

Walnut Township Trustees Special Meeting

**Date:** June 28, 2021      **Time:** 7:00 p.m.      **Recorder:** Patricia McLoughlin

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited

<b>Attendee</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Attendee</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Attendee</b>	<b>Present</b>
Bill Yates, Trustee Chairman	<b>X</b>	Tim Morris, Parks & Roads	<b>X</b>	11 guests	<b>X</b>
Terry Horn, Trustee	<b>X</b>				
Doug Leith, Trustee	<b>X</b>				

<b>Discussion Summary</b>	<b>Action/Decision/Follow-Up</b>
<p>This meeting is for the purpose of: Approval of Request for Qualifications (RFQ); For a Critea Design Architect for a Community Safe Room at Fairfield Beach – 5506 Beaver Road, Thornville, Ohio near the Township Park. The township has received FEMA Grant money capable of holding 950 people, 4800 square feet. Bids are open for architectural structure.</p> <p>Trustee Horn opened the only packet received for this RFQ from Shore Architects. Sans Ducker is the civil engineer, Roger Fields is the mechanical and electrical engineer, SMBH structural engineer, and Geotechnical Consultants is the geotechnical consultant. Trustee Horn said that all of these organizations are well known in the community. Estimated budget for the shelter is \$800,000.00 and the fee percentage from Shore Architects will be in the range of 6-7%.</p> <p>Trustee Horn stated that the packet appeared in good order.</p>	<p>Motion by Trustee Horn to accept the Request for Qualifications from Shore Architects for the Community Safe Room at 5056 Beaver Road, Thornville, Ohio, second from Trustee Leith, <u>Roll call:</u>3 YES</p>
<p>Walnut Township North flooding situation: Trustee Horn said that there was a snag with the “use of fill” to bring structures above the floodplain based on feedback from the State floodplain administrator, Alicia Silvio. Trustee Horn said it could be possibly done through zoning and an overlay district.</p> <p>Trustee Horn said that he was in touch with Kari Mackenbach with MS Consultants, Inc. who can help with this approach. At this time it appears that the FEMA BRIC Grant will only cover rehabilitation of the Southwest Licking River, I-70 issues, no-name creek, the feeder canal, and possibly the spillway at Sellers Point.</p> <p>Route 360, Hollywood By the Lake and Lakeside will likely not be included in the BRIC grant application. To date these areas have not yet been truly studied to determine how best to address the flooding issues in these areas. FEMA has a Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) grant opportunity of \$300,000.00 that the Township/County could apply for to do an Engineering study for these areas.</p> <p>Trustee Horn will be working with Jon Kochis with Fairfield County EMA, Jonathan Ferbrache Fairfield County Soil &amp; Water and Jeremiah Upp, Fairfield County Engineer to make an application for this grant.</p>	

Trustee Horn read an email from Karli Mackenbach of MS Consultants, Inc. "Part 1 - Evaluate Walnut Township, Fairfield County's current zoning and potential opportunity to utilize an overlay or temporary restriction to prevent the addition of topsoil within the floodplain. The current standards (County wide) allow for the addition of soil to build within the 100-year floodplain as well as areas that are prone to flooding in and around State Route 360. This will include coordination with the Fairfield County Prosecutor's Office. A recommendation memo will be submitted as part of this effort as well as support in the adoption of this protective overly.

Part 2 – A Scope of Work will be provided to Fairfield County for consideration to develop an application to submit a project request through the program called Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) via the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The focus of the application will be to request "project scoping" dollars to help the area in and around Walnut Township with their concern of increased flooding. It has been recognized that flooding has increased in recent years and there is a genuine need to understand what is happening within the watershed. This request will focus on requesting support for survey, modeling and the development of alternative solutions to fix the long standing issue with flooding."

Trustee Horn stated that he didn't have all of the answers but is attempting to start the process.

Trustee Horn asked Trustee Leith and Chairman Yates if they could move forward with a zoning overlay district with MS Consultants Inc., it would ultimately become part of the Township Zoning Resolution. The process for approval would be Regional Planning, Zoning Commission, and then back to the Trustees for final approval. Chairman Yates said he would like to know how this might affect the flood plain insurance for property owners. He said if there are hidden items that would increase the insurance costs of a new property owner he would like to be aware of that. Trustee Leith agreed and said that every action creates a reaction and this could create liability issues such as affecting property values.

Trustee Horn met with Jermiah Upp, County Engineer (FCEO) and ODOT District 5 personnel this week to discuss the Lateral Ditch A Report provided by the FCEO. For the meantime, the next step is to either remove the flap gate at the SR 360 culvert altogether or replace it. The Lateral A petitioners will be contacted before a final recommendation is made. ODOT and FCEO will meet again to discuss further once ODOT reviews their files and contacts ODNR for additional records of the SR 360 culvert and related items.

Trustee Horn also spoke with ODOT District 5 personnel regarding SR 360 and how ODOT may be able to assist home owners. ODOT has met with five property owners and is working with them to try and resolve some of their issues. They are willing to talk with others.

<p>Robin Thompson of 3295 Lakeside Drive, Millersport, Ohio stated she has 7 rental properties in addition to her own home on Lakeside and she is on the Lateral A Ditch and experiences flooding on a constant basis. She addressed the flap gate on the SR 360 culvert and stated it is no longer functioning.</p>	
<p>American Rescue Plan – Walnut Township will receive \$524,048.00 and must be utilized for the 4 items listed by the federal government. One item includes storm water sewers.</p> <p>Back in 2014, the County Engineer was instrumental in documenting the storm sewers at Fairfield Beach. That is an area that the township has always struggled with and serves many people. Trustee Horn said that one of the uses could be storm sewer upgrades at Fairfield Beach.</p> <p>Trustee Horn presented a draft of a potential Resolution with the FCEO which could be for any portion of the Township, but his recommendation would be for Fairfield Beach.</p> <p>He encouraged the Trustees to do their research and discuss further at the July 6, 2021 Regular meeting. In the meantime, with Trustee Leith and Chairman Yates in agreement, Trustee Horn will contact Jeremiah at the County Engineers office to move forward on the Fairfield Beach project.</p>	
<p>Motion to adjourn at 8:47 p.m.</p>	<p>Motion to adjourn by Chairman Yates second by Trustee Leith <u>Roll call: 3 YES</u></p>

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Chairman Bill Yates

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Trustee Terry Horn

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Trustee Doug Leith