

Walnut Township Trustees Regular Meeting

October 3, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM. Trustee Horn, Trustee Leith, Trustee Yates & Fiscal Officer Kraner were present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

In attendance were:

Rob Robertson (Millersport FD), Lieutenant Nickey (TWFD), Larry Neeley (Regional Planning Commission), Zoning (Mike Berry), Recycling (Mike King), Parks & Roads (Tim Morris) and nine (9) guests.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

September 5 – Regular Meeting: Trustee Yates moved to accept the minutes with discussed corrections. Trustee Horn seconded the motion. Motion passed with three (3) yes votes.

Approval of Financial Report & Bills for Payment

Fiscal Officer Kraner asked for approval of EFT #'s 788 – 882 and check #'s 25325 – 25330. Trustee Leith moved to approve the checks & EFT's. Trustee Yates seconded the motion. Trustee Yates also moved to acknowledge the reports.

Fiscal Officer Kraner asked for approval for Shannon's invoice for time spent recording the minutes. Trustee Horn moved to accept the motion to approve the invoice for Shannon and Trustee Yates seconded the motion. Motion approved with three (3) yes votes.

Additionally, Fiscal Officer Kraner received information around renewing the Township's liability insurance. Trustee Leith asked Tim to review the inventory and ensure nothing is missing from the list.

Trustee Leith stated he had received a correspondence from John Slater, Fairfield County Auditor, with a copy of the Annual Financial Report on CD. This information is available to residents for viewing.

Comments from the floor

No additional comments.

Township Department Reports

Millersport FD: Rob Robertson, filling in for Chief Price, stated that the renovation for Station No. 2 at Fairfield Beach is underway. The crews living quarters have been moved over to the empty garage bay during construction, as one of the medic trucks is temporarily being housed in the Township's garage. He confirmed that all of the renovations are being paid for by donation money only and not taxpayer dollars.

TWFD: Lieutenant Nick Innes, filling in for Chief Hite, stated they've been approved for both BWC grants (one grant for new hoods and gloves and the other is for the Lucas CPR Assist Device). They are still waiting for response on approval for grant pertaining to replacement washer for the firefighters' gear.

Chief Hite would like to move Doug Smith & Josie Davis to part-time status at a rate of \$9/hr. Trustee Leith moved to accept the Chief's request to move associates to part-time. Trustee Yates seconded the motion. Motion passed with three yes votes.

Chief also requests funds to pay for Austin Thompson to attend EMT school with CTEC in the amount of \$1,600.

Two of the department's trucks needed repairs; one truck's muffler fell off during a run and the cost of repair was \$400. The second truck had an issue with one of the air bags, the cost for that repair was \$100.

Chief Hite would also like to have John Kochis, EMA Director, to write the county grant. All of the County Fire Chief's agreed to go with MARCs radios for all of the crews. The grant deadline is October 18. The grant amounts to \$50,000, which includes the first year service fee and cost of replacing all radios in that station. After the first year, departments can re-file for new grants to pay the cost of the service fees. If the grant is not approved, the service fee is \$10/radio/year. Trustee Leith moved to approve the motion to allow John Kochis to write the county grant for new radios by MARCs. Trustee Horn seconded the motion. Motion passed with three (3) yes votes.

Chief Hite would like to equip the grass truck with an AED device. He is working on a state grant for the cost of the device right now. The grant amounts to \$3500 and the station would need to add an additional \$1500 to it. Also, this is a reimbursement grant so the department would need to front the money.

The department also needs to replace four bulletproof vests. The ones that they currently use are worn out and outdated. He would like to purchase from Survival Armor, and four vests would cost \$2300.

Trustee Yates moved to accept the remainder of Chief's PO requests. Trustee Leith seconded the motion. Motion passed with three yes votes.

Trustee Leith raised a concern regarding the cost of investing in firemen development only to have the firemen move on soon after. Trustee Horn suggested that Chief Hite consider instating a policy requiring firemen to stay with the department for a certain amount of time after the investment. Lieutenant Innes said he will present it to the Chief.

Zoning: The Township has granted four new home permits and one addition.

Recycling: Mike King was not in attendance tonight. However, Trustee Horn stated that he had been approached about having a hazardous waste pickup done for the Township and clarified that Fairfield County does not do hazardous waste pickup and has not done so since 2011.

