**Grafton Township Trustees Meeting Minutes**

**January 10, 2023**

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 was also present.

Trustee Weigel made a motion to accept the minutes of the December 29th trustee meetings (Public Records, Organizational, and Year End), seconded by Trustee Homer-Miller. Andy yes, Christie yes and Carl yes. Motion carried. **20230110-01**

Trustee Wesemeyer made a motion to pay the bills in the amount of $20,193.01, seconded by Trustee Weigel. Carl yes, Andy yes, and Christie yes. Motion carried. **20230110-02**

No deputy in attendance but Carl read the recent report. There were 52 calls last month in the township, 12 traffic stops, 16 suspicious conditions and 16 domestics. Those were the majority of the calls.

State Representative Dick Stein was in attendance to hear the concerns from residents regarding Grow Now LLC and to gather more information on the potential project. Rep Stein will try and answer the questions that were provided to him yesterday, he won’t have all the answers today. House Bill 734 which was introduced late last year has a lot of elements to Senate Bill 52 which Rep Stein supported. HB734 didn’t have any hearings last year, Rep Stein talked to the sponsors of that bill. The General Assembly is just getting underway and they don’t have committees assigned yet. Rep Stein did say after speaking with sponsors of that bill there could be a path forward with the bill for more local control and/or more transparency regarding biosolids. When the bill has hearings we will need to have experts testify in Columbus.

Residents informed Rep Stein that Grow Now has 2 pending permits with the Ohio EPA and those two permits do not require a pubic hearing. Rep Stein asked if the permits are agriculture or not and we don’t know since the permits are vague. Residents also do not know what is going to be stored or how it is going to be processed. The two permits are for a storage pad and a tree farm. The residents biggest concerns is the possible large volume of biosolids being transporting, processed and stored in Grafton Township. The long term effects for health and animal wildlife are known. Matt Harlan inquired how to go about getting the US EPA involved. Rep Stein stated we would need to get Bob Latta involved. Rep Stein would like to start with the Ohio EPA.

Rep Stein inquired if the Ohio EPA has reached out and had any meetings providing information that was requested. Louisa Martone stated that residents have emailed the Ohio EPA to hold a public hearing on these two permits. Louisa Martone asked Rep Stein if he would reach out to the Ohio EPA on their behalf and Rep Stein said he would contact the Ohio EPA tomorrow and get a meeting set up with the Ohio EPA and the residents, sooner rather than later. Rep Stein did ask the residents to keep him updated on if they find something new going on with the permits.

He will support legislation regarding biosolids.

**Committee Reports:**

**Zoning Inspector Mike Strah –** December through January **-** No permits issued

Expenses - No expenses for zoning this month.

Zoning commission - The Zoning Commission met this past month. They submitted the proposed language pertaining to ponds to the County Planning Commission for review.

BZA - No applications were requested this month.

Correspondence – Mike received 12 phone calls and 15 emails this month. Conditional use inspections will begin this month. APA Tom Mangan contacted Mike about the Townships waste pond resolution. He has received more requests into this type of resolution from other townships in Lorain County. Mike shared the information he had. Mike received a call from Ben Howells of 18758 Chamberlain Rd. He was inquiring about the property of Janet Yates located at 17585 Chamberlain Rd. He asked if the Township was involved with beginning foreclosures on the property. He stated that Mrs. Yates was behind in her property taxes. He also stated that it appeared that Kevin Yates has placed vehicles on Janet’s property. Kelly Brothers Construction has started the demolition on the accessory structures at 14757 St. Rt. 83. This is the property that the Village of Grafton owns. There has been a public records request from Reminger for information related to Quasar and Grow Now LLC. Mike submitted his portion to the records clerk. Mike spent 5 hours gathering the 125 pages of requested information. Last month he stated there may be illegal residences at two properties. One located at 36510 Dunham Rd. and the other at 36948 Neff Rd. He will investigate and move forward with violations if required. Mike has been in contact with Jerry Jewell the owner of the 36948 Neff. Rd. property. He is working with Mike on a resolution with this property. The other property owned by Matthew and Holly Vest at 36510 Dunham Rd. it appears The Vests are living in a travel trailer with their children. Mike has viewed a temporary electrical service, permanent water service, outhouse, garbage, but no septic system at this property. This residential use is prohibited, with the only exceptions being temporary housing during construction with a permit.

New Violation / Complaints:

35300 NEFF RD GRAFTON, OH BARRETT RESOURCES LLC

violation of 605f setback, structure ahead of principle dwelling

36806 ST RT 303 GRAFTON, LARRY E & DIANE S WELLS

violation of 605f setback, structure ahead of principle dwelling

**Road Department Chad Uehlein –** The one ton is at Whirlwind for injector #3, they are waiting on an O-ring to come in. They have been cleaning up the shop upstairs. There is a pile of items that are not needed anymore. Carl looked at the items and there is nothing worth selling. They wills scrap what they can and rest we will get rid of on Dumpster Day. Truck 2 has another blown hydraulic line. Chad presented a list of tools they need for the road department to do repairs on their equipment totaling $1,657.28.

