

**MINUTES OF THE:
WALNUT TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SPECIAL MEETING
November 21, 2022 – 3:00 PM**

Township Officials present:

Trustees Terry W. Horn, William R. Yates and Douglas G. Leith, Fiscal Officer Pam Shaloo absent.

Invited guest(s) present:

Vince Papsidero and Gabrielle Smith of Planning NEXT.

Department Head(s) present: Mike Berry Zoning Inspector

Member(s) of the public present: Charles Pillon – Zoning Commission Chair

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 PM by Trustee Chairman Yates and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited.

MEETING PROCEEDINGS

Advertised Purpose of Meeting:

The Walnut Township Trustees have been invited to participate in Local Leadership Interviews: “Fairfield County has begun the process to prepare an Economic Development Strategic Plan and update its 2018 Comprehensive Land Use Plan in response to expected regional growth pressure triggered by the imminent Intel investment in Licking County.

The county has hired Columbus-based Planning NEXT to work with local communities, county leadership, stakeholders, and the public. As a first step, we invite your representatives to participate in a one-on-one interview with the consultants.”

At the interview, Planning NEXT staff seeks to discuss your priorities regarding planning and growth, economic development, housing, and zoning.”

Discussion:

The guests introduced themselves and stated that they are working on behalf of the County Commissioners and will be looking at the entire County.

A survey will be sent to all government officials in the County within the next day.

They stated that this is a six-month process to update/amend the 2018 Comprehensive Land Use Plan. Looking at growth areas and boundaries. Then create a new economic development strategy targeting housing and addressing business attraction. They stated this is being done to take advantage of the development that will likely arise from the Intel project coming to Licking County (New Albany area) to the extent that each jurisdiction wants to.

The Trustee stated that we feel the biggest issue is for infrastructure needs for sewer and water.

Vince asked what utilities are currently available in the Township. The Trustees answered with the following regarding water:

Millersport provides water to Millersport Village, Leibs Island, North Bank Rd. to the Buckeye Lake Village and South Bank to Lake Rd.

Thurston provides water to Thurston Village.

Pleasantville provides water to the Pleasantville Village.

Baltimore provides water to Baltimore Village and along SR 256 to the east and portions of SR 37.

Regarding sanitary sewer:

Walnut Creek sewer district services Pleasantville and Thurston.

Licking County Sewer serves Millersport, Leibs Island, Fairfield Beach and all properties along the Buckeye Lake water front.

Burgess and Niple is on the Planning NEXT team and will be looking at utility services and transportation. There will also be an updated thoroughfare plan. They will be looking at current service areas, and any long-range plans that may currently be in place or not in place.

There was general discussion regarding utilities and infrastructure needs in the township.

The trustees noted to the guests that there is a collaborative tri-county organization called Buckeye Lake Region Corporation that is focused on development around the Lake.

The Trustees made the guests aware of permanent and 10-year agricultural protected areas in the township. These are located on the County (ARC/GIS) Map.

The Trustees also made the guests aware of a utility scale solar project (Eastern Cottontail Solar) in the southern portion of the township.

Planning NEXT stated that they will summarize this meeting in writing.

Vince noted that each political subdivision in the County will be asked to provide a representative to serve on the Steering Committee. The first meeting for that will be December 19, 2022.

Adjournment: At 4:15 PM, Trustee Horn made a motion to adjourn. Trustee Leith seconded the motion. The motion passed with 3 yes votes.

Minutes Recorded By: Terry Horn

Pam Shaloo, Fiscal Officer

William R. Yates, Chairman

Douglas G. Leith, Vice Chairman

Terry W. Horn