Parks & Roads: Tim stated that it was decided to cut back on the mowing of parks and cemeteries this year to save money but he has been receiving many complaints. He also received a complaint regarding trash at the New Salem Park. It was taken care of today but he explained that due to the amount of workload, that the first priority for the department is the maintenance of our roads. He said that the Township is simply not able to maintain the Parks as much as they used to, due to the time constraints.

The new signs received as part of the sign safety grant are starting to be put up. They are required to have them all replaced by March 31, 2018. The department is aiming to dedicate two days/week to sign replacement.

Shepard Ave. storm sewer had a camera run through it. There are three different areas of the pipe that are completely crushed. The cost of this project ended up only being \$800, vs. the original quote of \$1400. This service was done with Stutske Construction. He would like authorization to spend \$1500 on a service to fix the three damaged areas of the pipe. Trustee Horn moved to use Stutske Construction, instead of FeeCorp, to assist with pipe replacement. Trustee Leith seconded the motion. Motion passed with three (3) yes votes.

Tim would like to request \$2,500 to use the same company to run a camera and jet vac work to be used at his discretion. Trustee Horn moved to accept the request. Trustee Yates seconded. Motion passed with three (3) yes votes.

Tim requested that the storage barn waste oil furnace be serviced. Trustee Yates moved to accept the request. Trustee Horn seconded the motion. Motion passed with three (3) yes votes.

Old Business

IRS Update: IRS requested copies of a few Schedule B's. Fiscal Officer Kraner stated she had already sent these to them but sent again, as requested. At this point we are waiting to hear their final determination.

RUMA road update: Tim said both Jeremiah and the Prosecuting Attorney denied ODNR's proposal. The Prosecuting Attorney then sent a letter to ODNR requesting that they consult ODOT for their opinion on the road replacement. The reason that ASI/ODNR wants to fix the roads now is due to the change in contracting companies from Phase I to Phase II of the dam replacement project.

Storm Sewer Update: Trustee Leith referenced the letter the Trustees had agreed to send to ODNR and ASI Construction pertaining to the re-routing of pipes on West Bank. The new owner of ASI, representative Bill Weber, reached out to Trustee Leith personally and confirmed that November 1 is still the date. However, Mr. Weber told Trustee Leith they will definitely be putting a new pump at Parish Pump & run another line from the West Bank Pump to the Parish Pump. Trustee Leith suggested to Mr. Weber that they ensure ODNR contacts the homeowners before completing any work.

Ag Security Area Renewal Update: Public Hearing is scheduled for October 19 at 7:00 pm at the Township office. We have six applicants applying for the ten-year renewal.

Cherry Lane Phase 3 Update: Tim suggested a letter be sent to all residents that will be affected. AEP will be moving in January to replace several poles. Tim requested the Township's approval to pay to bring Mid-Ohio out here to remove up to 85 trees and brush, all of which need to be moved before AEP begins their work in January. Trustee Leith requested that Tim get a quote from Mid-Ohio and if the Trustees need to get together to approve, they can do so via a Special Meeting on October 19. Tim will also check with Cheryl Downhour with the County Engineer's Office to confirm which letter(s) need to be sent. Tim will be drafting a letter to send to the affected residents and the Trustees will sign it at the October 19 meeting.

Land Bank/Buyout Properties: Trustee Horn confirmed these properties are NOT in foreclosure. The purpose is to incentivize homeowners to sell their properties to the Landbank in an effort to help clean up the area. He also would like to possibly add a few homes to the list to be considered for this process. Trustee Horn moved to proceed with sending letters to the proposed properties that would be considered eligible for this effort, Trustee Yates seconded the motion. Motion passed with three (3) yes votes.

Resident, Rick Cochran, asked what the process would be if the property owner does not respond? Trustee Horn confirmed that they are not required to accept the offer. The grant ends in 2018. Rob clarified that if any of the houses are acquired, Millersport FD would be interested in using the houses for various types of training.

Trustee Horn also stated that the Land Bank is starting another program in which Townships can apply under this program to have one foreclosed property demolished per year. If approved, the Township would only be responsible for 5% of the cost of demo. Trustee Horn also stated we could recoup the 5% from property tax assessments.

Fuel Center Agreement: Trustee Yates stated everything has been going well and there are no issues. However, the Millersport FD is still having issues with dumping too much fuel.

