**Grafton Township Trustees Meeting Minutes**

**June 8, 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 was also present.

Trustee Wesemeyer made a motion to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of May 11th and the special meeting of May 18th, seconded by Trustee Homer-Miller. Carl yes, Christie yes and Andy yes. Motion carried. **20210608-01**

Trustee Weigel made a motion to pay the bills in the amount of $178,268.46, seconded by Trustee Wesemeyer. Andy yes, Carl yes, and Christie yes. Motion carried. **20210608-02**

Deputy Sprouse was unable to attend the meeting. His emailed report was read by Trustee Weigel and indicated the following. There were approximately 78 calls for service in the township from May 9 through June 7, 2021. They are as follows: Assist other Agency (2), Traffic Stops (44), Premise Checks (7), Shooting Complaints (1), Assistance (3), Harassment (1), Disturbance (2), Thefts (1), Follow up Investigation (2), Fraud (1), Alarms (2), Domestic Violence (2), Warrant Service (1), Welfare Check (1), Animal Complaints (1), 911 hang up (1), Civil Matter (2), Lockout (1), Property Damage (1), Accident (1) and Psychiatric Situation (1).

 **Committee Reports:**

**Zoning Inspector Mike Strah –** There were 2 permits issued for a garage and a pond.

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| **Permit/Date** | **Permanent Parcel** | **Owner Address** | **Improvement Cost** | **Use / Permit Cost** | **Notes** |
| 2742 | 16-00-063-000-013 | Brent & Michele Howard | $15,000.00  | Attached Garage | 1920 Sq Ft |
|   | 17632 Mennell Rd. |  | Attached |
| 5/22/2021 | Grafton, Oh. 44044 | $480.00  | Garage |
| 2743 | 16-00-030-000-044 | Jay & Christine Ramunni | 30,000.00 | Pond | 1.5 acre  |
|   | Grafton Eastern Rd. |  | Pond |
| 6/5/2021 | Grafton, Oh. 44044 | $100.00  |   |

Expenses

Mike stated there will be a $20 fee for the OTA training webinar that will be held on June 23: Zoning Inspectors Group Webinar Tiny Houses and Temporary Structures

Correspondence

Mike received an email from Lauren Falcone / Poggmeyer Design Group. They requested information in regards to the Townships zoning map. Lauren stated, “We are updating the Village's Comp Plan and want to show what the Township zoning is in this area. Thanks!” She was inquiring about the property that touches the southern border of Grafton Village, Mike sent her the information.

Mike received various phone calls and emails seeking information on lot size requirements, zoned districts, use and required permits at a slightly higher volume. For example, 5 days after the Kiko auction for the property located at Neff and Mennell Roads, calls regarding building increased.

Zoning Board of Appeals

The BZA met on May 13th for the postponed April hearing. Gary Mazuroski was granted a conditional use with restrictions. Brent Howard was denied his request for an area variance. Andrew Matuska was denied his request for a use permit. The BZA met again on May 25th for the regularly scheduled May meeting. Nathan Hopkins was granted a conditional use with restrictions.

Zoning Commission

Mike requested a public hearing through the Zoning Commission in regards to the Township zoning map. The hearing is scheduled for June 15th. This is required to properly adopt the revised map.

Current Violations / Complaints

Complaints are still being made in regards to 2 Chamberlain Road properties. The first is Janet Yates of 17611 Chamberlain Road. She has stated she is working to clean up the property. She is well aware of the areas that need attention. She has stated that she should be completed by July 4th 2021.

The other Property is Kevin Yates of 17295 Chamberlain Road. There are multiple disabled vehicles (at least 15) on the property and large piles of nuisance material around the home. Mike left his contact information with a female resident at the address, asking for Kevin to contact him.

New Violations / Complaints

Mike received an anonymous phone call/voicemail about 35939 State Route 303 owned by the Flickingers. The caller stated there was trash being dumped by the tracks, and a structure that was falling down. He described it as an “unsightly mess.”

