

Walnut Township Trustees Meeting

August 2, 2016

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

The minutes for the Regular Trustee Meeting on July 5th were presented for approval. Trustee Yates made a motion to approve the minutes with the noted changes. Trustee Leith seconded the motion. The motion passed with 3 yes votes.

The Expected Resources 2017 from the Fairfield County Budget Hearing were presented. The Fire Fund is expected to receive \$1,090,000, the Road and Bridge Fund is expected to receive \$382,000 and the General fund is expected to receive \$82,000 from property taxes. The Local Government Fund for the General Fund will be up \$600 from 2016 anticipated revenue. The budget committee also stated that going forward; pending projects are not to be included in the proposed budget but should be added at the first of the year.

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

Trustee Yates made a motion to approve checks 25127 through 25136 and EFT 2016-527 through 2016-629, 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.

Comments from the Floor –

There were no comments from the floor.

Department Reports

Chief Price, Millersport Fire Department – Chief Price updated the staffing of Station 2 at Fairfield Beach. The manpower situation has improved for the month of August with fewer shifts open.

Engine 632 has a leak in the tank where it rotted through. It will cost approximately \$12,000 to fix and the estimated value is only \$15,000. They had put the 1989 temporarily back into service but the tank split. They are asking the Village of Millersport to declare it as surplus and they intend to replace it with a 3000 Tandem.

Larry Bennett, the attorney for the Village of Millersport, states that the Millersport Fire Department is not bound by the 1,500 hour rule that the township fire department is ruled by. They do have a policy in place that once a firefighter works 1,500 hours, they sign a release and are no longer put on the schedule. They do have the option to volunteer for shifts.

David Burt, Firefighter, Thurston Walnut Township Fire Department – David stated that he has currently worked 1,500 hours this year and would like to continue to work until he is deployed in October. He would be willing to sign a release to avoid any issues with benefits. Trustee Yates stated that Chief Hite should decide how to handle this situation. Trustee Horn stated that the Chief doesn't have any options if Burt has already worked over 1,500 hours.

Larry Neeley, RPC – Mr. Neeley attended the Public Records training put on by Fairfield County tonight. He stated that the new Freedom of Information Act goes into effect on September 26th. This new ruling can be found in the Ohio Court of Claims 149.43 (c) (1) (a). It stresses maintaining separate email accounts for personal and township emails.

Tim Morris – Parks and Road and Bridge – Shelly Company has completed the 2016 Road Project as of yesterday.

Double A Safety has been awarded the road striping contract for Fairfield County.

Truck 7 has an electrical problem and can't be used until it is repaired.

The No Smoking signs are posted in the parks.

Tim will be appearing in court at 9:00 tomorrow regarding the trash dumping on Geiger Road.

Old Business

The township is still in the running for the Neighborhood Revitalization Grant. Hopefully there will be an announcement in the next week.

There are no other grants pending at this time.

Fiscal Officer Kraner has not completed the research on the State taxes owed.

The bi-annual audit is in progress. Fiscal Officer Kraner has provided all the requested information.

The Resolution for the Myers Rezoning has been completed and Tim will drop off at the RPC office. Then it will go to the GIS Department to update the Zoning map.

Trustee Yates moved to pass **Resolution 16-08** to request that the Fairfield County Engineer's office prepare and submit the plan for Cherry Lane Phase III for Issue 2 funds. Trustee Horn seconded the motion. The motion passed with 3 yes votes. Cherry Lane Phase III is the section north of St. Rt. 204.

The question was raised as to what are the future plans for any Issue 2 projects. The Fairfield County Engineer has stated they will not be able to start a new plan for 5 to 6 years so an outside firm will need to be hired.

Potential projects are Cherry Lane Phase IV and the section of Geiger Rd between Cattail and Millersport Road that needs widening or possibly the section of Bickle Church Road from Old Millersport Road to Lake Road.

New Business

There have been several applicants for the Zoning Inspector position. One applicant, Mike Berry, is currently a Zoning Commission Board member.

The Apostolic Campgrounds asked what the options are regarding a crosswalk during their meetings. Tim checked into the situation and borrowed temporary crosswalk signs from the Village of Millersport. There are generally only 3 times a year these are needed and this was decided to be the most expedient method.

The Land Bank of Fairfield County is looking to have one property at Fairfield Beach mowed. The suggestion was made to have Donna Fox Moore contact Murphy's Mowing to see if they can handle the mowing.

Information was received from the Lancaster Public Transit regarding county wide usage in the past year and asking for contributions for 2017. The Trustees had previously requested a breakdown to determine actual usage in the township. Total usage is follows – 2012 – 499; 2013 – 835; 2014 – 1724; 2015 – 1142. After discussion, the Trustees stated that it is a good idea but the township is not in a position to financial support the program.

The Trustees asked what is the current status of the BWC. At this time, the next date is November 15th. The township needs to make a determination of how often they want to make BWC payments – quarterly, 6 months or yearly. Kraner recommends quarterly due to the timing of funds that the township receives.

Comments from the Floor –

There were no comments from the floor.

At 8:33 PM Trustee Yates made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session per ORC 121.22 – G1 to consider employment of a public employee. Trustee Leith seconded the motion. The motion passed with 3 yes votes.

At 8:53 PM the Trustees returned to open session. Trustee Yates made a motion to offer the part-time Zoning Inspector position to Mike Berry at \$15/hour. Trustee Leith seconded the motion. The motion passed with 3 yes votes. Mike is checking to make sure the acceptance of the position will not be in conflict with his current retirement payments. Once he has the answer, he will notify the township whether he will accept the position.

Trustee Leith made a motion to continue to pay Kevin Clouse hourly on as needed basis to train the new Zoning Inspector. Trustee Yates seconded the motion. The motion passed with 3 yes votes.

At 9:00 PM Trustee Leith made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session per ORC 121.22 – G1 to discuss a complaint about a public employee. Trustee Horn seconded the motion. The motion passed with 3 yes votes.

At 9:18 PM the Trustees returned to open session.

At 9:19 PM Trustee Yates made a motion to adjourn. Trustee Horn seconded the motion. The motion passed with 3 yes votes.

Lynn Kraner, Fiscal Officer

William Yates

Terry Horn

Doug Leith, Chairman