

OHIO TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES

June 12, 2023

The trustees met in regular session with all members present.

Also present were Asst. Chief Jim Watkins, PTFD, Nathan Kinney, Dick Feldkamp, Jerry Harris, Kimberly Fisher, 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 May 8, 2023 public hearing, seconded by Ms. Niehaus. All members voted "yea"

Mr. Vogelsang made a motion to accept the minutes of the May 8, 2023 regular meeting, seconded by Ms. Niehaus. All members voted "yea"

Dick Feldkamp, New Richmond council member, was in attendance again asking the township to pay for half of the cost of mowing US 52 in the village. Mr. Vogelsang asked why. Dick Feldkamp responded that he feels the township should share in the cost because the township receives real estate tax revenue from village residents. Mr. Vogelsang noted that the village residents use the township hall regularly. Dick Feldkamp noted that he is asking for assistance to the village, not as if it is owed to the village. Mr. Vogelsang asked how much is being asked for. Dick Feldkamp replied that 50% of 7 mowings would be \$4,200. Ms. Niehaus added that she would like to make sure that litter is picked up prior to each mowing if the township is helping with the cost. Mr. Hinson noted that back in 2010 the township was humiliated on the news when the village tried to form a paper township and pull out of Ohio Township, noting that he is in favor of helping the village but wants to make sure the village realizes the township doesn't owe the village anything. Ms. Niehaus asked who would talk to the mowing contractor about litter cleanup. Dick Feldkamp noted that the mowing fee is low so he is not sure if the contractor will agree to picking up litter, but he will ask.

Ms. Niehaus made a motion to donate \$4,200 to the Village of New Richmond to assist with US 52 mowing costs, seconded by Mr. Vogelsang. All members voted "yea"

Asst. Chief Jim Watkins, PTFD gave his report (on file). Reported that the facilities study is still ongoing. Mr. Hinson asked if the department is up to full staffing; response was no, still two full time employees short. Mr. Hinson asked if any township equipment was taken to the Kroger safety day event; response was yes and will also include for July 4 parades if possible.

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Mr. Hinson noted that the fire personnel again trained with a high volume of water causing flooding to the area under construction behind the firehouse as well as the park and neighboring homeowner property. Asst. Chief Watkins indicated that he is open to better communication between the fire dept. and the township. Ms. Niehaus asked if there is a set training schedule; response was not particularly as most of the time it depends on who is on duty, training needed, weather, etc. Mr. Hinson asked if in the future the new area behind the firehouse could be used for hose training and spray the water out into the field. Asst. Chief Watkins will look into improving the situation, noting that it is sometimes difficult to get in touch with Dave O'Connor when needed.

Les Smith gave his zoning report (on file). Reported that the board of zoning appeals granted a variance to Ginny Dennison; asked what is now the status of 2858 SR 132 since it has been mowed. Emily Supinger stated that it is Les Smith's responsibility to advise the board on the status of the property. Les Smith then reported that the front lawn has been mowed but the rear of the property still needs to be cleaned up. The consensus was to table the nuisance resolution until the July meeting to allow Les Smith time to notify the property owner of additional needed cleanup. Mr. Hinson asked Les Smith if he was taking any of the OTA training webinars; answer was no. Asst. Chief Watkins asked if the township was keeping the Ohio Fire Code in mind when approving new home permits; asked that Pierce Township be notified of new houses to determine fire protection needs. Mr. Hinson noted that the township's ISO rating is good. Asst. Chief Watkins also asked to be included on any new development plans to assess fire protection needs.

Dave O'Connor was absent, maintenance report on file.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

2021-2022 Financial Audit: Bill Gilpin reported that the township financial audit has been completed with one item needing attention; the zoning fund needs to be closed out and zoning activity included in the general fund moving forward.

2024 Tax Budget: Bill Gilpin reminded the trustees that the 2024 tax budget public hearing will be held at 6pm prior to the regular July meeting.

Phone/Internet/Cable Package: Bill Gilpin reported that he and Ms. Niehaus have been meeting with providers regarding the township's needs and that AltaFiber has provided the best package and pricing. Ms. Niehaus confirmed and added that she would like to move forward with the AltaFiber proposal.

Ms. Niehaus made a motion to accept the AltaFiber proposal, seconded by Mr. Vogelsang. All members voted "yea"

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COMMUNICATIONS:

Nurre Property Letter: Bill Gilpin noted received a letter from the county advising that the Nurre property has been forfeited and may be available for purchase later in the year.

Port Authority Letter: Bill Gilpin noted receiving a letter from the county port authority regarding the state capital bill process.

NEW BUSINESS:

Local Government Resolution: Bill Gilpin reported on the proposed five year local government fund formula resolution approved by the county township association.

Ms. Niehaus made a motion to adopt Resolution 2023-57 approving the local government formula, seconded by Mr. Vogelsang. All members voted “yea”

Nuisance Resolution: The consensus was to table the resolution until the July meeting.

Ms. Niehaus made a motion to table the nuisance resolution until the July meeting, seconded by Mr. Vogelsang. All members voted “yea”

Solar Restriction Resolution: Emily Supinger explained that the resolution is to restrict wind and solar farms in excess of 50 megawatts.

Ms. Niehaus made a motion to adopt Resolution 2023-59 restricting wind and solar farms, seconded by Mr. Vogelsang. All members voted “yea”

Ms. Niehaus reported that the new playground equipment will be installed within the next couple of weeks.

Ms. Niehaus reported that the county is still reviewing the CDBG grant applications with no decisions made as of yet.

Mr. Vogelsang reported that a Honda CRV with Kentucky plates was left for several days in the park parking lot; Kentucky authorities were contacted who confirmed the vehicle was not stolen. The vehicle has since been removed from the parking lot by someone.

Mr. Hinson thanked Dave O'Connor for getting for getting the township cemeteries in great shape for Memorial Day.

Mr. Hinson noted that in past years the township donated money to the American Legion and VFW to assist with Memorial Day expenses and expressed the desire to do so again. Bill Gilpin noted that neither has requested a donation like they used to in past years. Mr. Hinson will contact them to see if they wish to have the financial assistance this year.

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Mr. Hinson thanked township resident Travis Emerson for cleaning the stone township sign in front of the firehouse, making it look great again.

Ms. Niehaus reported receiving two complaints from people that reserved the park shelter and then encountered someone being there when they arrived.

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 8:04pm, seconded by Mr. Vogelsang. All members voted "yea"