**Grafton Township Trustees Meeting Minutes**

**October 12, 2021**

The regularly scheduled meeting was called to order at approximately 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Trustee Weigel, Trustee Wesemeyer and Trustee Homer-Miller were in attendance. Fiscal Officer Amy Richards was also present.

Trustee Homer-Miller made a motion to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of September 14th, seconded by Trustee Weigel. Christie yes, Andy yes and Carl yes. Motion carried. **20211012-01**

Trustee Weigel made a motion to pay the bills in the amount of $40,942.04, seconded by Trustee Wesemeyer. Andy yes, Carl yes and Christie yes. Motion carried. **20211012-02**

There was no Sheriff report due to technical difficulties with the reporting system.

**Committee Reports:**

**Zoning Inspector Mike Strah –** There were 3 permits issued for 1 accessory building and 2 fences.

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| **Date** | **Permanent** | **Owner** | **Declared** | **Fee** | **Notes** |
| **Permit #** | **Parcel #** | **Address** | **Improvement** | **Use** |
| 2766 | 16-00-094-000-016 | Marlon Ford | $60,000.00 | $1,000.00 | 4000' sq ft accessory building |
|  | 35250 Dunham Rd. | Accessory |
| 9/20/2021 | Litchfield, Oh. 44253 | building |
| 2767 | 16-00-080-000-030 | Carl & Renee Keith | $1,500.00 | $75.00 | 1300’ Linear ft |
|  | 38125 Law Rd. | fence |
| 9/29/2021 | Grafton, Oh. 44044 |  |
| 2768 | 16-00-012-000-049 | Andrew J Sutter | $10,000.00 | $75.00 | 1037' linear feet of split rail fence |
|  | 34066 Grafton Eastern Rd. | fence |
| 10/10/2021 | Grafton, Oh. 44044 |  |

Expenses - Zoning had expenses for postage in the amount of $14.76 and $15 cash for Lorain County GIS for new maps.

Correspondence - Brian Safron with the F.A.A. called about a structure erected by Zach Logan near the end of Mole Field. Brian also had questions about resolutions regarding the 411 conditional use.

Rich Frederickson of Rafter A LTD. emailed Mike the engineered drawings and study in the flood plain on Chamberlain. His client (William Kuhn of 19060 Chamberlain Rd.) created a flood retention wall near the creek.

Current Violations / Complaints

* Charlie and Laura Wright – Constructing a fence without a permit. Posted notice on the property on 8/30/2021. No correspondence.
* Janet Yates – 17611 Chamberlain Road. Nuisance/vehicles. Some improvement, not much
* Kevin Yates – 17295 Chamberlain Road. Nuisance/vehicles. Some material has been removed.
* Joseph Rocha – 15407 SR 83. Letter sent ceasing the 90-day extension for the tiny house. No

response. Must remove by 9/19/2021. Discussion was had on property. Trustee Wesemeyer made a motion to start legal proceedings regarding the tiny house located at 15407 State Route 83, seconded by Trustee Weigel. Carl yes, Andy yes and Christie yes. Motion carried. **20211012-03**

* David Marsh – Neff at Mennell. Remove container from property. He has had plenty of time to remove container. Trustee Weigel made a motion to start legal proceedings for David Marsh for having the storage container on his property, seconded by Trustee Wesemeyer. Andy yes, Carl yes and Christie yes. Motion carried. **20211012-04**

New Violations / Complaints

Violation letters were sent out for:

* Donna Messer – 15010 Island Rd. Nuisance material and disabled vehicles
* Andrew Sutter – 34066 Grafton Eastern Rd. Constructing a fence without a permit.
* Charlie & Laura Wright – Violation of section 602 Permitted use.

