**Grafton Township Trustees Meeting Minutes**

**December 10, 2019**

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

Trustee Wesemeyer made a motion to accept the regular trustee meeting minutes from November 12th and the two special meetings of October 17th and October 29th, second by Trustee Haight. Carl yes, Jean yes and Christie yes. Motion carried. **20191210-01**

Trustee Homer-Miller made a motion to pay the bills in the amount of $60,130.13 second by Trustee Wesemeyer. Christie yes, Carl yes and Jean yes. Motion carried. **20191210-02**

**Committee Reports:**

**Zoning Mike Strah –** Mike reported there was 1 permit issued last month for a home occupation.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 2642 | 11/20/2019 | 16-00-048-000-027 | Gary & Cory Box | $0 | $175 | Home Occupation |  |
|  |  |  | 34960 St Rt 303 |  |  |  |  |

There was a $20 expense for the Lorain County Recorder due to Mike.

Mike received a complaint from Janis Wilson about the property at 36850 State Route 303. There is / was nuisance material at property. Mike made contact with a family member of the property and made them aware of the violations on their property. Mike also sent a violation notice. As of 12/09/2019, it appeared that most of the issues had been resolved. There is still 1 item of trash waiting for collection on 12/11/2019. Mike will follow up.

Randy Moore of 36585 Estee Lane was sent a violation about an accessory building being constructed on his property. Mike met with him and explained what triggered the violation. Mr. Moore showed proof that construction had begun in the 6-month timeframe. Mike agreed with this and rescinded the violation.

Mike issued address 15500 Moorland Drive for Jason Sapienza. They are looking to begin construction of a new home soon.

Bob Haskiell has been granted his variance by the ZBA, and Mike is waiting for his application for a permit for that structure.

Mike met with Deputy Lopez of the Sheriff’s Office in regards to junk / disabled vehicles. Deputy Lopez provided resolutions from other townships and how they address this nuisance. Mike is working on how this information would aid and streamline the removal process.

Mike received copies of the amended fence resolutions from the Zoning Commission Secretary. Mike went to the Lorain County Recorder’s office to record the amendments. Mike updated the current zoning books in his possession. The copy at the library (GMPL) has been updated as well. If other books need to be updated, he has copies. The township website will need updated.

New Violations

Jerold Klimo, Nuisance Material

Existing Violations

Ronald Mantle, David Spurlock, Mike Foldes / Cheryl Drake, and Randy Nemitz

Trustee Homer-Miller inquired if Mike inspected the Kucera property. Mike did inspect it, and she is in compliance. Mike also talked to Ms. Koney who still believes Ms. Kucera is not living there.

**Road Department Bob Richards / Chad Uehlein –** Bob reported that the cars from the Fender property have been towed. The fiscal officer sent two certified letters to Ms. Fender regarding the cars. One was signed for, and 1 was returned. Deputy Lopez stated we have been more than gracious with time and the letters, and he would scrap them. The trustees are OK with the cars being scrapped. Bob will call Sugar Ridge and give them the approval to scrap the cars. Bob and Chad are researching mini excavators and testing the different options and brands. They both like the Bobcat. For better pricing, it will be priced out on state bid. Jean inquired about the county filling in holes on Mennell Road and wanted to know why they are not filling in the bigger holes on Law Road. Jean will call them and find out why.

**Fire Department Tim Adams / Bob Richards –** Bob stated that Denny Uehlein is retiring after 40 years on the department. Trustee Homer-Miller made a motion to accept Denny Uehlein’s resignation with regret, second by Trustee Wesemeyer. Christie yes, Carl yes and Jean yes. Motion carried. **20191210-03**

Bob has an application for a new member of the fire department who is fully educated with her 240 fire certification and is a basic EMT. She is also in paramedic school and a Grafton Township resident. Currently, she is working for Eaton Township, and three months ago completed all her background checks and physical. Bob has copies of everything except the physical, but he will get a copy from the Chief of Eaton. Trustee Homer-Miller made a motion to hire Molly McQuire pending proof of passing the physical, second by Trustee Wesemeyer. Christie yes, Carl yes and Jean yes. Motion carried. **20191210-04**

