

Walnut Township Trustees Regular Meeting

May 1, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM. Trustee Horn, Trustee Leith, Trustee Yates and Fiscal Officer Kraner were present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

In attendance were: Chief Jim Hite (TWFD), Chief Bob Price (MFD), Mike Berry (Zoning), Mike King (Recycling), Lisa Reade, Jason Henderson, Carol King, Julie Kellermeyer and Charlie Prince

Trustee Horn suggests that at the beginning of each meeting that the meeting date be stated for the audio recording.

Trustee Leith asked for any sealed bids for Truck 7 that is for sale. Pleasantville Village had the only bid and it was for \$21000. Trustee Horn moved to accept the bid which was seconded by Trustee Yates.

Roll call: Leith, Yates, and Horn yes. Motion passes, bid accepted.

Tim will remove all the lettering and will work with Pleasantville to arrange transfer of the title by the end of the week with Jason Henderson representing the Village of Pleasantville. The title will be notarized when given to the village.

Lisa Reade who is running for Commissioner from Violet Township came to speak to the Trustees. Lisa discussed the things she would like to accomplish for the County.

Trustee Leith asked about the struggles and differences within the county.

Trustee Horn discussed that funding is a significant source of problems for townships.

Reade would recommend looking at commodities purchased as a group for the entire county to save money for all townships. She also would suggest a performance audit at the county level to make sure we are doing the best with the money we have.

She attended a meeting where Mr. Jeremiah Upp and discussed the money (\$5.00 per new license) they would have a portion of the money available to give to the townships. (possibly a total of \$750,00.00).

The Trustees told Lisa that one of the biggest issues for the Township is the health insurance for township employees.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the following meetings were approved with discussed changes:

Regular meeting of April, 3, 2018; Special meeting of April 26, 2018 and Special meeting of April 26, 2018.

Fiscal officer financial reports

Trustees Yates and Leith approved checks #25361 thru #25371 and the approval of Electronic Fund Transfers for the months of March and April, Trustee Horn abstained.

Leith acknowledges receipt of financial reports.

Approved timesheet for Shannon.

The Budget Hearing was set for June 28, 2018 at 7:00 PM Budget to be submitted by July 1.

Township Department Reports:

Millersport Fire Department Chief Bob Price

Open house for firehouse at Fairfield Beach May 5, 2018, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm, inspection of vehicles, Q and A, and refreshments. There has been 285 runs for the year.

Millersport Village is moving forward with the acquisition of 5 acres for a new fire station and would like construction to begin by late fall and not to wait until spring because of the expected increase in cost.

Radio systems in this county for fire and EMS services are in horrible shape and have been since 1997.

Millersport replaced radios with help from the County Commissioners. However, in areas such as Stoutsville, Fairfield Beach and other areas in the county, the radio connection is poor.

Millersport has received a \$175,000 grant and replaced all their radios in March of this year. They are trying to get the county to help with upgrading to the MARCS system. Possibly need to raise taxes to help with this.

Trustee Leith shared that the money for the construction of the new fire house expansion at Fairfield Beach came from an estate gift and no tax money was used.

Thurston Walnut FD - Chief Jim Hite

All American will be in to do the electric upgrade. Super Laundry is the vendor for the BC grant.

They want to sell the old washer back to Super Laundry. They said they could sell it to a hotel but not a fire department, because it no longer meets fire codes for Fire Department.

Volunteer pay \$5000 a quarter and they will submit the hours quarterly and Fiscal Officer Kraner will pay quarterly.

Chiefs Carroll, Theo Schmidt, and Jason Smith will review rules and regulations.

Provided a copy of proposed budget for next year.

Service meeting scheduled for May 2nd and possible changes as a result of the meeting.

Zoning - Mike Berry

7 permits issued this month: 1 deck, 2 homes, 2 pools, and 2 fences

Went to Regional Planning Subdivision Commission meeting and they turned down the variance for 3100 Maple Ave. on Lieb's island, it was turned down because the lots are considered non-contiguous. In a subdivision no one owns the road. The county owns the road it and would not approve it.

