

Walnut Township Trustees Regular Meeting

September 5, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM. Trustee Horn, Trustee Leith, Trustee Yates & Fiscal Officer Kraner were present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

In attendance were:

Chief Price – MFD; Chief Hite – TWFD; Mike Berry – Zoning Inspector; Mike King – WT Parks & Roads; 15 guests.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

June 6 – Regular Meeting: Trustee Horn asked for a few grammatical and/or spelling corrections and revisions. Trustee Horn moved to accept the minutes with corrections, Trustee Leith seconded. The motion passed with three (3) yes votes.

July 11 – Regular Meeting: Trustee Horn moved to accept the minutes with corrections, Trustee Yates seconded. The motion passed with three (3) yes votes.

August 1 – Regular Meeting: Trustee Yates moved to accept the minutes with discussed corrections, Trustee Leith seconded the motion. Motion approved with three (3) yes votes.

Approval of Financial Report & Bills for Payment

Fiscal Officer Kraner asked for approval of check #'s 25320-25324 & EFT #'s 678-810. Trustee Yates moved to acknowledge the financial report and approve the bills for payment. Trustee Leith seconded the motion. Yates (Y); Leith (Y); Horn (abstain) motion passed with two (2) yes votes.

Fiscal Officer Kraner received the Resolution to Accept the Amounts & Rates as determined by the Fairfield County Budget Commission for 2018. Trustee Horn moved to accept the motion, Trustee Yates seconded. The motion was approved with three (3) yes votes.

She has also received an Audit Extension Request from BHM-CPA-LK that needs to be signed. The paperwork states that the cost of completing the audit for 2016 & 2017 will be the same that it was for 2014 & 2015. Trustee Leith signed the request.

Comments from the floor

Bill Cunningham (New Salem) asked if the property on S.R. 188, 8721 Lancaster-Thornville Rd., is being addressed? Trustee Horn confirmed that was correct. Mr. Cunningham then stated that another property nearby is selling semi-truck tires and the abundance of tires on the property is causing an influx of mosquitoes in the area. He said there has been a confirmed case of West Nile Virus in the area already, so the extra mosquitoes are a concern. Additionally, the corner of Water St. & High St. has a flooding issue and he believes it is the result of a pipe running underneath the road that pushes the water out. Mr. Cunningham said the road is starting to deteriorate. Mike Berry (Zoning) stated he will stop at the property selling the tires and discuss the situation with Patty, the owner, and will also take a look at the flooding issue referenced.

Janice Cunningham (New Salem) also stated that on the property of Russell Terry (8721 Lancaster-Thornville Rd.), the people living there pulled in a camper onto the land. She said they have boot-legged electric for the trailer from a nearby pole. She has tried calling AEP to get it shut off but hasn't had any luck. Mr. Cunningham said they are pretty sure there has been drug activity occurring on the property as well.

Judy Zollinger (Millersport) stated that the corner of Cottage St. & Chautauqua Blvd. has a storm water issue in that a lot of rain and gravel washes down from the campground parking lot nearby and runs into their properties. Resident also stated that the Township already put in one 8" pipe about a year ago but it's not big enough.

Kim McDonald (Millersport) stated that he's had his furnace replaced twice in the past four years due to the flooding issue referenced by Ms. Zollinger, and continues to have flooding issues in his home. He said when the rain and gravel mix comes down the hill, it never goes anywhere near the storm sewer that was installed nearby. Trustee Leith asked Mike King to have Tim Morris give him a call when Tim returns from vacation, so they can look into this issue. Trustee Yates asked Mr. McDonald to clarify if elevation seemed to be the only cause of the issue? Ms. Zollinger suggested that an additional storm sewer should be added.

Charlene Swain (manager of the Apostolic Campground) stated that near the duplex on Sutherland Beach Rd., there is a storm sewer in that area which the cover was swept away in the recent storm. She also stated that they are considering taking down the duplex and are considering replacing it with a trailer or modular, depending on what Zoning will allow. Trustee Leith instructed her to connect with Mike Berry.

Mr. McDonald stated that the gravel area of Fairfield Beach at the Township storage building is not being kept up and is becoming an eyesore. Mike King stated that they've never mowed the

area, have only sprayed the lot to keep away the weeds but with all the rain we've had the spraying hasn't been enough this season.

Township Department Reports

Millersport Fire Dept: Chief Price stated they are making head-way on the renovations for the Fairfield Beach Station. They have a sign outside stating that everything being done at Station No. 2 is donation money and is NOT being done with taxpayer money. With all of the construction going on, he asked if the Township would consider allowing Medic 633 to park here in the Township's garage bay for about six months during the renovation? If approved, they will use the empty truck bay at the station as temporary living quarters for the crew during construction. Housing the truck at the Township would be helpful because they need quick access to it and also need it to be held in a climate-controlled area. Trustee Horn said we will do whatever needs to be done to make this work.

He also stated they are at 700 runs so far this year. No specific reason for the increase in calls.

Thurston Walnut Fire Dept: Chief Hite would like to move one firefighter to part-time.

Trustee Yates moved to approve Chief Hite's personnel recommendations and acknowledge him moving forward to the Thurston Village Council with his requests.

