

## Walnut Township Trustees Meeting

November 4, 2014

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

The minutes for October 21st were submitted for approval. Trustee Leith made a motion to approve the minutes with noted changes. Trustee Horn seconded the motion. The motion passed with 3 yes votes.

Fiscal Officer Kraner spoke with Brenda at the Walnut Township Schools office regarding emailing of paystubs to employees. Kraner also spoke with Trina at UAN and was told that this is a different software and UAN will not be adding this feature to the software because of privacy issues.

There was a discussion regarding the update budget sheets for the four Road and Bridge related funds; this included the 3% increase per year in expenses and the reduction of the carry-over as discussed at the previous meeting. Based on these changes, there are approximately 150K to 200K additional funds for 2015, which is a one-time increase. The sheets further demonstrate that unless revenue increases, that there will be diminishing funds available for road projects.

Tim is working on the Fairfield Beach grant and has determined that there will be approximately 9 weeks of in-kind work required. If the township adds funds to the grant, it does increase points, so this is being considered.

There was a discussion regarding the PRO's and CON's of using the Fairfield County Engineer's office for road projects versus using an outside consultant. There is free versus a cost as well as the timing of completing the engineering the projects – within a couple months versus when the Engineer's office is available.

Tim will setup a meeting with Liberty Township to determine if there are benefits for the two townships timing work on Cherry Lane Phase III to coincide.

Trustee Horn made a motion to approve checks 24514 through 24526, and EFT 2014-700 through EFT 2014-760, after being certified that funds are available and appropriations have been made by Fiscal Officer Kraner. Trustee Leith seconded the motion. The motion passed with 3 yes votes.

### **Comments from the floor**

There were no comments from the floor.

### **Department Reports**

***Thurston Walnut Township Fire Department – Chief Hite***- Chief Hite stated that the extra safety equipment to meet EBOLA requirements will be approximately \$1,500. However, the requirements have not been finalized. A new fire hydrant will be installed in front of the fire station. There was a discussion regarding the 1500 hour rule and how the Chief is working to stay in compliance. There are currently 8 at risk of going over. Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Dolin stated that the department is owned 50/50 by the township and the village of Thurston and that there are no fulltime employees and no benefits. The firefighters at risk stated that would agree to sign a paper stating they do not want benefits. Trustee Yates suggested that they should let the Chief manage his department. Greenfield Township has a stripped down ambulance that can be used for the transportation of EBOLA patients that they will be make available to all surrounding departments.

**Zoning – Kevin Clouse** – There have been applications for four new houses and two variances for conditional use permits. The former Starlight Bowling Alley owner wants to put in a Country Western dance club in the structure and ODNR wants to build a 40 x 132 storage building on Lieb’s Island. The max is 3,200 square feet, however, the township does not have any zoning established for this area. There is an area of Custer’s Point that is zoned B2 and Kevin recommends changing it to RMU. Bobbie Slater requested a copy of the OUPS report regarding the placement of a fence or fence posts where his property adjoins his neighbor’s property. Per ORC 519.0225, agriculture is exempt from zoning.

**Recycling – Mike King** – Everything is going fine.

**Roads – Tim Morris** – The cracksealing is done and they are working on the final mowing of the season.

### **Old Business**

Trustee Horn met with AEP's counsel to discuss reimbursement for damages to Blacklick road. Their counsel contends that the township has benefited from the paving and AEP has limited liability due to the following reasons – the road is 6% wider, it is 2 years newer rather than repaired, AEP is not the sole cause of significant damage and it is a double layer instead of a single layer.

After discussion, the trustees agreed that Horn will prepare a response, using the same math and logic and request a reimbursement of approximately \$56,543.92 for damages to Blacklick Road. Trustee Horn made a motion to approve the requested compensation of \$56,543.92 for damages to Blacklick Road. Trustee Yates seconded the motion. The motion passed with 3 yes votes.

The penalty information for failure to obtain a zoning permit will be added to the Zoning Fee price sheet.

There was a discussion regarding the prospect of adding a levy to the next election for the purpose of paving and repairing roads.

### **New Business**

The paycheck for Anne Darling-Cyphert was reissued as she did not receive the original and paystubs were emailed to her.

The payment to Frank Gates for the worker's comp management fee didn't go through on the credit card. Kraner will check on the credit card as there is currently no balance on the card, a new card was received on October 27<sup>th</sup>. Kraner will check with the bank on why the payment on the credit card was not approved.

### **Comments from the Floor**

Chief Hite asked if the township fax line had changed in the last year. The township did switch to a service that emails the faxes to [contact@walnuttp.com](mailto:contact@walnuttp.com).

OUPS notices are sent directly to Tim Morris and after reviewing, he forwards to the trustees or Kevin Clouse if they need the information. Bobbie Slater thanked the township for the OUPS report and stated that the report states that his neighbor is putting in a fence. This is a civil matter between the two property owners.

Chief Hite asked that copies of paystubs for James Springer be emailed to him at [James.Springer@thurstonfire.com](mailto:James.Springer@thurstonfire.com)

At 9:50 PM, Trustee Horn made a motion to adjourn. Trustee Leith seconded the motion. The motion passed with 3 yes votes.

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Lynn Kraner, Fiscal Officer

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William Yates, Chairman

Terry Horn

Doug Leith