Existing Violations

* Janet Yates – discussion was had on what to do with this property. There was a resident in attendance that has offered helped to the Yates and has made offers to purchase the property. Bob discussed his conversation with the Health Department – basically there is nothing we can do stop her from moving back into the house. Bob has also talked to Lorain County Adult Protective Services, Yates has been assigned a case manager. After discussion the road department will proceed with the order already in place and clean up the property. The costs for the clean up will be taken to the auditors office to be added to their tax bill
* Joseph and Geri Rocha- Mobile home structure on the property.
* Melissa Kucera- not obtaining a fence permit
* Kevin Yates – nuisance material disabled vehicles

**Road Department Bob Richards / Chad Uehlein –** Bob discussed the ODOT Township Stimulus Program with Carl and Andy. The township is going to try to get funding for the Island Road Culvert. Andy will fill out the application. Trustee Wesemeyer made a motion to authorize Andy Weigel to apply and submit for the ODOT Township Stimulus Program for the Island Road Culvert, seconded by Trustee Homer-Miller. Carl yes, Christie yes and Andy yes. Motion carried.

**20211012-05**

They lost their seasonal mower, she had an injury (not at work) and will be out the rest of mowing season. Bob and Chad will handle the mowing. The steps to the one-room schoolhouse will be completed tomorrow. They are level, and the sandstone is cut.

**Fire Department Tim Adams / Bob Richards –** All the preventive maintenance is done for units 171, 172, 173 and 177. Unit 177 had an oil leak and when it came back from the maintenance at Williams it was worse. Bob is going to have Pfann’s do the repairs for 177 and fix the oil leak, the truck is 30 years old. Bob had received estimates from Pfann’s and Williams. Pfann was the lowest and the repairs will be done here at the fire station. Still working on the fax line and emergency line install. Bob is still working with Eaton Township on scheduled the ladder testing. Hopefully it will be done by the end of the month. The testing will either be here or at Eaton Township. Out of the 5 letters sent out, Bob has heard from 2 of them. The other 3 have not responded. The fire department is down 2 members due to medical. With 17 on the roster that brings us down to 15. Discussion needs to happen to start staffing. The fire department does not have a chop saw. They would need this with more and more residents using storage containers on their property. Trustee Wesemeyer made a motion to spend up to $3,000 on a new handheld chop saw and specialty blades for the fire department, seconded by Trustee Homer-Miller. Carl yes, Andy yes and Christie yes. Motion carried. **20211012-06**

Bob is deeply concerned with covering calls and the response times.

**Cemetery Michele Gehring –** Michele reported there were 2 cremation burials and 2 cremation lot sales. There was also 2 footer requests. Michele stated they are done with footers for the year.

**Town Hall Bob Richards –** Bob asked if we heard anything back from the prosecutor’s office regarding COVID and the hall, Andy included that question in his email to Dan and he has not heard back yet.

**EMS Penny Palmer** – There were 14 residential calls for the month of September, which resulted in 11 advanced life support, 1 basic life support and 2 no treat / no transport or cancelled. There was 1 motor vehicle accidents, which resulted in 3 advanced life support. Mutual aid was received from Eaton Township for 4 residential calls and mutual aid was provided to Litchfield for a residential call. Supplies will be ordered this month. Bob talked to Chief Wetherbee from Wellington Fire Department regarding mutual aid. There is a county mutual aid agreement regarding fire calls and there is no billing. With EMS calls and mutual aid there is billing involved and it has to be worked out on how that billing is to occur with neighboring communities. The chief’s association will look into this.

**Rural Water –** The new website is up and running. Rural Water is looking into system upgrades in their main pressure zones. Consultants will be brought in. Hydrant maintenance has started. The township has 6 out of 66 completed. The new subdivision in Eaton Township (Eaton Crossing) behind IGA is ready to get started. Rural Water is looking into the pricing and usage, the more you use the more you will pay. Bob told Carl that Rural Water should look into bigger pipes for hydrants.

**LORCO –** Carl stated they are still in talks with NOACA and the Cities of Elyria and Avon Lake regarding changes to the facility planning changes in Elyria.

**Fiscal Officer Amy Richards** – Amy stated we need to pass our tax rates before November 1st they are the same as last year, no changes. Trustee Wesemeyer made a motion to accept the tax rates for 2022, seconded by Trustee Weigel. Carl yes, Andy yes and Christie yes. Motion carried.