Molly then will have to pass the protocol test and be added to the drug license. As far as fitting her for gear, there is a set not being used by a currently inactive member, which would cost about $500 to have it resized for Molly. A meeting will be set up with the current member, fire chief, assistant chief and a trustee to discuss the future on the department and determine next steps. Bob mentioned the employee agreement needs to be revised to add a percentage of calls. We currently have a member who is not active, and we spent $2,200 on gear. Williams was out to look at the generator, which is still losing antifreeze. Bob is convinced the generator is burning the anti-freeze. Williams seems like they do not want to fix the issue or research it further. They changed the block heater again and put a smaller one on; that did not fix issue. They have tried to do the smaller work first, and it is time to look at taking the head off. Carl asked if there is someone else we could get besides Williams. Bob has talked to Pfann’s in Grafton and will have them take a look. Tim reported they are at 70 fire calls for the year; our prior record was 57. Tim also reported receipt of approximately $4,000 of grant money. Tim needs a copy of the check that paid the Darley invoice; Amy will get a copy to him.

**Cemetery Michele Gehring –** In Michelle’s absence,Christie read Michelle’s report. There were 4 lots sold - two burials and one military marker request. She is still mapping and doing data entry. Tom Guggenbiller was in attendance. He has purchased materials for the Belden cemetery sign. He needs a signature on the contract and the down payment check. Amy will get the down payment check in the mail within the next few weeks.

**Town Hall Bob Richards –** Bob stated there is going to be a residential wake at the hall on Friday. The NOPEC charging station will be delivered in January. Bob would like to get a different table for the entryway in the hall.

**EMS Penny Palmer** – Penny reported that there were 16 residential calls for the month of November, which resulted in 12 advanced life support, 1 basic life support, and 3 no treat, no transport or cancelled. There were 5 motor vehicle accidents, which resulted in 2 advanced life support and 5 no treat, no transport. Mutual aid was given twice - once to Litchfield Township for a residential call and once to Eaton Township for a motor vehicle accident. Two orders were placed last week for EMS supplies for a cost of $201.16 and LUCAS suction cups for a cost $130.24. CPR recertification will begin this week. At the end of November 2018 they had 156 calls; at the end of November 2019 they had 182 calls.

**Rural Water –** Carl stated he needs to be reappointed to the board for another 4 years. Trustee Haight made a motion to re-appoint Carl Wesemeyer to the Rural Water Board, second by Trustee Homer-Miller. Jean yes, Christie yes and Carl abstained. Motion carried. **20191210-05**

The fire hydrant on Crocker Road is estimated to cost around $18,000. It has to be approved by the consortium and Rural Water. Bob would like to add 2 and needs to take measurements. If 2 hydrants are added, Bob feels we would never have to take the tanker there. Columbia Township and Valley City would get use out of 1 of the hydrants; however, we are not sure if they would share in the cost. Trustee Haight made a motion to spend up to $36,000 for the installation of 2 hydrants on Crocker Road, second by Trustee Homer-Miller. Jean yes, Christie yes and Carl yes. Motion carried. **20191210-06**

**LORCO –** Policy meeting and regular meeting will be on Thursday.

**Fiscal Officer Amy Richards** – Amy read an email she received from the Auditor’s Office regarding NEXUS tax money. NEXUS is appealing the valuation. If NEXUS wins the appeal, the township would lose $88,000. Nothing is final yet, and the auditors’ association is working on a resolution regarding the appeal. Amy reported that the $500 OTARMA grant was received. She received the new medical insurance rates for 2020; as usual they have gone up. Amy received the information for the Volunteer Fire Fighters Dependency Board; the trustees need to appoint 2, and the fire department needs to appoint 2. Amy has new signature cards that need signed for the bank; since Andy was not at the meeting, Amy will get with him at another time for him to sign. Dates need to be set for the year-end and organizational meetings. The year-end meeting will be December 30th at 9:00 a.m. The organizational meeting will be on January 2nd at 9:00 a.m. Christie will let Andy know of the meetings. Temporary appropriations are due to the county on December 30th. Trustee Wesemeyer made a motion to accept the temporary appropriations in the amount of $1,321,951, second by Trustee Haight. Carl yes, Jean yes and Christie yes. Motion carried. **20191210-10**

**Trustee Jean Haight –** Jean reported the person taking over the random drug testing needs to take a class. Christie will get the information on taking the class. Jean thanked the EMTs for saving her. She also has boxes that she will bring up to the hall.