Electric Bill: Fiscal Officer Kraner stated that the electric bill has gone up about \$100/month and we are now at our annual budget limit. Trustee's Leith and Yates speculated that the cause might be due to the durapatch heater. Trustee Yates requested to see a copy of the bill for review.

Pavement marking quote: Tim provided a quote from Duramark for \$2100 to stripe Leitnaker Rd, Deep Cut Rd and Leonard Rd. Trustee Yates approved the motion and Trustee Horn seconded. Motion passed with three (3) yes votes.

Buckeye Lake 2030 delegate appointment: Trustee Horn is approved to continue being the delegate for these meetings. Trustee Leith moved to approve, Trustee Yates seconded the motion. Motion passed with two (2) yes votes.

Marijuana Restrictions: Trustee Horn proposed a resolution to officially prohibit cultivators, processors or retail dispensaries from operating within Walnut Township. If a resolution is not in place by the time medical marijuana is legal, anybody can come into the Township and start running their business. Trustee Horn stated that he believes the resolution will protect us from the unknown. A resident suggested that someone conduct research to see exactly what the "unknown" is before simply banning it? Trustee Horn said that the resolution can be reversed down the road, if the Township decides. Trustee Yates said that he sees it as a similar process to applying for a liquor license.

Trustee Yates moved to approve the proposed resolution. Trustee Horn seconded the motion. Motion passed with three (3) yes votes.

Dollar General: Millersport is up for their third reading of annexation of the property. The owner is requesting to do an expedited annexation. Trustee Leith will let him know that the Township has no objections.

New Business

Lancaster Public Transit Request: The Trustees received a request from the LPTR to help with the cost of the system. No action was taken.

Indigent Burial Funds: Fiscal Officer Kraner received a letter from a funeral home in Grove City. They have a body of a Township resident whose wish was to be buried in the Township cemetery and they want to know our policy on indigent burial funds. The Trustees asked Lynn to obtain more information from the funeral home before we move forward.

EMS billing/contract talks: Trustee Yates asked Rob to confirm updates on communications with the new vendor, Change Healthcare? Rob stated that in his last conversation with her, he reviewed the contract and confirmed that Millersport does not appear anywhere in the contract. Rob asked her why and she did not know. Trustee Yates stated that the contract is with Walnut Township but as part of the agreement they are supposed to provide services to both departments. Trustee Yates would like to get both Chiefs Hite and Price together. Rob and Lieutenant Nickey will report back to the Chiefs.

Health Insurance: Trustee Leith suggested that they plan to have the health insurance representative attend the next Trustees Regular Meeting on November 7. Trustee Horn stated he will reach out to her.

Mosquito Spraying: Trustee Horn stated that in the area of New Salem some residents had inquired about having the area sprayed. He reached out to the Health Department and received a response that they currently have a contract with Lancaster for Ultra Low-Volume (ULV) spraying. However, the spray only kills adult mosquitoes and only lasts for one day, so the belief is that many residents will be unsatisfied with the result. Tim stated that he also doesn't believe that mosquito spraying provides much benefit.

Comments from the floor

Rich Warren (New Salem) asked Tim if he had received any updates from the Prosecuting Attorney regarding the flooding issue on his property? Tim stated that Josh will send a formal statement to the Trustees. Mr. Warren stated that when he spoke with the Prosecuting Attorney earlier this week, he was researching some new information but that he would be in contact with Tim with any updates. Tim clarified that the PA had sent a letter to the resident that he believes damaged the culvert and requested that he fix it, because technically the Township does not have any legal recourse in this situation. Tim stated that he will contact Josh personally to ask for any updates in this situation.

Trustee Horn asked Trustee Leith if there was any update on Judy Zollinger's property? Tim stated that there is not much the Township can do to fix the situation. They've stopped putting rock in the area around her property so that she doesn't get so much gravel in her yard after rain but due to the fact her house is at the lowest point in the street, it's virtually impossible to stop the flooding. They've decided to durapatch the stone to see if that will help.

Trustee Leith asked if anyone had any other comments or topics to discuss. There were no additional comments.

Trustee Horn moved to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Leith seconded the motion. Motion approved with three (3) yes votes. Meeting adjourned at 9:22 pm.

Minutes recorded by Shannon Franz, Recording Secretary

Lynn Kraner, Fiscal Officer

William Yates

Terry Horn

Doug Leith, Chairman