

**MINUTES OF THE:
WALNUT TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
December 6, 2022 - 7:00 PM**

Township Officials present:

Trustees Terry W. Horn, William R. Yates, Douglas G. Leith. Fiscal Officer (FO) Pam Shaloo.

Department Heads/Staff present:

Zoning Inspector – Mike Berry; Roads & Parks Supervisor – Nate Wagner; Regional Planning Commission Representative-Robert W. Slater II, Fire Chief – Robert Price; Recording Secretary and Fiscal Accounting Clerk - Tammy Oliver.

Scott Arnold and Mike King were absent.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Trustee Chairman Yates and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited.

Invited guest(s) present: Fairfield County Sheriff's Office – Sgt. Sean Burke

Number of members of the public present: 16 as recorded on Sign-in sheets

MEETING PROCEEDINGS

Sgt. Burke - Shared that the Fairfield County Sheriff's Office will be going to 12-hour shifts at the beginning of 2023. Shifts will be from 6 am to 6 pm. Sheriff's office is struggling with getting new hires in and due to retirements. Sheriff's Office will be restructuring sector lines and districts. Liberty, Walnut, and Richland Townships will be in same district.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes for the Special Meeting on November 1, 2022 was presented for approval. Trustee Leith made a motion to approve the minutes. Trustee Horn seconded the motion. The motion passed with 3 yes votes.

The minutes for the Regular Meeting on November 1, 2022 were presented for approval with corrections. Trustee Horn made a motion to approve the minutes. Trustee Leith seconded the motion. The motion passed with 3 yes votes.

The minutes for the Special Board Meeting on November 14, 2022 was presented for approval. Trustee Leith made a motion to approve the minutes. Trustee Horn seconded the motion. The motion passed with 3 yes votes.

The minutes for the Special Meeting on November 21, 2022 was presented for approval. Trustee Leith made a motion to approve the minutes. Trustee Horn seconded the motion. The motion passed with 3 yes votes.

Financial Report – Fiscal Officer, Pam Shaloo:

Approval of Checks and Electronic Fund Transfers (EFT's): Trustee Horn made a motion to approve checks # 25794 through # 25796 and Electronic Fund Transfers #779-2022 through 804-2022, after being certified that funds are available and appropriations have been made by fiscal Officer Shaloo. Trustee Leith seconded the motion. The motion passed with 3 yes votes.

Trustee Horn made the motion to approve the Fiscal Officers reports for October 2022. Reports include: Investment Listings, Appropriation Summaries, Cash Summaries, Fund Status and Payment Detail Listings and the Bank Reconciliation Reports for October 2022. Trustee Leith seconded the motion. Mr. Yates asked if the district was debt free. The only debt outstanding is a 0 % loan from the state for the Cherry Lane Improvements Phase 3. The motion passed with 3 yes votes.

Fiscal Accounting Clerk, Tammy Oliver, let the Trustees know that she completed the Sunshine Law Online course as a representative for the Trustees and the Fiscal Officer. Ms. Oliver also printed an up-to-date paper copy of the AOS Sunshine Law Manual for the Fiscal Office.

Comments from the public:

1. There were a number of members of the community voicing opinions in opposition to "short term rentals" in Walnut Township. Currently "short term rentals" are not permitted in Walnut Township according to the current Zoning Regulations. Trustee Yates explained to the community members that the Trustees and the Zoning Inspector are only enforcing what is currently in the Township Zoning Regulations. Trustee Yates assured the community members that there would be ample notice before any decisions would ever be made to the Zoning Regulations, if there would be changes. Zoning Inspector, Mike Berry, stated that there was nothing filed as yet to change the resolution.
2. There was public discussion about the flooding and standing water on various properties.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Township Fire Department - Chief Price

Chief Price stated there were 107 Total Runs in November.

The Truck was taken to Horton before November 28, 2022 for the work on the Chassis to begin. The work should be completed by March 2023.

Jet Boat is stored at station 1 and has been serviced, stored and ready for launch if needed.

Trustee Yates asked Chief Price the status of the Fire department in regards to being ready for ice gear rescues. Chief Price said that the Fire Department is ready with ice sleds and we have cold water suits and tanks. Donated funds have been used in the past years to purchase needed equipment for ice rescue equipment.

There was also discussion on the fire department having plans for Grain Silo Rescues. Reiterated that the Department personnel must be thinking 3 steps ahead.

Regional Planning Commission Representative – Robert Slater II;

Attended the Regional Planning Commission meeting that was not well attended.

Zoning – Mike Berry

19 permits issued in November: 2 homes, 3 additions, 5 Sheds, 2 accessory bldgs., 2 fences, 1 deck, 1 variance, 2 Ag. Exempt, 1 Zoning Resolution amendment. No outstanding fees.

10 letters issued: 4 violations, 6 variances. Prior violations: Accessory Bldg. on Alder and Ivy turned over to Prosecuting Attorney and second letter for no permit for Pool on Bickel Church Rd. Owner has contacted Township to resolve. 11045 Cattail Road No Deck permit, resolved. 12320 Shell Beach Road addition to AS. No permit, issue resolved. 13516 Newark Road, Semi-Trailer and several sheds, ongoing. Working on second letter for short term rental violation notices.

Returned 68 phone calls.

1 variance Hearing on December 8, 2022.

Parks and Roads Supervisor – Nate Wagner;

Parks:

Fairfield Beach trash cans were removed from the soccer field. The trash cans are being used for residential trash.

Roads:

Nate and Mike have the plows and spreaders mounted and all ready for snow and ice removal.