Mike sent a letter to 15478 Grafton Eastern Road LLC (The Jailhouse Taverne) revoking the fence permit that they had applied for in October 2019. They were granted extensions in 2020 due to the pandemic but never began construction. The fence is required to satisfy a violation of Grafton Township zoning resolution 1910 required trash areas – which states “All business and light industrial uses that provide trash and/or garbage collection areas, including dumpsters, shall be enclosed on at least 3 sides by a solid wall or fence of at least 4 feet in height if such area is not within an enclosed building or structure. Provisions for adequate vehicular access to and from such area or areas for collection of trash and/or garbage as determined by the Trustees shall be required.”

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

**Road Department Bob Richards / Chad Uehlein –** Bob reported that the pre-leveling is complete as well as the Neff Road OPWC project. Discussion was had on the OPWC project Neff Road Reconstruction. We spent more on the asphalt; it is a nice new road. The asphalt should last 8 years and should not need chip sealed. Then Neff Road would be added to the routine chip seal road schedule. Trustee Wesemeyer made a motion to nonperform the chip seal portion of the project since it is not needed, seconded by Trustee Weigel. Carl yes, Andy yes and Christie yes. Motion carried. **20210608-03**

Crocker Road OPWC project was completed by Cornerstone. Bob spoke with Nick at Cornerstone today. They did some modifications to the sloping of the pipe and drainage issues. Bob is satisfied with the work. The County also was satisfied the work; they just want to make sure the grass grows. Amy will submit the final invoice to OPWC to pay the balance to Cornerstone.

Bob asked if we heard anything from Valley City regarding the pipe on Erhart Northern Road. Carl will meet with them, hopefully this week, to show them the issue and explain the situation.

Discussion was had on the old sign and what to do with it. There have only been a few inquiries. Trustee Weigel made a motion to sell the sign to the Friendship Animal Protective League in Elyria for $200, seconded by Trustee Homer-Miller. Andy yes, Christie yes and Carl yes. Motion carried. **20210608-04**

Brittany Cooper has volunteered her time to relocate the flowers to the new sign flower bed; she has been up there twice planting flowers. We may need to buy some more bark mulch for the area. She thinks she will be finished by Saturday. Christie will send her a thank you card. The pickleball court has been painted, and it is a hit. It has been used several times by different groups. The health department visited yesterday to do inspections.

**Fire Department Tim Adams / Bob Richards –** Bob reported the annual service and maintenance has started on the vehicles. Both squads are done and were completed by CPR. Unit 175 needs new tires; it still has the original on there from 2009. Unit 176 only needed a backup beeper which was installed in house as well as a new battery. The grass fire truck and SUV are going in this week. The engines will start in the next few weeks. Three new filters are needed for the air dryer for the system maintenance system. The cost is $250 for all three. Eight SCBA bottles need to by hyrdo tested; this will be done by AA Fire at $35-$40 a bottle. Laketec was out last week to address issues with the fax line. EMS run reports have to be faxed to the hospital and pharmacy. There is a bad switch; a new switch was ordered. Laketec will install it once it is in. Tim ran the check on all driver licenses, and they all came back clean. The AC project is still in process; it should be wrapped up the week after 4th of July.

**Cemetery Michele Gehring –** There was 1 burial this month along with a sale of a lot. Michele is looking into getting recycled sheet plastic for the headstones that cannot be read anymore. The recycle grant could be used for this.

**Town Hall Bob Richards –** The hall is being rented, and Bob is getting lots of inquiries. He has 5 dates already for July.

**EMS Penny Palmer** – There were 14 residential calls for the month of May, which resulted in 13 advanced life support and 1 no treat / no transport or cancelled. There were 2 motor vehicle accidents, which resulted in 2 advanced life support and 1 no treat / no transport. Mutual aid was received from Eaton Township for 2 residential calls. The annual maintenance for the equipment (cots/monitors/stair chairs) will be scheduled in the next few weeks.

