**Grafton Township Trustees Meeting Minutes**

**July 13, 2021**

The regularly scheduled meeting was called to order at approximately 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Trustee Wesemeyer, Trustee Weigel and Trustee Homer-Miller were in attendance. Fiscal Officer Amy Richards arrived at 7:45 p.m.

Trustee Homer-Miller made a motion to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of the June 8th and the 2 special meeting of June 15th and July 8th, seconded by Trustee Wesemeyer. Christie yes, Carl yes and Andy yes. Motion carried. **20210713-01**

Trustee Weigel made a motion to pay the bills in the amount of $60,611.35, seconded by Trustee Wesemeyer. Andy yes, Carl yes, and Christie yes. Motion carried. **20210713-02**

Deputy Sprouse was in attendance and gave an update on calls to the township. His email reported there were approximately 70 calls for service in the township from June 5 through July 5, 2021. They are as follows: Accidents (1), Traffic Stops (41), Premise Checks (3), Psychiatric Situations (1), Frauds (2), Thefts (2), Assist other Agency (1), Suspicious Conditions (3), Follow up Investigation (1), Welfare Checks (2), Fireworks Complaints (1), Death Investigation (2), Missing person report (1), Domestic Disturbance (1), Animal complaint (1), Alarms (3), Noise Complaint (1), Disabled Vehicle (1) and Disturbance (1).

Also discussed was a contract for a full-time deputy that would be shared among Grafton Township, Eaton Township and Columbia Township (district 3). The cost to Grafton Township would be roughly $36,000 a year. This deputy would be strictly for district 3. Christie stated she would like to see the contract and numbers and can meet with Captain Ashdown.

**Committee Reports:**

**Zoning Inspector Mike Strah –** There were 10 permits issued for 2 homes, 2 additions, 2 conditional uses, 2 accessory buildings, 1 change, and 1 pool.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Permanent | Owner | Total | Permit cost | Notes |
| Permit | Parcel # | Address | Improvement |  |
|   |   |   | Cost | use |
| 6/9/2021 | 16-00-052-000-026 | Katherine & Michael Strah | $17,500.00  | $75  | 240 sq ft added to |
| 2743 | 17360 State Route 57 | Change | original permit |
|   | Grafton, Ohio 44044 |   | (1536 sq ft total) |
| 6/10/2021 | 16-00-094-000-016 | Marlon Ford | $220,000.00  | $962  | 2600 sq ft single |
| 2744 | 35250 Dunham Rd. | House | family home |
|   | Litchfield, Ohio 44253 |   | without a garage |
| 6/11/2021 | 16-00-050-000-044 | Andrew Matuska | $125,000.00  | $260.25  | 1041 sq ft addition |
| 2745 | 16820 Erhart Northern Rd. | Addition |
|   | Valley City, Ohio 44280 |   |
| 6/11/2021 | 16-00-060-000-047 | Nathan & Valerie Hopkins | $0  | $175  | #409 conditional use |
| 2746 | 38165 State Route 303 | Use Permit | Permit |
|   | Grafton, Ohio 44044 |   |   |
| 6/23/2021 | 16-00-049-000-016 | James & Jennifer Layton | $100,000.00  | $333  | 1332 sq ft |
| 2747 | 16528 Cowley Rd. | Addition | Garage addition |
|   | Grafton, Ohio 44044 |   |   |
| Void | Void | James Kelly | Void |   |   |
| 2748 |
| 6/28/2021 | 16-00-064-000-044 | Scott & Kalin Weber | $42,000.00  | $480  | 1920 sq ft accessory |
| 2749 | 36710 Haystacks Ln. | Accessory Building | building for storage |
|   | Grafton, Ohio 44044 |   |   |
| 6/30/2021 | 16-00-064-000-022 | Rick & Laura Sheppard | $6,176.00  | $50  | 21 ft diameter |
| 2750 | 17875 Mennell Rd. | Pool | above ground pool |
|   | Grafton, Ohio 44044 |   |   |
| 7/7/2021 | 16-00-073-000-032 | James Kelly | $150,000  | $1,228.80  | 4224 sq ft Pole Home |
| 2751 | 18313 Erhart Rd. | House | With 1440 sq ft of |
|   | Grafton, Ohio 44044 |   | Living space |
| 7/10/2021 | 16-00-011-000-028 | Jacquelyn DiLorenzo | $22,000  | $600  | 2400 sq ft  |
| 2752 | 15201 Cowley Rd. | Accessory | Accessory Building  |
|   | Columbia Station, Oh. 44028 | Building | For storage |
| 7/10/2021 | 16-00-046-000-020 | Gary Mazurowski | $0  | $175  | #409 Conditional Use |
| 2753 | 16719 St Rt 83 | Use Permit | Permit |
|   | Grafton, Ohio 44044  |   |   |

