

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

WALNUT TOWNSHIP, FAIRFIELD COUNTY, OH - BOARD OF TRUSTEES

11420 Millersport Rd. NE, Millersport, OH 43046

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

March 7, 2023 -7:00 PM

Township Officials present:

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

Department Heads/Staff present:

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

Property Inspector – Kelly Smith 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: 23 as recorded on Sign-in sheets.

MEETING PROCEEDINGS

Fairfield County Sheriff's Office - Sgt. Burke stated that things are going good and asked if there was any concerns that needed addressed. There were no concerns.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes for the Special Meeting on February 1, 2023 in Pleasantville was presented for approval. Trustee Leith made a motion to approve the minutes. Trustee Yates seconded the motion. The motion passed with 2 yes votes. Trustee Horn, abstained.

The minutes for the Regular Meeting on February 7, 2023 were presented for approval. Trustee Horn made a motion to approve the minutes with corrections. Trustee Yates seconded the motion. The motion passed with 2 yes votes. Trustee Leith abstained.

The minutes for the Special Board Meeting on February 23, 2023 were presented for approval with corrections. Trustee Leith made a motion to approve the minutes. Trustee Horn seconded the motion. The motion passed with 3 yes votes.

Financial Reports – Fiscal Office, Pam Underwood:

Approval of Checks and Electronic Fund Transfers (EFT's): Trustee Leith made a motion to approve checks # 25822 through # 25836 and Electronic Fund Transfers # 98-2023 through # 111-2023, after being certified that funds are available and appropriations have been made by Fiscal Officer, Pam Underwood. Trustee Horn seconded the motion. The motion passed with 3 yes votes.

Trustee Horn made the motion to approve the Fiscal Officer's financial reports for January 2023. Reports include: Investment Listings, Appropriation Summaries, Cash Summaries, Fund Status and Payment Detail Listings and the Bank Reconciliation Reports for January 2023. Trustee Leith seconded the motion. The motion passed with 3 yes votes.

The February 2023 Financial statements will be presented at the April 4, 2023 regular meeting. The Fiscal Office has not received the February 2023 bank statements.

Trustee Horn made a motion to approve payment of Invoice #6144061-00-9 from MS Consultants in the amount of \$12,771.50 from the ARPA Grant Funds / Stormwater Subgrant. Seconded by Trustee Leith. The motion passed with 3 yes votes.

Comments from the public:

1. There was public discussion about the preliminary Solar Project in Walnut Township. There were members of the community both in support and opposition to the project.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Township Fire Department - Chief Price;

Chief Price updated the Trustees that he picked up the refurbished Medic on February 28, 2023. The department is stocking the medic and preparing to put the medic in service. Chief Price reminded the Trustees of the savings of \$120,000 by re-chassing the old medic. If the Township would have purchased a new medic the Township would have been on a 2-year waiting list and the base price would be \$345,000.00.

Chief Price stated there were 87 Total Runs in February 2023.

Chief Price stated that Trustee Horn had been getting phone calls about burning in the Township. There is burn ban from March 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023 from 6:00 am to 6:00 pm daily. Resident must only burn clean wood with minimal smoke. If there is a large amount of smoke the department will ask for the fire to be put out either by the resident or the Fire Department will put the fire out.

Chief Price reminded the public that if someone needs the services of the Walnut Township's Fire Department or EMS services the residents must call 911. All services must go through the Sheriff's Office and be officially recorded.

Regional Planning Commission Representative – Robert Slater II;

Mr. Slater reported that there was no meeting in March because of a lack of agenda items.

Zoning – Mike Berry;

14 permits issued in February 2023: 2 homes, 4 additions, 1 accessory building, 1 sign, 3 fences, 2 decks, 1 pool. No outstanding fees.

16 letters issued: 3 violations, 10 Appeals letters to neighbors of Tourist Homes, and 3 rezone letters. Prior violations: Accessory Bldg. on Alder and Ivy turned over to Prosecuting Attorney and second letter for resident living in a camper at 5557 Alder Road, 13516 Newark Road, Semi-Trailer and several sheds, ongoing.

Returned 72 phone calls.

BZA will hear 3 appeals regarding tourist homes in the gymnasium at Millersport Elementary School on Thursday, March 9, 2023.

Property Inspector – Kelly Smith (Absent);

Trustee Yates mentioned that Kelly Smith had emailed the Trustees a list of activity to date.

Parks and Roads Supervisor – Nate Wagner;

Parks:

Nate updated the Trustees on the parks tree trimming project on Leibs Island. Nate stated that most recently an Oak tree had fell. Mid-Ohio Tree Service will be removing all the dead wood snags and all the Ash trees in the parks.

Nate said that the Port-a-Johns must be in place at New Salem and Fairfield Beach by April 1st for the beginning of Baseball season.

Roads:

Holder Road will be closed at SR 37 from April 3rd – April 7th, 2023 for ODOT to install a culvert.

Tires were installed on the big tractor.

Roads department has been dragging berm, ditching, performing shoulder work, and cold patching.

The Township Building wooden sign was destroyed by wind March 3, 2023. There is no sign.

In the coming weeks they plan on getting Geiger Road in shape and plan on putting stone around culverts and the berms.

