

Walnut Township Trustees Meeting

June 16, 2015

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

The minutes for the June 2nd meeting were distributed and reviewed by the Trustees. Trustee Leith made a motion to approve the minutes. Trustee Horn seconded the motion. The motion passed with 3 yes votes.

Fiscal Officer Kraner presented information regarding on-line payments from the checking account. Kraner stated that it would allow her to pay current bills while waiting for checks as well as the possibility to pay future payments more quickly. All on-line payments will be posted in UAN and signed and approved by the Trustees. Vinton County Bank has requested a Resolution to allow on-line payments for the Township checking account. Trustee Yates moved to pass Resolution 15-11 to approve on-line payments. Trustee Horn seconded the motion. The motion passed with 3 yes votes.

Fiscal Officer Kraner has been checking into Ohio Open Checkbook for the township. She reviewed the state's open checkbook to see how the information is presented.

Copies of the initial draft of the budget for 2016 were reviewed. The document showed 2 previous years and projections for 2016 and 2017, with footnotes to explain why amounts have changed from year to year.

Fiscal Officer Kraner listed the new amounts that the Trustees decided to carry over in the Road and Bridge funds – Fund 2011 -\$30,000; Fund 2021 - \$60,000; Fund 2031 - \$150,000; and Fund 2231 - \$60,000. These amounts cover salaries and benefits; supplies; repairs and salt for the first three months of the year. The Trustees also want to have funds that are available for any emergencies.

There was a discussion about reimbursement of insurance premiums. According to latest information, the township will not be able to continue to reimburse for insurance premiums after June 2015. This will in particular affect Mike as he has an individual plan. Fiscal Officer Kraner will contact Burnham and Flowers to check if this is a qualifying event that can be used to add Mike to the township plan. If Mike's pay is increased to cover the insurance, he would have to pay taxes on the amount.

Trustee Horn asked that in September the township insurance be reviewed by someone who understands the current market. Changes that are needed could be made prior to new terms starting in 2016.

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

Comments

There were no comments.

Department Reports

There was a discussion regarding basketball hoops and other objects bounding township roads that may be declared a public nuisance. The township has the authority to notify the property owners that they have 30 days to remove the items per ORC 5571.14. Tim offered to prepare a list of all the properties that have objects located within township right-of-way.

After discussion, the trustees decided to prepare a form letter for Tim and Mike to drop off at any property that has an object bounding a township road. If it is not removed, the trustees will prepare a resolution requiring the property owner to remove the object within 30 days or the township will remove. Additionally, a letter will be placed in the Beacon which explains that the property owners need to avoid putting objects within the right-of-way.

Larry Neeley – RPC – Mr. Neeley didn't have anything today.

Kevin Clouse, Zoning Inspector – Kevin has gathered all the documentation to provide to the GIS department so that the zoning map can be updated. He will get copies of the updated zoning map for the township office as well as all the BZA and Zoning Commission members and the trustees.

He has the updated Zoning Resolution and will be working with it to make sure all the updates are correct. New copies will be available after June 19th.

There was a BZA meeting on the variance for Queen Rd that has a 13 foot setback instead of a 25 foot setback from the back of the property. The BZA approved the variance.

Chief Price – Millersport Fire Department – The department received approval on a 75/25 grant for a Lucas Device from Worker's Comp. The department will be responsible for the 5 year maintenance contract and expect to receive the funds in August.

Chief Price recommends the township purchase an automatic external defibrillator (AD) for the office; the cost is approximately \$1,200. He would certify all the township employees and elected officials in CPR.

Mike King - Recycling – There has been an increase in drop-offs; he will contact Patty Bratton at Community Action Agency about doing double dumps.

Tim Morris – Road Supervisor – The durapatcher is in. A purchase order is needed to purchase the emulsifier; he believes that approximately \$10,000 would cover this year. Trustee Leith made a motion to budget \$10,000 for emulsifier from Phillips Oil. Trustee Horn seconded the motion. The motion passed with 3 yes votes.

There was discussion regarding the Critical Infrastructure Grant. The township needs to cover any amount overruns or the project needs to be reduced by approximately \$40,000. The township would only be responsible for the amount that is costs over the published estimate. The County Commissioners are putting \$107,821 toward the repaving of roads at Fairfield Beach. Trustee Horn moved to pass Resolution 15-12 to cover costs over the published estimates for the Critical Infrastructure Grant. Trustee Leith seconded the motion. The motion passed with 3 yes votes.

Old Business

There was a discussion regarding Cherry Lane Phase III. The Trustees definitely want to reapply for the Issue 2 funds and the interest free loan for the township portion of the project. Trustee Horn moved to pass Resolution 15-13 to request Fairfield County Engineers submit the application for Cherry Lane Phase III for Issue 2 funds. Trustee Leith seconded the motion. The motion passed with 3 yes votes.

Trustee Yates made a motion to increase the township contribution to the Cherry Lane Phase III project by 2%, for a total contribution by the township of 28%. Trustee Horn seconded the motion. The motion passed with 3 yes votes.

Tim talked to Jon Kochis regarding the Hazard Mitigation Grant. It is possible that adding a storm sewer on Lakeside would qualify for this grant due to the past history of flooding in this area. Tim will check with Jeremiah and Eric to see if the Fairfield County Engineers will do the engineering for this project.

Tim will purchase a GoPro to use for video recording the condition of township roads.

A letter needs to be sent to ODNR listing the concerns the township has regarding flooding as a result of the work being done on the Buckeye Lake dam.

A resident has made a complaint about a portion of a wall in a canal collapsing and what the township going to do to repair. Tim is checking to see what the township is responsible for repairing.

Jeremiah told Tim that he is monitoring the roads daily and when he sees an increase in activity of heavy equipment or supplies moving on the roads, he will address it.

The Road Use Agreement is being worked on by the county engineer's office.

Trustee Horn spoke with Chris Harkness and Todd Fortune from Licking County regarding the potential of the Buckeye Lake region and what can be done to promote it.

New Business

Ken Keener sent a letter to the township regarding the closing of roads on September 5th for the Corn Festival 5K run. Trustee Horn made a motion to approve the closing of the roads. Trustee Leith seconded the motion. The motion passed with 3 yes votes.

There was a discussion regarding the possibility of forming a JEDD with a neighboring municipality. The township has several options to choose from – Baltimore, Thurston, Pleasantville and Lancaster. The trustees discussed which option should they pursue first and the benefits they could expect to receive. They are hoping to determine a starting point and have nothing against any of the entities.

If the township wants to establish the parameters that would permit discussion in Executive Session with another entity, they will need to make a motion such as – I move that Walnut Township make a request of _____ for the purpose of considering a Joint Economic Development District (JEDD) and other related economic activities as provided for under ORC Chapter 715. This could also include public infrastructure improvements or extension of utility services that are directly related to an economic development project. The named entity would also need to make the same motion in their meeting.

Trustee Horn will discuss the thoughts with John Albers, the township’s legal counsel and see if an RFP should be sent to all of the entities or specific entities.

At 10:25 PM, Trustee Leith made a motion to adjourn. Trustee Horn seconded the motion. The motion passed with 3 yes votes.

Lynn Kraner, Fiscal Officer

William Yates, Chairman

Terry Horn

Doug Leith