

Walnut Township Trustees Meeting

January 3, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 7:17 PM. Trustees Doug Leith, Bill Yates and Terry Horn were present.

A form was received from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control requesting the Trustees decide if they want to hold a public hearing on the activation of a D5 Liquor Permit for the Beach Stop Market at 5095 Fairfield Beach Rd. After discussion, it was decided to let the public in on this decision by holding the public hearing. Trustee Horn made a motion to have a Public Hearing held at the County seat for this liquor license. Trustee Leith seconded the motion. The motion passed with 3 yes votes.

Trustee Leith acknowledged the receipt of the Cash Summary by Fund, Payment Listing, Fund Status and Appropriation Summary by the trustees.

Trustee Yates made a motion to approve checks 25197 through 25232 and EFT 2016-986 through 2016-1077, after being certified that funds are available and appropriations have been made by Fiscal Officer Kraner. Trustee Horn seconded the motion. The motion passed with 3 yes votes.

The approved Records Disposal Policy was received from the Ohio Historical Connection.

Comments from the Floor –

There were no comments from the floor.

Department Reports

Mike Berry, Zoning Inspector – There is a house addition pending ODNR approval. A Sign Permit application was received, however, no ground signs are permitted except in areas with industrial zoning. There are several new homes going into Crescent Cove.

Trustee Yates stated that ODNR did not have the legal right to hold-up any zoning permits in Walnut Township.

The Zoning Permit report for 2016 has been sent to the Auditor; 87 permits; 16 new homes; 3 variances; no rezones.

The Health Department does not have any jurisdiction over junk cars, so the Township will have to send out a letter to Parcel # 0460043000 on Taylor Road. The 2nd home at 12445 Taylor Avenue, that is caving in, is in Foreclosure. The house with the crumbling foundation on West Bank has not been condemned by the Health Department.

Mike King, Recycling – Everything is fine

Tim Morris, Parks and Road and Bridge – Tim needs the Inventory for 2017 approved by the Trustees. Trustee Yates made a motion to approve the inventory. Trustee Horn seconded the motion. The motion passed with 3 yes votes.

Tim would like to dispose of the woodchips and needs the Trustees to make a motion. Trustee Yates made a motion to delegate the authority to Tim Morris to dispose of anything valued under \$1,000 as allowed under ORC 505.10. Trustee Leith seconded the motion. The motion passed with 3 yes votes.

All the trucks are ready for snow removal.

Chief Hite, Thurston Walnut Township Fire Department – Chief Hite is waiting for approval on his budget for 2017 from the Trustees and the Village of Thurston.

Ed Laramie, Fairfield County Auditor's office, informed Chief Hite that 1 mill would generate between \$205,000 and \$218,000. Hite is encouraging the Trustees to proceed with a new fire levy.

Hite spoke with the Ohio Fire Chief's legal counsel and was informed that due to the 50% ownership of the TWTFD by the township that the department does fall under the 1500 hour rule.

Chief Hite would like to see the base hourly rate go from \$9 to \$11 and \$11 to \$13, by increasing them in \$.50 increments over time. An increase of \$1.00/hour would mean an increase of approximately \$30,000 to the budget.

Chief Hite would like to compensate the volunteers for their time when they are completing the Check-Off book to become part-time employees.

Assistant Chief Robertson, Millersport Fire Department – The new engine/tanker will be in service soon; they are continuing their training for the vehicle.

They had 888 calls in 2016; 685 EMS and 203 Fire.

They are hoping to break ground on the addition to Station 2 in the Spring. The work is being financed through a donation from an estate.

Asst. Chief Robertson stated that the reasons they would like to have the fire levy is for purchasing out dated equipment, bringing salaries up to the standard of the area and the possibility of a permanent firefighter at each station.

Aaron Reddy, Clerk for the Village of Thurston, suggested now was the time to look at a Joint Fire District.

Trustee Yates made a motion to complete the paperwork to put a 3-mill continuing Fire Levy on the May General Election Ballot. Trustee Horn seconded the motion. The motion passed with 3 yes votes.

Yates requested that the Fire Chiefs put together a list of the items and personnel costs, with dollar amounts, so this information can be available for the public.

There was a discussion regarding the moving of the Firefighter payroll for TWTFD from the township to the Village of Thurston. An Addendum would be needed to the current TWTFD contract for that to occur. The reasons would be if the 1,500 hour rule was not in force and better access to the Village Clerk then the Fiscal Officer. It was determined not to change procedure at this time if the 1,500 hour rule remains in effect for the township as well as for the Village of Thurston.

Old Business

There is no new update regarding the IRS issues. The paperwork that Mark Long requested regarding the IRS issue from December 2015 was emailed to him.

Fiscal Officer Kraner has not had the opportunity to review any of the other discount programs available from BWC.

There was a discussion regarding the Fuel Purchasing Program. Tm has obtained all the permits. The Electrician is expected to be there on Friday and then the next inspection can take place.

Currently the Villages of Thurston and Millersport, the TWTFD and Millersport Fire Departments and the Walnut Township School District are participating in the Fuel Purchasing Program with the Township. Trustee Yates stated they are working on a contract for the program.

For the OTA conference, historically the Zoning Inspector and the Road Workers were registered as members. However this year they will need to become Associate Members to receive the member rate for the conference. Trustee Yates made a motion to obtain Associate Memberships for Tim Morris, Mike King and Mike Berry. Trustee Horn seconded the motion. The motion passed with 3 yes votes.

Charlie Prince, Union Township Trustee, shared a copy of the joint letter that was sent from the Union Township Trustees and the Walnut Township Trustees to James Zehringer, Head of ODNR, regarding Safety and Health Concerns surrounding the Dam Construction project. Additionally, the letter was sent to the head of the EPA, Craig Butler, Tim Shaffer, Jay Hottinger, Larry Householder and Troy Balderson.

The Trustees reviewed the Community Inventory/Planning Issues Questionnaire. Trustee Leith will forward a completed copy to RPC.

New Business

Trustee Horn made a motion to reappoint Greg Groves to the Zoning Commission with a term that ends in December 2021 and Ron Sharpe to the BZA with a term that ends in December 2021. Trustee Yates seconded the motion. The motion passed with 3 yes votes.

There was a discussion regarding two potential candidates, Ben Patterson and TJ Upp. There will still be a need for alternates for each board. Trustee Horn suggested that Alex Fant might be moved to the BZA because of his background.

A new Resolution is needed for the engineering of the Geiger Road project. A contract will need to be signed between 2LMN, the Fairfield County Engineer and the township.

Comments

There were no comments from the floor.

The next regular meeting is February 7th.

9:25 PM, Trustee Yates made a motion to adjourn. Trustee Horn seconded the motion. The motion passed with 3 yes votes.

Lynn Kraner, Fiscal Officer

William Yates

Terry Horn

Doug Leith, Chairman