**Grafton Township Trustees Meeting Minutes**

**August 13th, 2019**

The regularly scheduled meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Trustee Haight, Trustee Wesemeyer 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 for July 1st, 9th and 16th, second by Trustee Haight. Carl yes, Jean yes and Christie yes. Motion carried. **20190813-01**

Trustee Homer-Miller made a motion to pay the bills in the amount of $49,510.06 second by Trustee Wesemeyer. Christie yes, Carl yes and Jean yes. Motion carried. **20190813-02**

**Committee Reports:**

**Zoning Mike Strah –** There were 5 zoning permits issued, they are for an addition, an accessory building, 2 pools, and new home, for a total of $1,100.

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| 2620 | 7/10/2019 | 16-00-031-000-039 | Kathleen Allbright | $6,000 | $100 | Pool |
| 2621 | 7/17/2019 | 16-00-023-000-038 | David Kasper | $338,000 | $525 | House |
| 2622 | 7/27/2019 | 16-00-079-000-036 | Mike & Kim Jennings | $5,000 | $125 | Addition <500' |
| 2623 | 7/29/2019 | 16-00-095-000-023 | Fred & Theresa Krakora | $6,036 | $100 | Pool |
| 2624 | 7/31/2019 | 16-00-059-000-002 | Kathryn Arden | $5,610 | $250 | Accessory >500' |

The Minnies are now in compliance with their shed and also have removed an inoperable automobile from the property. The Black Ford Expedition at 14833 South Island Road has been removed, and now the property is in compliance.

The orders for the Fender property have been received and signed for. The timelines have been satisfied and action has been taken by the Township to get the property in compliance. There are still some steps to remove the vehicles, but progress is being made. Through this action it has brought a response from the bank, through a property management company.

Ken Hamm, and Steve Plaskon Neighbors to 38477 Crook Street have called and complained about the over growth of vegetation. Mike had a 505.87 order for that property. He has given Earl Banks more than 30 days to comply, but he has not. Trustee Wesemeyer made a motion to proceed and sign the order for 505.87 on the property located at 38477 Crook Street, second by Trustee Homer-Miller. Carl yes, Christie yes and Jean yes. Motion carried. **20190813-03**

Ken Mann of 14840 Cowley Road had questions about the road right away. His neighbor to the south travels across his property to maintain a property that they own to the north of him. He also stated that he believes they are running a repair shop out of their accessory building and have a fair number of inoperable vehicles on the property. Mike then visited Mike Foldes and Cheryl Drake and advised them on sections 409 and 1911 of the Zoning Resolutions. He will return to this property in the future.

Mike visited the Box property again about operating a business. He was allowed to inspect inside the building. He found that the vehicles in the building were in fact owned by the Box’s. There still is an office that the business is run from on the premise. They also could not give a permanent address for the business. Mike cited them for not complying to the order and stated the process for them to appeal the decision of the BZA. There has been a great amount of evidence provided by the neighbors. Cory has asked if Mike has been down to investigate the Kowalski’s about the business being run from their property. He stated there is a sign on the mailbox “Kowalski’s Smokies sold here”. Mike saw the sign but has not investigated that yet.

Mike received a call from Grant Lucas about a property that he has purchased on west Law Road between Vermont Street and Chamberlain Road. They have had conversations about proposals on what he would like to do over there. Mike asked him to attend this meeting, but he did not.

The Popa’s of 36393 Grafton Eastern Road inquired if they would be able to live in the existing home while constructing a new home on the property before selling and moving the old home off the property. They wanted to know what type of agreement would be needed, or if it is even allowable?

Mike received a property split approval packet from the Lorain County Auditor for the Carl and Renee Keith property. There is no objection to the split, and it does comply with current Township Zoning.

Existing Violations

Earl Banks; 505.87 order, nuisance vegetation. Mike requested the Trustees sign the order.

Ronald Mantle; Nuisance material, open burning, and operating a business from an A/R district. Mike talked to Mr. Mantle and provided the application for a conditional use permit. Mike will wait until next month to see if it is necessary to take legal action against him.

Christopher Kroll & Crystal Etterman; constructing a fence without a permit, waiting on a BZA application for 409 home occupation. Mike has made multiple contact trying to get them to comply. They have not filed for a zoning permit, or a conditional use from the BZA. Bryan Kaspar; constructing an accessory structure without a permit, and waiting on a BZA application for 409 home occupation. Mike again contacted him to file the paperwork. Mike requested to start legal proceeding against these 2 property owners. Trustee Wesemeyer made a motion to start legal proceedings against Christopher Kroll & Crystal Etterman and Bryan Kasper regarding the zoning violations, second by Trustee Homer-Miller. Carl yes, Christie yes and Jean yes. Motion carried. **20190813-04**

New Violations

Mike and Teresa Stallard; constructing a fence without a permit.