Trustee Yates asked both Chiefs Price & Hite to get together regarding the current EMS billing company contract that is coming up for renewal and provide feedback to the Township on this. Chief Hite stated that next month at the Chief's Meeting, they will be discussing whether to go with a different company or not.

Zoning: Mike Berry stated he is working on two deck permits, two accessory buildings, three fences, two additions & two new homes. He stated they are still working with ODNR on West Bank & North Bank.

Old Business

IRS Update

Fiscal Officer Kraner stated we've received a few documents from them in the last couple of weeks. She will review them and report to the Trustees at the next meeting.

Cherry Lane: Phase 3 Update

Trustee Leith stated he's not entirely sure on the details with Tim being on vacation but believes this project is on schedule.

RUMA Update w/ ODNR

ODNR wants to do the repairs of our roads now that were damaged by the dam construction activities. ODNR provided an estimate to bring these roads back to their original condition. Trustee Horn stated that he does not agree that the Township should pay for the repairs to these roads. Had the dam repair project have not taken place the road would still be in serviceable condition today. We would have options to repair portions of the road. Trustee Leith agreed and stated for the public that the Township did take video of the condition of the roads before the Dam project started as a point of reference. He also stated that he feels we have good representation in the County Engineer's Office and is confident they will lead us through this process in the best possible manner

ODNR Dam Storm Sewer updates

Brad Smith (West Bank Homeowner's Association) stated that he was included on some emails today regarding any updates and that it sounds as though everything is on hold.

Mr. Smith also stated that both of their pumps were running for 24-hours straight because of the recent rain storm and that they need to be able to continue to do that when it's necessary. ODNR took the inflatable pipes out of the HOA's pumps and routed them over to Parish's pit. He says the bigger pipe had too much pressure on it and water was spraying everywhere. Trustee Horn suggested that ODNR needs to upsize the pipes themselves. Kreig Babbert (West Bank Homeowner's Association) stated they need to also communicate with the HOA; ODNR re-routed all of the pipes without talking to anyone first. Mr. Smith stated they only found out about it when the big rain storm happened and the pump house completely flooded. Trustee Leith said the Trustees will send a joint letter to ODNR regarding this issue.

Ag Security Area Renewal Application & Hearing Dates

Applications for renewal: Larry Neeley's property on Deep Cut Rd; Mary & Mike Thomas on Bickel Church Rd.; Jim Reed on Bickel Church Rd.; David and Carol King; Mike and Maria Wolf on Canal Rd.

When a property is deemed an 'Ag Security Area', it lasts for ten years and this application process is to renew for an additional ten years. The purpose is to protect any landowner from any hassles regarding any new developments nearby.

Per an email from the Fairfield Soil and Water Conservation District, Walnut Township must schedule a public hearing for October 19. The notice of the hearing must be published at least 30 days before the hearing. Trustee Horn moved to hold a public hearing on Thursday, October 19

at 7:00 pm. and publish a legal ad no later than September 14. Trustee Yates seconded the motion. Motion passed with three (3) yes votes.

Shop Door Opener Repair Quote

Tim (Parks & Roads) sent a quote to the Trustees for repair of the shop door opener for \$1600.00. Trustee Yates moved to accept the motion, Trustee Leith seconded. Motion passed with three (3) yes votes.

New Business

Buckeye Lake Regional Corp

Trustee Horn said he spoke with Mike Fornataro and they would like the Township to pay an annual \$500 membership fee. He said there will be a commitment of one meeting/month. One of the Trustees could attend themselves or they could delegate to someone else. Trustee Horn said whomever they decide to appoint, we need to make sure this person represents the Township well.

Trustee Leith moved to approve the Township attending the meetings at the cost of \$500 for a one-year membership. Trustee Horn seconded the motion. The motion passed with three (3) yes votes.

Land Bank/Prosecutor Condemned Properties

A meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 20 at 7:00 pm at the Courthouse with the Land Bank and Prosecutor's Office. Trustee Horn volunteered to attend along with Mike Berry to represent Walnut Township.

Trustee Horn said he was able to talk with Mike Kaper about some of the properties on Fairfield Beach that are in rough shape but not in foreclosure. He said the Land Bank is willing to buy these properties and demolish them which will help to clean up the neighborhood. He will work with Mike Berry through this process.

Ohio Liquor Control

Trustee Leith stated that the Township has received a request from the State regarding the Watson Hearing, and to decide whether or not to hold a formal meeting on the topic. This is regarding the Weidner's Corner on SR 37. The new facility will be a drive-thru with a small diner. After discussion, the Trustee's decided it was not necessary to hold a meeting.

Fairfield Beach

Kelly Ballard (Fairfield Beach) asked if there is any update on the gas station or strip mall that is going up in the area? There are rumors about what it is but no one knows for sure. Trustee Horn stated that Andy Wolfe has applied for a liquor permit and the Trustee's did not contest it. However, no application for a Zoning Permit has been submitted.

Additional Comments from the Floor

No comments.

Trustee Horn moved to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Yates seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 8:43 pm.

Minutes recorded by Shannon Franz, Recording Secretary.

Lynn Kraner, Fiscal Officer

William Yates

Terry Horn

Doug Leith, Chairman