From a zoning standpoint, it is clear in the Zoning Resolution that there is no way to put a building on a vacant lot without a primary structure on the lot.

Mike is getting ready to send out a second warning to Mr. Tweedle about moving a van parked on parcels 046-0094200 and 046-0094300.

Parks - Tim Morris

Fairfield Beach Park is very busy. The play structures were fixed and hopefully they will not be destroyed again

Roads- Tim Morris – There are major issues with the roads. On Ruffner we went through 200 gallons of emulsion and 9 tons of gravel and are still not done. The cost for materials is over \$1,000 and there still a quarter of a mile to finish.

34 roads have not had anything done prior to 2000. We have equipment falling apart, roads that need major work, and some have gone to gravel, will cost more to repair if we let go much further. We need a road levy or something to help. We have 58.96 miles of roads to maintain for the township. The money now allocated to maintain will not be enough. Just looking at the

major roads failing. If we had not received grant money we would be in much worse shape. Some grants are due to low income areas and since the area is thriving this could reduce or eliminate the grant opportunities. Our current budget of \$150 -200,000 annually is not enough money to maintain the roads. Tim recommends we place a levy on the ballot for the November election.

According to Fiscal Officer Kraner, revenue from community grants is in four accounts we can use for roads. 2011, 2021, 2031, and 2231. Estimated total: 2011 = \$7,000; 2021= \$35, 000; 2031= \$160,000; 2231 = \$7,000, Totals about \$235,000 per year which includes money needed for; culverts, tree removal, gravel, salt, tar, fuel, etc.

Many things have been done to keep from adding taxes including: Much reduced health care costs, elimination of positions including one full time roadworker and a part time secretary. Reducing the salt usage by half and mixing the salt with sand. These savings have been used for road improvements.

Tim was asked to come back with a proposal to complete a certain number of roads per year.

We need to have information for the public to understand why a levy is needed. August 8, 2018 at 4pm is the deadline to get a levy on the ballot.

We should proceed as if we are going to put a levy on the May ballot and talk with the public to see what they think. We will decide the millage when we put the budget together. Let the public decide if they want to fix the roads by passing the levy.

Past changes have saved the township approximately \$115,000.00 annually and even with that it is not enough to keep up with road repairs. The Trustees asked Tim to complete an analysis of blacktop vs. motor paving to see what the most cost-effective material is to use.

Funds 2011, 2021, 2031, 2231 are the road funds. We appropriate approximately \$285,000 which also includes salt and road repairs.

We are getting many complaints about the condition of roads. Three areas that we have been working on and ready for going out for bids. Have a current completion date Sept 29. Budget of \$151,157.00. The roads are Leitnaker Rd. from S.R. 37 to Old Millersport Rd.; Cherry Lane from S.R. 204 to Liberty Twp. and Park Street.

We need to appropriate at least \$58,000.00 more for the cost of this year's project. Kraner will submit a letter to the County Auditor to request appropriation of funds in the 2031 fund to cover the cost.

Trustee Yates moved to submit letter. Second by Trustee Leith. Approved by all.

Trustee Horn asked about appropriation of money for the garage roof. He does not want to take from the general fund. The roof is thought to be around \$30,000.00. The new truck will cost: approximately \$78,000.00

Officer Kraner needs to have appropriation of funds before the request of bids sent out. She can wait to appropriate funds until a later meeting.

Old Business

Fiscal Officer Lynn Kraner provided information that was requested from the Trustees on January the 9th

Trustee Horn expressed his dissatisfaction with the information provided. He stated that the information was just a list of information without any documentation or addressee and no signature.

Regarding IRS Letter of March 18. Fiscal Officer Kraner stated she has sent a letter to the IRS and requested additional information for clarification of the issue. She is not sure what the problem is and is waiting to hear back

Trustee Horn asked, what has been paid in interest, fees and penalties for the IRS problems that go back several years?

Horn asked Kraner to provide verifiable documentation for the issues noted in the January 9th request. And verifiable documentation of the remaining \$2,966 in penalties, fees and interest that was paid to the IRS.