Expenses - No expenses for Zoning this month.

Correspondence - Nothing new

Zoning Commission - On June 15th a public hearing with the Zoning Commission assembled in regards to updates to the zoning map. The meeting went well with the Commission suggesting changes and approving the map. Mike revised the map for the Trustees approval. Trustee Weigel made a motion to approve the updated zoning map, seconded by Trustee Homer-Miller. Andy yes, Christie yes and Carl yes. Motion carried. **20210713-03**

Zoning Board of Appeals - The BZA met on June 29th for an area variance. Marlon Ford applied for a variance to place an Accessory Building ahead of his under-construction home. He was approved.

Current Violations / Complaints - Last month a letter was sent to 15478 Grafton Eastern Road LLC (The Jailhouse Taverne) revoking the fence permit they had applied for in October 2019. The stage manager has obtained a copy of the former permit, but a new application has not been made.

Complaints are still be made in regards to 2 Chamberlain Road properties. One is Janet Yates of 17611 Chamberlain Road. She has not addressed the outlined areas of concern on her property. Mike has an order ready for the Township to take action. This has been an ongoing complaint for a year now. She had established a timeline to address the violation. Work was to be completed July 4th. There are 2 orders since there are 2 addresses (homes) on that parcel. There are 2 orders for 505.87 (removal of vegetation) and 2 orders for 505.871 (removal of vehicles).

The other property is Kevin Yates of 17295 Chamberlain Road. Mike has not had any correspondence from the resident.

Mike also has an order for the 36792 Law Road owned by Joseph Simmons. He has failed to maintain the vegetation at the property for some time. This order is for 505.87 for removal of vegetation.

New Violations / Complaints - Mike received an anonymous phone call about an excavation occurring in the creek bed on Chamberlain Road. There was a road constructed in the right-of-way near County bridge 0049. The resident of 19060 Chamberlain appears to be placing concrete blocks and stone to shore up the embankment below his home. The work was in the floodplain. Mike contacted the county; they sent a letter.

Mike received an email from a resident across from 34066 Grafton Eastern Road. He stated he is concerned about a lot being filled in with 3 to 4 feet of fill dirt. The dirt is being pushed right next to the creek. A few times a year the creek overflows and fills this area up. He lives south of the road, and the creek is overflowing and getting closer to his basement. He is afraid that by filling in the land, the houses south of the road will start getting water in them. This could be a big problem. This area is in a floodplain. He called the County to see if a permit was filed; a permit was not on file. The County sent a letter to the land owner.

Barbara Brigadier called about her neighbor. She stated he has placed garbage in the right-of-way of her property. This occurred on Wednesday June 16th. She asked if permits were required for surveillance cameras. She also stated she had received a letter asking permission to hunt her property.

Existing Violations

* Janet Yates
* David Spurlock – no permit
* Joseph and Geri Rocha- Mobile home structure on the property.
* Melissa Kucera- not obtaining a fence permit
* Kevin Yates – nuisance material disabled vehicles

Trustee Homer-Miller made a motion to move forward with signing the orders for the 2 Janet Yates properties - 2 orders for 505.87 and 2 orders for 505.871 - and the 505.87 order for the Joe Simmons property, seconded by Trustee Weigel. Christie yes, Andy yes and Carl yes. Motion carried. **20210713-04**