* Futtura CR5 Laser Receiver $545
* M18V Lithium Ion Brushless Cordless ½” drive w batteries & charger Milwaukee $449
* Sunex ½” drive impact sockets standard, deep and shallow 3/8” to 1-1/2 $147.81
* Sunex ½” drive impact sockets metric deep and shallow 9mm-30mm $118.30
* Sunex combination wrenches 1 5/16” to 2” $100.09
* 18 V Lithium Ion Cordless Grease Gun 2 speed Milwaukee $229
* Sunex ¼”” drive right angle air die grinder $68.08

Trustee Wesemeyer made a motion to spend up to $2,000 on the needed tools on the list presented, second by Trustee Weigel. Carl yes, Andy yes and Christie yes. Motion carried. **20230110-03**

**Fire Department Bob Richards –** There was an issue with a primer on Unit 177, they went on a structure fire yesterday and it would not function. They had an issue back in the summer and thought it was fixed. Bob is going to take the truck to Williams next Tuesday to have them to look at it. Trustees said to go ahead and get it fixed. Bob is going to purchase two life jackets and three spanner wrenches it will be around $425. The main phone line is down (440-926-2166). Bob has someone coming out tomorrow to have them look at it. If they can’t fix it Bob will have to call LakeTech. This Friday Warren Fire Equipment will be out to do the annual bench testing of the SCBAs and the air masks. Bob noticed an issue with the one side of the sign this morning, he did two hard restarts and that didn’t fix the problem. Bob will get ahold of Brilliant Electric to have them come and fix it. For Unit 172, Bob needs to order two new gauges, this will cost around $110. Staffing is going well, they have been responding to calls during staffing hours.

**Cemetery Michele Gehring –** Michele reported one cremation burial in December.

**Town Hall Bob Richards –** Residents meeting is tomorrow in the hall

**EMS Penny Palmer** – Jeanette Sukel reported for the month of December there were 12 residential calls, which resulted in 11 advanced life support and 1 basic life support. There was 1 motor vehicle accident, which resulted in 1 advanced life support and 1 no treat no transport. They ended 2022 with 192 calls. EMS supplies were ordered for around $80. There are three new signed contracts for the three new EMS members. Alex’s preemployment physical and background check is scheduled for this Wednesday. Brenda’s was cancelled in December due to weather she is waiting on a new date. Her EMS class begins on January 18th.

**Public Records Jeanette Sukel –** Jeanette stated there has been an exuberant amount of requests which are not small in nature. She has been working on one request since the end of November as well as handling the smaller EMS requests that come in.

**Rural Water –** Carl reported that their insurance had to be renewed and they changed from Medical Mutual to Cigna. Medical Mutual had an increase of 18% where Cigna would be 0% to 4%. They are doing line extensions in northern Ashland and doing loop closures within the system.

**LORCO –** Carl found out thru LORCO that NOACA wants to make facility planning area changes, this means who gets to service different areas. One of the big changes they want to make is on Crook Street and Chamberlain Road. The change was to include all of Crook Street and part of Chamberlain Road which would include April Hill development to Grafton Village planning area. This would take it out of LORCO/Lorain County. All three trustees are not in favor of this change since it would then open the door for the Village to annex. Carl was told this request came from the Lorain County Health Department, Carl talked to the commissioner of the Health Department and he was not aware of the request. Mark Adams, Commissioner for the Health Department, is looking into this. LORCO is doing system repairs and running the force main from Cinnamon Lake to West Salem for the sewer line.

**Fiscal Officer Amy Richards** – Amy needs the trustees to approve the purchase orders. Trustee Weigel made a motion to approve regular purchase orders 1-57 and blanket certificates 1-34, second by Trustee Homer-Miller. Andy yes, Christie yes and Carl yes. Motion carried. **20230110-04**

Amy spoke with Mr. Blevins regarding closing of the tire trailer. Bob informed Amy that there were tires dumped. Mr. Blevins stated he will send someone out tomorrow to pick them up. The trailer should be out of here by the end of the week. They are also going to put up signage regarding the closure and where they can now take the tires. The shed there cannot come down until Mr. Blevins get his electrician to come out. Amy reported year end is done, W2s were handed or mailed out. 1099s will be mailed out tomorrow. The year-end report was filed with the state of Ohio. Amy stated she received the email regarding if we want to participate in the County chip seal program, the county wants to know by April 1st.

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 Andy Weigel –** No report

**Trustee Christie Homer-Miller –** There is not going to be a community incentive grant this year thru the county. There is a trash consortium meeting this month. There is a community event sponsorship grant for a $1,000 thru NOPEC.

**Trustee Carl Wesemeyer –** We have 3 proposed stormwater projects. There is a meeting on Thursday to walk the ditches. The MS4 report for Crook Street was submitted.

**Audience –** Chris Sukel stated back in October we started talking about planning for the future of Grafton Township and how to keep it Grafton Township and not keep getting land annexed. Chris would like to keep us talking about it. Carl stated our water is safe regarding annexation since Rural Water has USDA loans. Sewers is another subject. Carl stated the northern part of the township on 83 was slated to have sewers there within 20 years now he doesn’t know if that is Grafton Village telling them they are going to do it. Carl is going to talk to them more and find what they are talking about. Chris was talking about retirement communities and needing a better water system and sewers to protect our borders. LORCO is not going to put the sewers in. Chris inquired if the township can get the USDA loan for sewers that would keep Grafton out. Carl is not sure and will look into. The study would cost around 20 to 25 thousand. We could use ARPA money to pay for the study. Bob thought a study was already done possibley around the time LORCO was started.

**New Business –** Christie asked about the round about detour. Carl sent it to Chad. We need to get back to ODOT on the detour routes. A resident asked about when Nathan Manning is coming, Amy will reach out to him to see if he could attend a meeting.

Trustee Wesemeyer made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:39 p.m.; seconded by Trustee Homer-Miller. Carl yes, Christie yes and Andy yes. Motion carried. **20230110-05**

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**Carl Wesemeyer, Chairperson Amy Richards, Fiscal Officer**