**Rural Water –** Rural Water will have a bid opening tomorrow for line extension and upgrade in Nova.

**LORCO –** Still working on subdivisions and engineering.

**Fiscal Officer Amy Richards** – Amy stated the preliminary budget for 2022 is due to the county on July 20th. She does not anticipate any major changes; she will prepare the budget and have it for the trustees for the next meeting for them to approve. This is a very preliminary budget and will change.

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 –** The NDPS Permitting has some meeting scheduled to set up the account. Carl is authorized to sign on the township’s behalf and get the account set up. The Bannister Ditch cleaning was put out to bid but received no bids. They are going to rebid it and change some of the bid requirements. There still has been no information on the annexation appeal.

**Trustee Christie Homer-Miller –** Christie received 3 quotes for painting of the one-room schoolhouse. Power Painting and More was $5,000, Cottom Painting was $6,500, and Grimm Masonry was $14,007.50. Trustee Homer-Miller made a motion to hire Power Painting and More at a cost of $5,000 to paint the one-room schoolhouse, seconded by Trustee Weigel. Christie yes, Andy yes and Carl yes. Motion carried.

**20210608-05**

The Historical Society is meeting tomorrow. Christie is not sure if the lease agreement will be discussed; she will keep everyone informed. The reimbursement request for the NOPEC Energy grant will be submitted; Christie has the receipts. NOPEC also has a Green Ribbon Award. They are recognizing communities that have completed projects that have reduced their municipality’s energy footprint; the award is $2,500. Christie will submit our LED lighting project to try and get $2,500. The next food pantry is scheduled for June 19th. We have not heard yet from the Health Department on the playground equipment grant we submitted. The Community Incentive (Recycling) Grant is $6,139.37. An idea for the usage of the grant is to purchase recycled plastics mats to use in the cemetery verses using plywood. Bob provided Christie some information on the mats; they are about $250 each. We would start with getting 12; that would use not quite half the grant. Some other ideas are rubber mulch for the playground area, headstone replacements, dugouts (they are wood now), and signs for the parks and one-room schoolhouse. The historical society’s ice cream social is scheduled for July 11th. Christie thanked the fire department and the Belden United Methodist Church for their help cleaning up Vets Park and the historic buildings on Pride Day; there was a great turnout.

**Trustee Andy Weigel –** Andy received an email with the drawings of the road department garage. He will get enlarged copies to Bob, Christie and Carl. Andy asked if Bob has heard anything on the loader from Southeastern; Bob has not heard anything but will follow up.

**Old Business:**

Jack Lugas from the Jailhouse Taverne was in attendance and gave an update on the concerts. They had 1 compliant on their first concert. Jack stated he talked to the caller. He did testing and has a video. He tested on Dellwood on 9:30 that night, and there were no issues. The second concert had a large following. There was 1 compliant from a gentleman down the road; Jack will do some testing on Grafton Eastern. Jack checked with the Sheriff’s Office who did not receive any complaints from either concert. The Sunday youth concerts are scheduled from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. but most likely will be from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**New Business:**

Mike Strah inquired about the Metro Parks replacing their sign. Do they need to get a permit, and should Mike pursue this? Carl stated not to pursue it if they are just replacing the old sign with a new sign. Mike will just call the Metro Parks and inquire what the plans are but will not write them a violation.

**Audience Questions:**

A resident inquired about the noise resolution and the lack of a time frame. He called the Sheriff’s Office about gun fire, and they told him to get a copy of the noise resolution and see what time the gun fire is supposed to stop. The current noise resolution does not address times, and he does not feel it is appropriate to have gun fire at 11:00 p.m. The issue is with people working shifts; that is why a time was not placed in the resolution. The Trustees cannot enforce the noise resolution; that is for the Sheriff’s Office to do. The dispatcher told the resident there had to be a time; Bob told him to talk to a Deputy not just dispatch. Christie gave him the number to Community Policing; hopefully, he will reach Deputy Sprouse.

Trustee Weigel made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 p.m.; seconded by Trustee Homer-Miller Andy yes, Christie yes, and Carl yes. Motion carried. **20210608-06**

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