**Road Department Bob Richards / Chad Uehlein –** Bob provided an update on the loader. He talked to the Southeastern sales rep, Chris; it looks like the loader will be here later than expected. Chris has tried to find out what the delay is and is still trying to get answers. That is why he is not giving people a date of when to expect it. Bob talked to CPR today about the backhoe. They picked up the rebuilt injector pump, and we should have the machine back in a day or so. Bob received 2 quotes for taking down the tree in Nesbitt Cemetery. One verbal quote was $650 for just taking it down; the road guys would do the clean-up. The other quote was for $800 just to take it down. The other option is for Bob to rent a lift from LaGrange Hardware which would reach the top of the tree, and they can take it down ourselves. The lift would cost $280 for the day, and Bob thinks they would not need it all day. The trustees are OK with renting the lift; Bob will rent it. The old sign cannot be sold to the Friendship APL due to them not being able to get it permitted thru the city of Elyria. Bob has another interested buyer for the sign at a cost of $500. Trustee Wesemeyer made a motion to rescind the previous motion to sell the sign to the Friendship Animal Protective League, seconded by Trustee Weigel. Carl yes, Andy yes and Christie yes. Motion carried. **20210713-05**

Trustee Homer-Miller made a motion to sell the old sign to Jason Cooper for $500, seconded by Trustee Weigel. Christie yes, Andy yes and Carl yes. Motion carried. **20210713-06**

The chip seal for 2021 was completed by Melway last Friday. Everything looks good. If someone wants to walk with Bob to the south property line in the park, we might want to have it surveyed. Trees and brush are starting to come over to the ballfields, and Bob is unsure of the property line. It was surveyed before, but stakes were not placed. Bob will call and see if the County will do it and place the pins. Bob inquired about the schedule for the painting of the one room school house; Christie stated that we are on the schedule, but they are dodging rain drops. Bob brought up the drawings for the road department and everyone looked at them. Bob brought up some issues he saw with the drawings, such has perm columns and fasteners. Also, there is nothing in the plans about insulation. Carl mentioned the 12 x 12 doors as they were 14 x 14 in the original drawing. A meeting needs to be set up with the architect to go over the drawings. A list of changes needs to be compiled. Carl and Bob will meet and get a list together of the changes to send over to the architect.

**Fire Department Tim Adams / Bob Richards –** Currently ,the fire department has 2 phone lines – 1 for the regular phone and 1 for the fax. However, the fax line was never a dedicated line. They now need to get a separate line for the fax machine. Trustee Wesemeyer made a motion to get a dedicated fax line for the fire department at a cost of $60 a month, seconded by Trustee Weigel. Carl yes, Andy yes and Christie yes. Motion carried. **20210713-07**

The HVAC project is to be completed soon; this is the last remaining project from the CARES Act funds.

The hall/fire department roof was discussed. Ten years ago, the roof was coated, and it is time to be recoated. Costs were presented for 10-year ($14,100) and 15-year ($16,600) warranties. Trustee Homer-Miller made a motion to have West Roofing recoat the roof at a cost of $16,600 (15 years) and to pay $150 for each maintenance/inspection visit, seconded by Trustee Weigel. Christie yes, Andy yes and Carl yes. Motion carried. **20210713-08**

Bob is going to have the pump test done with another vendor (not Williams) at Eaton Township. They received the EMS grant which is just over $5,000; this will go towards maintenance. Bob discussed the NEXUS grant; parties now have to be invited to apply for it. Bob will check with the other chiefs to see if they are getting the grant money. The squad repairs are completed. Bob would like to purchase new bollard covers for the posts in front of the fire department doors. The cost would be about $288; Bob is not sure of the shipping cost. Trustee Homer-Miller made a motion to purchase the bollard covers, seconded by trustee Weigel. Christie yes, Andy yes and Carl yes. Motion carried. **20210713-09**

**Cemetery Michele Gehring –** Michele reported there was $4,200 in sales, 3 lots. There were 2 standard burials and 1 prepaid funeral. Michele has received a lot of inquiries.

**Town Hall Bob Richards –** The hall has been rented, and there are also 2 no-charge events coming up for funeral luncheons for residents that passed away.