Horn expects verifiable documentation for each of the charges from the IRS to address and confirm what happened in each of the dates where there was interest, fees and penalties paid by the Township. This was originally requested in January and was to be submitted within 30 - 45 days and now it is May 1 and still no resolution of the amount of money it cost the Township.

Officer Kraner says she has given spreadsheet and documentation. Horn replied that Kraner had stated at the time the spreadsheets were provided, that they were not verified to be accurate.

Trustee Terry Horn recommends that we hire an attorney to resolve this matter. Trustee Horn moved to engage the services of Attorney Paul Lafayette to move this issue forward due to a lack of cooperation from the Fiscal Officer. Motion died for a lack of a second.

Trustee Yates fails to see the relevance of hiring someone to resolve this. Asked if they asked for third party auditor and prosecuting attorney about this issue and does not find a problem.

The State Auditor's office did not find a cause for recovery of funds during the last State Audit (2014-2015).

Trustee Horn stated that we are still receiving interest fees and charges from the IRS as indicated by the March 12, 2018 IRS statement that shows interest charges of \$29.00.

Trustee Leith asked if Kraner is notified when municipality due dates are changed from quarterly to monthly. She says she is not notified, she only finds out when filing.

Bids will be sought for the three road resurfacing projects consisting of Leitnaker Rd. from S.R. 37 to Old Millersport Rd.; Cherry Lane from S.R. 204 to Liberty Twp. and Park Street.

Appropriations for the money are needed for the projects. Motion made by trustee Yates to move \$58,000 from fund 2031 to allow for the road project. Second by Trustee Leith. approved by all.

20231- Roof repair \$6,000 paid from this for contracted services. \$20,000 needs to go into this same fund to offset the cost of the new truck leaving a balance of \$24,862 for the truck in fund 2031.

Truck to be delivered approximately 8/28/18. We will wait until next meeting to discuss funding for roof.

The new truck is approximately \$78,000 and we need to know where to get the money from to pay for this.

County Ditch petition for West Bank residents and the Parish Farm – All ditch petitioners received a certified letter from the County stating the estimate of the cost for the ditch if they do not get the grant. We are not sure what formula was used to determine the assessments. There is a first-year maintenance fee in the \$200 - \$300 range that has not been shared by the County with the property owners.

Shop Garage Roof Repair Project. There will be a 2-foot overhang, vinyl soffits, ridge cap for venting, ice guards on front and back. The plan is to put one downspout on front east end and will need to be tied into the nearby catch basin. A 24"x 30" ceiling hatch. We will need a check for the \$130 application permit fees. Total building permit fee will be approximately \$530.

For this project there will be no prevailing wage requirement since we are, under \$75,000. Bidding is not required since the labor should not meet the \$50,000 threshold limit. Yates moves we change to eliminate public bidding and find local contractors to quote the project.

Road salt for 2018-2019

Tim said we have about 200 tons of salt in the barn. Tim suggested we order 600 tons from the ODOT contract. In addition, it was suggested that we order 300 tons from SWOP Co-op with no minimum purchase commitment.

Mr. Leith moves that we allow Tim to order 900 tons of road salt, second by Mr. Yates. Approved with three yes votes.

Mr. Horn has a concern about the way salt is filled in the barn and the salt is piled up and over onto the steel column bases.

New Business

From the Fairfield County OTA - noise resolutions vary throughout townships in the county. The Fairfield County Sherriff finds it difficult to try and enforce all of these various resolutions and would like it to be consistent count-wide. In an effort to streamline the process, the Sherriff's Office has decided to direct the deputies to use the State disorderly conduct statutes for all noise calls which have been found to be effective.

Trustee Horn states that there are issues at Fairfield Beach in the RV and Mobile Home park with zoning being ignored for many years. He has talked with Amy Brown-Thompson at the Prosecutor's Office about this issue and will review the what steps we can take to bring this into compliance. There may also be a water well problem at this location.

Items Pending/Waiting for Action

Next scheduled meeting June 5, 7pm.

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Leith second Mr. Yates, approved with three yes votes at 9:28 pm

Meeting minutes recorded by Debora Gatton, Recording Secretary.

Lynn Kraner, Fiscal Officer

William Yates

Terry Horn

Doug Leith, Chairman