Salt barn repairs will be completed in the next few weeks.

A number of New Salem residents were sent letters in regards to the request for property access to the Fairfield County Storm sewer on their property so that Nate can walk the paths to see what surface defects will need work next spring.

Three trees were removed that had fallen in right of way and three more that came down on the roads.

Trustee Leith made a motion and it was seconded by Trustee Horn to approve the purchase of new tires from Krieger Tire in the amount of \$2,674.00 for the Tractor. Motion passed with 3 yes votes.

Holder Road Issue - On Nov. 21st Walnut Township contracted with Stutske Construction to excavate a 15" clay tile on Holder Rd. to determine if the tile was plugged in the road right of way. People on site were:

- Nate Wagner – Road Supervisor
- Mike King – Road worker
- Doug Leith – Walnut Township Trustee
- Stutske Construction crew (2)
- Roger Woods – Citizen of Baltimore
- Bob Luster – Citizen of Walnut Township

Upon removal of a section of tile on the south side of Holder Rd, the Stutske crew hydro-jetted the tile from one edge of right of way to the other two times. It is the opinion of the Stutske Crew, Walnut Township Road Department and Trustees that the tile is open and not collapsed within the township right-of-way. The matter is closed.

Mike and Nate will be attending a pavement maintenance workshop at the Fairfield County Engineers office on December 14, 2022.

OLD BUSINESS

Trustee Yates gave an update that the Township officially received an extension for the Tornado Shelter Grant to October 2023. The Plan is to seek out additional funds and see what size the Tornado Shelter can be reduced to so that the construction will fit within our budgeted funds.

Trustee Leith informed the Trustees that he attended the Fairfield County Commissioners meeting at the Walnut Township Elementary School. It was well attended. Trustee Leith thanked the Commissioners for having the meeting in our community.

1. **Parking Resolution** – Trustee Horn provided an update on moving forward with the parking resolution. The Township was able to save costs with the advertising with a summarized version of the parking resolution. Nate will be taking care of the signs on Shepard Road. Chairman Yates suggested caution with the signage because it is already difficult to clear snow with the plows on Shepard Road.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Zoning Board members** – With the expiration of their terms, Terry Horn informed the Trustees that there will be a position on the BZA Commission and Mike Wolfe will not be continuing as a member of the Zoning Commission. Martha Snavelly is currently a BZA Alternate. Dick Williams is currently a Zoning Commission alternate. Trustee Horn made the motion to move Martha Snavelly as BZA member with her term going to 2027 and move Dick Williams, who is currently an alternate to the Zoning Commission, be appointed a full member of the Zoning Board with his term going to 2027. Motion seconded by Trustee Leith. Alternates will be needed for the Zoning Commission and the BZA. The motion passed with 3 yes votes.

2. **Steering committee member for County Land Use Plan** – Trustee Leith made a motion to nominate Trustee Horn to represent Walnut Township as the steering committee member for the county land use plan. The motion was seconded by Chairman Yates. The motion passed with 3 yes votes.

3. **Runkle Park Property** – Beth Hume, 3131 Greenlawn Avenue, would like to purchase a small section of Runkle Park to allow her the ability to proceed with a small addition to her current dwelling. There was discussion that the Township research the deed and the property lines and how the Township acquired the property of Runkle Park before any further discussion.

Comments from the public:

1. There was discussion by a member of the public and the Trustees in regards to the solar development in Walnut Township and if it will or will not benefit the Walnut Township Community. The community representative requested that the Trustees make informed decisions only after knowing all the facts when it comes to solar developments in Walnut Township.

Trustee Horn moved to pay invoice #8 for MS Consultants in the amount of \$21,918.27. Trustee Leith seconded the motion. The motion passed with 3 yes votes.

Trustee Horn moved to pay invoice # 20550 for ADR for - \$720.00. Trustee Leith seconded the motion. The motion passed with 3 yes votes.

There was discussion as to how employees are to be reimbursed for their healthcare premiums that were billed outside of Walnut Township. The Fairfield County Prosecuting Attorney has stated that this cannot be done unless the Township sets up a "Cafeteria Plan" for 2023 and that none of the current Trustees or the Fiscal Officer can be reimbursed during their current terms. The Fiscal Accounting Clerk will do further research with Michelle Crocket, Burnham and Flower and the Prosecuting Attorney to clarify.

Trustee Leith made the motion to move to executive session at 10:33 pm to discuss employee compensation per ORC 121.22, seconded by Chairman Yates. The motion passed with 3 yes votes.

Trustees returned to regular session at 11:30 pm.

Motion was made by Trustee Horn and seconded by Trustee Leith to give Nate Wagner a \$2.00/ hour increase, Mike King a \$1.25/hour increase, Tammy Oliver a \$1.55/hour increase, and Mike Berry a \$1.25/hour increase. The motion passed with 3 yes votes.

The following employee compensation adjustments will be effective January 1, 2023.

Nate Wagner to \$ 30.00 per hour

Mike King to \$ 19.50 per hour

Tammy Oliver to \$ 23.55 per hour

Mike Berry to \$ 19.25 per hour

Reorganization meeting will be on January 3, 2022 at 6:00 pm followed immediately by the regular monthly Trustee meeting.

Adjournment: At 11:50 PM, Trustee Leith made a motion to adjourn. Trustee Horn seconded the motion. The motion passed with 3 yes votes.

Minutes Recorded By: Tammy Oliver

Pam Shaloo, Fiscal Officer

William R. Yates, Chairman

Douglas G. Leith, Vice Chairman

Terry W. Horn