Gary and Cory Box; operating a business from an A/R district. Mike requested to start legal proceeding against them for violating the BZA ruling. Trustee Wesemeyer made a motion to start legal proceedings against the Box property for violating the BZA ruling, second by Trustee Haight. Carl yes, Jean yes and Christie yes. Motion carried. **20190813-05**

**Road Department Bob Richards / Chad Uehlein –** Bob spoke with Steve Adams from the engineer’s office regarding the 2019 chip/seal county program but received no start time or where they are going to start in the county. The 1-ton was in for repair at Elyria Ford. They already received it back. The issue was thought to be lack of distance and speed driving; it was recommended we take it out on longer drives. The Road Department spent about 6 hours cleaning up the Fender property. Bob also spoke with Deputy Lopez regarding the car removal from the Fender property; there is some work the fiscal officer needs to do. The pipe at Law Road and State Route 57 was found; the condition of the pipe is questionable. ODOT is looking at replacing it next spring in a joint venture with the Township. Right now the pipe is flowing water. Since ODOT was out, they cleaned a lot of ditches. Bob spoke with Griffith Paving regarding the park parking lot paving. They are behind with all the rain we had this spring. Griffith stated a possible start date of mid-September. The road side mower was repaired, and all roads have been mowed at least once after all of the rain we had. The SWAC ditch on State Route 83 was also mowed. Materials need to be purchased for ditch work on Haystacks Lane - a catch basin and 15” pipe to enclose a ditch. Trustee Haight made a motion to purchase the necessary materials for the project on Haystacks Lane, second by Trustee Wesemeyer. Jean yes, Carl yes and Christie yes. Motion carried. **20190813-06**

Painting and maintenance of the 1-room schoolhouse was discussed. Jean has not heard from anyone regarding the painting. Bob suggested we look into a metal roof as a long-term plan; we are not sure if that would affect receiving grants in the future or the historical status of the structure. Bob inquired if the cemetery grant can be used for recycled headstones. We received 143 tons of salt. Bob asked if the gentleman that was taking care of the ballfields owns that tractor stored in the park building; the gentleman stated that he was done after this season. Jean thinks it belongs to the hot stove. Jean will call him to find out. Bob talked to Lynn Ickes regarding spraying the fields. She came out and sprayed and stated they should till up the fields another time and then Preen it. Jean will ask if they can till it up once more this season.

**Fire Department Tim Adams / Bob Richards –** Bob reported that the new truck is now in service (Unit 171). We need to purchase fittings and mounting boards and brackets for standardization. The headsets are in. Bob would like to talk to Sensible Products and order $500 additional mounting boards/brackets. The fire foundation spent $6,000 to outfit 3 compartments. Trustee Wesemeyer made a motion to spend up to $500 at Sensible Products, second by Trustee Homer-Miller. Carl yes, Christie yes and Jean yes. Motion carried. **20190813-07**

Discussion was had regarding disposing of the old 171 (1981 Ford Sutphen). Bob has been watching what they are selling for, which is anywhere from $500 to $1,000. Trustee Homer-Miller made a motion to list the old fire truck on govdeals.com with a starting bid of $1,000, second by Trustee Wesemeyer, Christie yes, Carl yes and Jean yes. Motion carried. **20190813-08**

The dry hydrant standardization is underway. They will need to purchase scheduled 40s, 90s and couplings to complete the change. This will allow for faster hookups and the need for fewer fittings which also reduces leaks. The ISO audit will be in September. It consists of review of training records and certificate levels, equipment testing, capabilities and inventory, water availability and system flows. Bob received the hydrant flow rates from Joe at Rural Water. Bob is waiting to hear back from Rural Water on hydrant location possibilities and pricing estimates. Tires needed to be replaced on a squad. The brand and age of the tires contributed to 2 tires blowing out. Bob had them replaced by Gateway Tire. A commercial tire was put on. Discussion was had on the sale of old pumps and extrication equipment. We will try to sell them at the Lagrange Steam Engine Show which will be held in September at the fairgrounds. The new valve for the tanker was received but is not in yet. Bob would like to pay an inspector from Eaton Township, $20 per inspection to perform the commercial inspections until we have an inspector on our department. There is a total of 8 business that need inspected. Trustee Haight made a motion to pay the Eaton Township inspector $20 per inspection, second by Trustee Homer-Miller. Jean yes, Christie yes and Carl yes. Motion carried. **20190813-09**

Michael Miller asked if he could use his Grafton Township fire gear and SCBA to go to fire school at Tri-C. Bob stated he was against it because of the wear and tear the fire school puts the students through. It is a hard program, and they are hard on the gear. The cost of the gear is over $7,000. Mike could use Valley City’s gear or the college has gear to rent for $700. The trustees agreed with Bob.

