

OHIO TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES

May 8, 2023

The trustees met in regular session with all members present.

Also present were Asst. Chief Jim Watkins, PTFD, Nathan Kinney, Dave O'Connor, Dick Feldkamp, John McManus, Jake Allen, Larry Bramlage, Beth McConnell, Tricia McConnell, Les Smith and Emily Supinger

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Mr. Hinson.

Mr. Vogelsang made a motion to accept the minutes of the April 10, 2023 regular meeting, seconded by Ms. Niehaus. All members voted "yea"

John McManus of Clermont SWCD spoke to the trustees, reporting that SWCD is going through a strategic planning process, reaching out to all county entities for input. A background on the 80 year history of SWCD was given. The trustees were asked what the township's greatest concerns were and what the top priorities from SWCD were. Mr. Vogelsang asked if SWCD is taking care of silt fences; answer was yes as of last year. Mr. Vogelsang also asked if SWCD was taking care of the concrete drainage gutters along SR 132; answer was no, that infrastructure is not handled by SWCD.

Dick Feldkamp, New Richmond council member, reported that the village has been forced to take over the maintenance of US 52 within the village limits. Reported that the cost to mow US 52 was \$8,540 in 2022 and asked the trustees to consider sharing the cost with the village as the township receives some tax revenue from village residents. Mr. Vogelsang asked if the village contracts the work or performs it with village employees; answer was that the mowing is contracted out. Mr. Vogelsang noted that he had spoken with Dick Feldkamp and asked him to come to the meeting and present his request. The consensus of the trustees was to discuss further and make a decision. Mrs. Niehaus asked about insurance liability. Dick Feldkamp noted that since the mowing contract is with the village he assumes the liability would remain the village's.

Jake Allen of Chestnut Lane spoke to the trustees about drainage issues he feels he is having as a result of paving Chestnut Lane last year; also noted issues with ODOT addressing lack of drainage on the SR 132 side of his property. Mr. Hinson showed pictures of the road paving project showing that an area of the road surface crumbled during the paving process that was repaired and paved. It was noted that there is no ditch line on his property on the Chestnut Lane side and water is backing up there likely due to poor drainage on the SR 132 side of the property.

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Mr. Vogelsang noted that the lack of maintenance on the Carson property is likely causing the majority of the drainage issue. Mr. Hinson noted that the Chestnut Lane road surface is crowned so that all water drains off of the road on both sides by design. Mr. Vogelsang asked Emily Supinger who is responsible in this instance. Emily Supinger indicated that it would be difficult to go after the paving contractor if a final inspection was done and they have been paid. Jake Allen asked what he could do, if anything, on the Carson property. Emily Supinger noted that the Carson property is not in probate but the township can still declare it a nuisance and perform clean up of the property, but the process is difficult due to the owners being deceased. It was also noted that the house cannot be torn down unless the fire inspector or county condemns the structure. Emily Supinger will have a resolution prepared for the trustees to consider at the June meeting.

Dave O'Connor gave his maintenance report (on file). Reported that the new run notification system for the firehouse has been ordered with a 3 to 6 month lead time; the floors in the concession stand will be epoxy coated on May 23; Roberts Paving has the walking trail on their schedule with the time frame depending upon weather; the gravel lot on the back property will be installed as soon as dryer weather conditions allow for the construction. Mr. Vogelsang why the grass cutting service wasn't put out for bids. Bill Gilpin noted that since the price didn't change there wasn't the need for bids. Emily Supinger noted that the cost is well under the required bidding threshold.

Cpl. Doug Scott, CCSO: absent, report on file.

Asst. Chief Jim Watkins, PTFD gave his report (on file). Reported that software issues prevented the monthly report from looking like it normally does; suggested that Pierce Township should have been more involved in the decision to purchase the Locution system; also noted needing the expenses for the firehouse on a regular basis due to new medicare reporting requirements. Bill Gilpin asked if copies of invoices were needed or just UAN reports; reply was that UAN software ledger reports on a quarterly basis is sufficient. Mr. Hinson asked how many staff openings there are; response was two full time positions are currently being filled due to recent departures.

Les Smith gave his zoning report (on file). Reported that the Davenport property has been properly cleaned up; 3016 SR 132 is also cleaned up, items that appear to be at the rear of the property are actually on a neighboring property. Mr. Vogelsang asked about the email regarding getting a rubber stamp for zoning minutes. Bill Gilpin noted that the minutes should be signed by Les Smith and the committee chair after they are approved. The zoning commission and board of zoning appeals minutes are being put on the township website.

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OLD BUSINESS:

Zoning Resolution:

Mr. Hinson made a motion to adopt Resolution 2023-47, seconded by Mr. Vogelsang. All members voted “yea”

2021-2022 Financial Audit: Bill Gilpin reported that the township records have been picked up and the audit has begun with completion scheduled by the end of June.

COMMUNICATIONS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

NR Village Letter of Support: After discussion the consensus was to support the village’s ARC grant application.

Mr. Hinson made a motion to send a letter of support to the Village of New Richmond’s ARC grant application, seconded by Ms. Niehaus. All members voted “yea”

HUD Requalification for CDBG: The consensus was to continue in the HUD CDBG grant program.

Ms. Niehaus made a motion to continue participating in the HUD CDBG grant program for the next three years, seconded by Mr. Vogelsang. All members voted “yea”

2024 Tax Budget Hearing:

Mr. Vogelsang made a motion to hold the 2024 tax budget public hearing on July 10 at 6pm, seconded by Ms. Niehaus. All members voted “yea”

Annual Stormwater Invoice: Bill Gilpin reported receiving the annual stormwater fee invoice with the amount remaining unchanged at \$848.04.

Ms. Niehaus made a motion to pay the annual stormwater fee invoice, seconded by Mr. Vogelsang. All members voted “yea”

Phone/Internet/Cable Package: Bill Gilpin reported that he and Ms. Niehaus are obtaining proposals from Verizon, Alta Fiber and Spectrum for a bundled package on services since Spectrum is no longer going to provide free basic cable to the firehouse.

Ms. Niehaus reported attending a solar farm meeting in Tate Township and was told that Ohio Township needs to communicate their position to the county commissioners. Emily Supinger noted that she hadn’t seen anything from the county on the subject. Ms. Niehaus noted that if any township meetings are held we need to make sure all views are heard.

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Emily Supinger suggested that a community survey be taken and the results used to gauge opinions. Mr. Vogelsang suggested the zoning commission be asked to look into solar guidelines for residential use, and that he is mostly concerned about industrial solar farm installations. Emily Supinger noted that the township could pass a resolution regulating solar fields over 50 megawatts and send to the county is desired; also noted that the zoning commission will need guidance if they are expected to come up with residential solar regulations.

Emily Supinger will prepare a resolution for regulating solar farms for the trustees to consider at the June meeting.

Ms. Niehaus reported that the township has been awarded another park district grant for new swings; no word yet on the CDBG grant application.

Mr. Hinson reported that the county engineer has done a great job replacing culverts and improving drainage on Twelve Mile Road.

Fund balances were discussed.

The following were read and approved with warrants written for same: (payment summary on following page).

Ms. Niehaus made a motion to adjourn at 8:30pm, seconded by Mr. Vogelsang. All members voted "yea"