**EMS Penny Palmer** – There were 21 residential calls for the month of June, which resulted in 17 advanced life support, 2 dead on arrival and 1 no treat / no transport or cancelled. There were 6 motor vehicle accidents, which resulted in 4 advanced life support and 5 no treat / no transport. Mutual aid was received from Eaton Township for 1 of the motor vehicle accidents. The annual maintenance for the equipment (cots/monitors/stair chairs) was completed. We had to purchase a lead for $417. It lasted 11 years; so, we got our use out of it. Penny placed an order with EMP. We need to update our training equipment; it has not been updated in 5 years. There is a DVD option ($140) or a digital option ($130) where we can download the material. Trustee Homer-Miller made a motion to purchase the training material digitally at a cost not to exceed $200, seconded by Trustee Weigel. Christie yes, Andy yes and Carl yes. Motion carried. **20210713-10**

**Rural Water –** The website should be updated soon. Rural Water and LORCO are not eligible for the federal money from the American Rescue Plan (ARP) that should be used for infrastructure.

**LORCO –** The City of Elyria is open to changing their FPA area. Negations have been taking place.

**Fiscal Officer Amy Richards** – Amy handed out a letter to the trustees regarding the American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds that the township is eligible as well as a list of uses for the funds. Grafton Township would get approximately $298,959, divided over 2 years. Trustee Homer-Miller made a motion to accept the ARP funds, seconded by Trustee Wesemeyer. Christie yes, Carl yes and Andy yes. Motion carried. **20210713-11**

Amy will apply for the funds.

Amy handed out copies of the preliminary 2022 budget. There was really no significant changes from last year. Trustee Weigel made a motion to accept the budget as presented, seconded by Trustee Homer-Miller. Andy yes, Christie yes and Carl yes. Motion carried. **20210713-12**

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 discussed the rain we had this past week. SWAC funded the Erhart Road ditch work and will cover our portion. Carl has not seen the MOU yet; he hopes to get it next week. We have to get easements signed and notarized. A resident on the dead-end section of Law Road has drone pictures of the water issues they are having. Another resident inquired about the ditch behind his property on State Route 303 (Chivale and former Steigerwald property). Bob will take a look at it. Carl will follow up with Don Romancek about it. The Bannister Ditch cleaning is still in the works.

**Trustee Christie Homer-Miller –** Christie has a thank you card for Brittany Cooper for taking care of the landscaping under the new sign. Christie suggested that the dates be put on the sign for zoning meetings (ZBA and Commission); she will work to update the sign software with that information. There is no set schedule for the ZBA. Christie attended a webinar on the ARP money. The main uses are water, sewer and broadband infrastructure as well as improvements to outdoor spaces and air quality. The historical society had a slate roof company come out as there are issues with the one-room schoolhouse and museum. Joining forces with the Belden Historical Society reduces the price for each party. Our portion would be $521 if we move forward. Trustee Wesemeyer made a motion to repair the slate roof at a cost of $521, seconded by Trustee Weigel. Carl yes, Andy yes and Christie yes. Motion carried. **20210713-13**

The next historical society meeting is tomorrow; Christie is unable to attend. The lease agreement is still being decided on by the historical society. We received the $3,432 NOPEC energy grant for the LED lights and insulation for the road department. The next food pantry is Saturday July 24th. The LMRE election for the board of trustee was completed online. Christie inquired about the website update; Amy hear from Bruce who is still working on it. The next trash consortium meeting will be held at Grafton Township on July 21st. Rumpke sent the 2nd quarter stats; Christie has the information if anyone wants to see the results. We are still waiting on the MOU from the County for the Recycling Grant; we cannot move forward yet.

**Trustee Andy Weigel –** Andy looked over the job descriptions and feels nothing needs to be changed. Bob mentioned that they need to look at how they are handling the meetings for the road department.

**Old Business:** Carl asked if we ever renewed the liquor license for the Jailhouse. Back in our October 13, 2020, meeting we did not object to the liquor license. Jack Lugas from the Jailhouse discussed the fence permit; they are working on getting a quote for a new fence.

**New Business:** Fred Giese mentioned the Jailhouse event on June 26th. the music was loud and could be heard on his back deck. He could hear every word from the concert. Fred called the Sheriff that evening; they were unable to make it out. He also stated the kids concert could be heard in his house.

**Audience Questions:**

N/A

Trustee Wesemeyer made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m.; seconded by Trustee Weigel. Carl yes, Andy yes, and Christie yes. Motion carried. **20210713-14**

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