**Trustee Carl Wesemeyer –** Jason Mould provided a $5,500 estimate for drawings for the road department expansion. Carl received 2 other quotes for about $1,500 each. Carl would like authorization to hire one of the less expensive architects. Trustee Homer-Miller made a motion to authorize Carl Wesemeyer to hire an architect to complete the drawings for the building, second by Trustee Haight. Christie yes, Jean yes and Carl abstained. Motion carried. **20191210-07**

Regarding the annexation of land to Grafton Village - mediation was stopped by Grafton Village. We are continuing with the appeal, which could take about 9-10 months.

OPWC Round 34 grant application – funding was approved for the replacement culvert on Crocker Road. The Neff Road reconstruction was not funded but was submitted to the OPWC Small Government for possible funding.

Eugene Pleban forwarded the zoning updates for the trustees and fiscal officer.

Carl stated a decision needed to be made for changing the agreement with the Jailhouse Taverne. Brian from the Jailhouse was in attendance and stated he would like to have regular bands on Saturdays and acoustic acts on Fridays. Acoustic acts were all they had last summer. Brian stated they lost revenue ($91,000) with not having regular bands. Christie stated they checked with the prosecutor’s office, and the agreement can be changed / amended. However, Carl does not want to change the agreement at this time. There was nothing in the agreement about the bands having to be acoustic, but that is what the Jailhouse did for the past summer. Brian asked for acoustic acts on Fridays and regular bands on Saturdays. Jim Dowdell stated that the sound was more reasonable this year than it had been in years past, and if the levels stayed the same, Mr. Dowdell was ok with the 2 days a week. He is just concerned with the level of the noise. After much discussion, it was determined to give the Jailhouse a 3-week trial for acoustic acts on Fridays and regular bands on Saturdays. If it does not work out, the acoustic acts on Fridays would stop, and they would keep the regular bands on Saturdays. May 22nd, May 29th, and June 5th are the trial dates.

We need to determine how to implement the Public Employee Risk Reduction Program (PERRP) in 2020.

**Trustee Christie Homer-Miller –** Christie reported that there was a special NOPEC meeting because the Lorain County rep was retiring. The Mayor of South Amherst was appointed to represent Lorain County. Recertification is needed for the First Energy Aggregation; it is a PUCO requirement that will not extend the contract. Trustee Homer-Miller made a motion to sell miscellaneous fire department fittings and equipment valued at less than $2,500 on Facebook Marketplace, second by Trustee Wesemeyer. Christie yes, Carl yes and Jean yes. Motion carried. **20191210-08**

The Health Department would like to hold public meetings throughout Lorain County regarding septic systems. Christie asked if the other trustees were open to Grafton Township hosting a meeting. They were. Carl will advise Cody Carroll that a meeting can be scheduled. Newsletter items were emailed to the trustees; everyone is good to go with the newsletter. Christie will forward to the Rural-Urban for publication and will mail hard copies to Grafton Township residents whose mailing addresses are something other than Grafton. The Fender property needs to be turned over to the Land Bank for demolition. Amy submitted the clean-up cost to the county to add to the taxes. Trustee Wesemeyer made a motion to enter into an agreement with the Land Bank to demolish the Fender property and work with the Land Bank, second by Trustee Homer-Miller. Carl yes, Christie yes and Jean yes. Motion carried. **20191210-09**

A proclamation was given to Jean Haight for her 16 years of service to Grafton Township. Mr. Dowdell also thanked Jean for her service.

Trustee Wesemeyer made a motion to adjourn the meeting, second by Trustee Homer-Miller. Christie yes, Carl yes and Jean yes. Motion carried. **20191210-10**

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**Trustee Homer-Miller, Chairperson Amy Richards, Fiscal Officer**