**20211012-07**

Amy still has not heard anything regarding the website, we still have not heard from Bruce Doll. Amy did talk with Ilona at the LCTA meeting and she was going to reach out to see if Bruce needs help.

the Fiscal Officer asked for a motion to authorize the first purchase using the Coronavirus Relief Funds.

This was for five electrostatic backpack sprayers and 5 cases of disinfectant tablets from Defense Soap

for a total of $10,699.95. This purchase is to cover costs consistent with the requirements of section 5001

of the CARES Act as described in 42 U.S.C. 601(d) and any applicable regulations. Leimbach made a

motion to authorize this purchase. Northeim seconded the motion. Leimbach, Northeim, and Abraham

voted to accept the motion. 20200907-08

**Trustee Carl Wesemeyer –** Carl reported the County does not have the easements yet for the Erhart ditch cleaning project. The Bannister ditch cleaning has not been done yet. The annexation of the land from Grafton Township to Grafton Village, that motion was denied. Not sure what else can be done at this point. The lame response from the appeal court stated they are missing a map which the court was supposed to have. The appeal court stated they were missing appendix 5. We will look and see what we have. No decision will be made tonight as to what the next steps are. Carl received a package from the zoning commission regarding changes to nuisance; now that we have the changes, we have 30 days to hold a public hearing. Bob recommended not having the public hearing the same night as the fire meeting. Carl thinks the public hearing should only take 30 minutes. Not many people attend the public hearing. The public hearing will be held on October 26th at 6:00 p.m. The fire meeting will start after the public hearing – hopefully, starting at 6:30 p.m. Amy will get the legal notice in the paper.

**Trustee Christie Homer-Miller –** Christie is attending all the classes she can regarding the ARP funds. Christie is working on the EMS and Assistant EMS Coordinator job descriptions. Carl and Andy have no issues with those 2 job descriptions. Carl did have some concerns on the language in the road department job descriptions. His biggest question was the statement regarding OSHA. Is this standard language and does it need to be in all the job descriptions? More research will be done on that statement, Bob stated we will have to check with the prosecutor’s office. Bob and Christie talked with Mercy Health regarding new hire physicals and what is to be done, updates were made to the account. The one-room schoolhouse painting and touch ups should be done this week. For less than $100 we can fill up the gaps to keep the critters out. Bob recommended that something needs to be put in around the windows. The next historical society meeting is tomorrow; Christie is hopeful the lease agreement and quit-claim deed will be signed. NOPEC’s general assembly meeting is November 9th; Christie will attend virtually. We did not get the green ribbon award from NOPEC. The next food pantry is next Saturday from 10-noon at the Our Lady in Grafton. Christie had a portable restroom removed; the other is still there while the weather is nice. The painters stained the sign over at the one-room schoolhouse; Christie was going to look into a grant to replace it. Her question is can we order the sign and keep it and install it later. Carl is concerned with the double round about going in and suggested we wait. Since we have the Solid Waste Grant money already, Christie will see about switching out the sign for another sign. The trash consortium meeting is next Wednesday at Grafton Township.

**Trustee Andy Weigel –** Andy spoke with Gary Fischer regarding the drawings; he is ready to move forward with the bid process. Andy emailed Dan Petticord regarding the bid process. The trustees would like to see the updated drawings before going out to bid. Bob mentioned that the bleachers can be used in the recycling grant. They took the bleachers out when COVID came in and have not put them back in. He asked if they can be scrapped. The trustees did not have any issues with the old bleachers being scrapped. Bob mentioned maybe next year the recycling grant can be used in the ballpark dugouts.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** None

**Audience Questions:** None

Trustee Weigel made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:58 p.m.; seconded by Trustee Wesemeyer. Andy yes, Carl yes, and Christie yes. Motion carried. **20211012-08**

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**Andy Weigel, Chairperson Amy Richards, Fiscal Officer**