 meeting. Trustee Leith seconded the motion. The motion passed with 3 yes votes.

**Kevin Clouse, Zoning Inspector** – Kevin received the Resolution for the zoning change from I1 to I2 at 290 Baltimore Somerset road and will have the zoning map updated.

There will be a variance hearing for the signage for winery on October 1<sup>st</sup>.

On Friday, Kevin is walking the dam at 8:30 AM with ODNR if anyone would like to participate.

There was a discussion regarding Junk Vehicles. The Junk Vehicle notice is in the dropbox.

**Mike – Recycling** - No problems currently. There were tires dropped off, however, we currently have a deal with a vendor in Pickerington to drop the tires off at no cost.

**Tim Morris – Road Supervisor** – Shelly has completed the Road Project for 2015. Tim is working on the last items for the application for Issue II money for Cherry Lane Phase III.

There is a public viewing of the widening of Leonard Road on September 28<sup>th</sup> at the Old Courthouse, 210 E Main St, Lancaster.

The undercarriage of Truck 6 is rusted and will need to get a new truck soon.

The township has received notification for the state of an exemption to put stop signs at railroad tracks.

### **Old Business**

Fiscal Officer Kraner will follow-up with Jason Dolan and Burnham and Flowers.

### **New Business**

The forms for the application for Issue II money for the Cherry Lane Phase III were completed and executed. There is still a form that Cheryl will forward for Fiscal Officer Kraner to complete.

Tim will update the salt contracts for 2015-2016. He will talk to Mayor Boring of Thurston to see how they plan to handle salt this year.

Trustee Horn stated that he feels there needs to be a Residential Building Department if Fairfield County. Currently on Lancaster, Pickerington and Violet Township have departments. Building in rural areas where the 2013 Residential Code of Ohio does not apply leads to building quality being compromised.

At 8:06 PM, Trustee Leith made a motion to adjourn. Trustee Horn seconded the motion. The motion passed with 3 yes votes.

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Lynn Kraner, Fiscal Officer

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William Yates, Chairman

Terry Horn

Doug Leith