OLD BUSINESS

- 1. Salt Barn** – Trustee Horn discussed that he and Nate had visited several existing Salt Barns in other Townships to determine what type Salt Barn and the size of the Salt Barn that Walnut Township might consider building. The Trustees agreed that the Township will need to hire an engineer to put together a design and to acquire a price. Trustee Yates suggested moving forward with a motion to get planning done. Trustee Leith moved that the Township move forward with hiring an engineer, seconded by Trustee Horn to get a design and price for the Salt Barn Project underway. The motion passed with 3 yes votes.
- 2. No Parking Signs** – Signs were installed March 1, 2023 on Lakeside.
- 3. DEA Take Back Event and Recycle/Shredding opportunities** – Reminder that this event will take place April 22, 2023 10 am – 2 pm at Station 631. Fire Department putting together a flyer.
- 4. Reminder – Walnut Township will be hosting the Fairfield County Health Department Meeting at the school auditorium on Wednesday, March 8, 2023 at 7:00 pm.** Agenda was not available.
- 5. Safe room update – State funds vs. Local Share – Trustee Yates and Nate Wagner updated the Trustees that the estimates for building the Safe room are \$500,000.00 over budget. The Safe room has been downsized to house 700 people from 900 people. Engineering is complete. The Township has committed \$100,000.00 and if the Township moves forward with the project an additional commitment of \$62,000.00 will be required from the Township so that additional funds can be requested. The Township has been granted an extension through Oct 2023 for the project to commence. Trustee Yates made the motion, seconded by Trustee Leith to commit the additional \$62,000.00 so that the Township can pursue the additional funding for the project to be completed. The motion passed with 3 yes votes.**
- 6. Boat Docks** - Trustee Leith has updated the Boat Dock Policy and updated the application for 2023. There will be no fishing signs posted on specific docks. The liability Insurance will be \$2,000.00 for 2023 through OTARMA. The township will maintain the \$240.00 Fee as it was in 2022. A motion was made by Trustee Leith that the 2023 Township dock fees will be \$240.00, same as 2022, adopting the updated dock rules, and direct the Fiscal officer to pay the \$2,000.00 Liability Insurance to OTARMA. Motion was seconded by Trustee Horn. The motion passed with 3 yes votes.
- 7. 2023 Road Repair Proposal/Plan** – Nate Wagner presented the Trustees with a tentative list of the Roads that Nate would like to see completed in 2023. Nate will be making a more formal presentation in April 2023.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Rezoning hearing** – Motion was made by Trustee Leith and seconded by Trustee Horn to accept variance application # 22-148 to approve the rezoning of 10400 Lancaster-Newark Road NE, Millersport, Ohio 43046 (Parcel #0460012600) submitted by Keller Family Chiropractic from RR (Rural Residential District) to B-1 (Neighborhood Commercial District).
- 2. North Walnut Township Storm Water**–Trustee Horn explained that the Township will be going for an OPWC project on Lakeside Road. The preliminary project cost estimate is \$743,000 in construction costs and the Township will be applying for this grant this fall. The final design must be done before we apply so we will be working with the Fairfield County Engineers. There will be 4 phases to the project. There will be a public meeting set for April 2023.
- 3. Zoning – Solar Energy regulations for residential, commercial, and industrial** - Mike Berry stated that the Zoning committee has been discussing the work on a Solar energy resolution that has been ongoing for the past 6 months. Trustee Yates proposed written regulations to add a resolution to use as starting guidelines for the Township's zoning resolutions pertaining to solar energy. Trustee Yates made an emergency motion to approve the proposed guideline regulations titled "Solar Energy Systems – Regulations

for Residential, Commercial, and Industrial Solar Energy Systems" as presented by Trustee Yates, seconded by Trustee Leith. The motion passed with two yes votes, Trustee Horn Abstained. Mike Berry was directed to present the guidelines to the Township's Zoning Board and the Regional Planning Commission.

4. Zoning Members needed – Trustee Horn made a motion to appoint Jim Upp to the Walnut Township Zoning Commission due to the resignation of Tom Upp Jr. Jim Upp's term will run effective March 7, 2023 and end December 31, 2025. Motion was seconded by Trustee Leith. The motion passed with 3 yes votes.

5. March 13, 2023 – Commissioners future development community feedback – Reminder the meeting will be at the Workforce Development office in Carroll, Ohio from 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm on March 13, 2023.

Comments from the public:

1. There were additional comments regarding the Solar Projects in the Township.
2. There was public comment on the Zoning application for fences and that "recommended" set-backs be removed from the form.

Trustee Leith made the motion to move to executive session at 9:50 pm to discuss a personnel issue with Nate Wagner per ORC 121, seconded by Chairman Horn. The motion passed with 3 yes votes.

The Trustees returned to regular session at 9:55 pm.

Adjournment: At 9:55 PM, Trustee Yates made a motion to adjourn. Trustee Horn seconded the motion. The motion passed with 3 yes votes.

Minutes Recorded By: Tammy Oliver

Pam Underwood, Fiscal Officer

William R. Yates, Chairman

Terry W. Horn, Vice Chairman

Douglas G. Leith, Trustee