Tim reported that there have been 52 calls so far this year. The most calls had in a year was 59. Amy confirmed that the $10,000 fire grant was received; Tim will need to send in the receipts. SCBA bottles were purchased with the grant money; the rest of the funds will be spent on lights, etc.

**Cemetery Tim Adams –** Tim reported that there were 2 cremations last month. He sold a lot and had a request for a foundation. Tim handed everything over to Michelle, the new cemetery sexton. Tim will meet with her next week to go over the computer.

**Town Hall Bob Richards –** Bob reported that the 3 hall doors and weather stripping is complete. The painting of the front doors to the hall will happen when time and weather allows.

**EMS Penny Palmer** – Penny reported that there were 10 residential calls for the month of July, which resulted in 7 advanced life support and 3 basic life support. There was 1 motor vehicle accident, which resulted in 2 no treat no transport. Mutual aid was given once with LaGrange Township.

John Muellauer passed his National Register for EMT. He has been accepted by the State and has received his certification. He has completed the protocol test required by the Medical Director, Dr. Meyers, and has been approved to function as an EMT.

Chris Becker has completed paramedic school and passed all the National Registry requirements. He has also been approved by the State at his new level of certification. He needs to complete the protocol test for the paramedic level at which time Penny will submit to Dr. Myers for his final approval.

Penny is also working on the requirements for Workers Comp.

**Rural Water –** Carl reported that there will be a meeting tomorrow and that he will follow up with Joe regarding the hydrants. There is a Rural Water conference next month in Nashville that Carl will be attending and will miss the next trustee meeting.

**LORCO –** Carl reported that they are getting more taps in for the new development going in Eaton Township.

**Fiscal Officer Amy Richards** – Amy that the 2020 budget estimate was turned in on July 19th. A new printer will be coming to the fiscal officer; the State usually donates the old printer to the Township. Last month Fred Giese handled the zoning board of appeals on the hearing regarding Joe Ferrito. Trustee Homer-Miller made a motion to pay Fred Giese $100 for handling the appeal instead of Joe, second by Trustee Wesemeyer. Christie yes, Carl yes and Jean yes. Motion carried. **20190813-10**

Amy stated that we currently have 2 Huntington Bank accounts - checking and money market. One account usually has a fee, and the money market has small interest. Huntington stated if we combine the 2 accounts we could make more interest and not pay fees. Before the end of the year we will look at the balances and maybe transfer some to Star Ohio. The trustees agreed in the meantime to combine the 2 accounts at Huntington. The lighting district is due to the auditor by September 7th. Currently, there are 28 parcels in Haystacks that brings in $602.00 total or $21.50 a parcel, and there are 34 parcels in Highlands that brings in $557.60 or $16.40 a parcel. Amy recommends keeping the same amount for next year as we collect enough to cover the cost and have a small amount remaining. Trustee Wesemeyer made a motion to keep the lighting assessment the same for next year at $21.50 a parcel for Haystacks and $16.40 a parcel for Highlands, second by Trustee Haight. Carl yes, Jean yes and Christie yes. Motion carried. **20190813-11**

Amy also received a letter regarding the annual renewal for the liquor permits in Grafton Township. At this time there is no need to file an objection for the renewals of the liquor permits.

**Trustee Jean Haight –** Jean reported that the Lorain County Fair is August 19th-25th. Kids day is Wednesday, and senior day is Thursday. Mercy Health will be introducing a Drug & Alcohol Clearing House in January 2020. Any employer will be able to check and see if a person has had a positive drug or alcohol test result. This will include bus drivers, construction equipment operators, limo operators, waste management drivers and others. Jean has not received word yet on an ok to purchase the items that we selected with our Solid Waste grant money. Jean received an invitation to a dinner and presentation on leasing land to use for solar energy; it will be held at the VFW on Huron Street in Grafton. Jean also received information on the Lorain County Free Clinic located on Oberlin Avenue in Lorain; there also is a location in Elyria.

**Trustee Carl Wesemeyer –** Carl reported that there is still no decision on the annexation regarding Eaton Township, Grafton Township and Grafton Village. The hearing was continued until next week. The attorneys have not given up, but they are not too hopeful. A possible JEDD was discussed which means working with Grafton Village. More information is needed on JEDDs before talking with the Village. Carl will reach out to Assistant Prosecutor Jerry Innes to see if he is available to meet and go over JEDDs. Carl received the computer from the auditor. It did not come with Microsoft Office; he will need to get that program. Carl mentioned we applied for a grant for Erhart Road at the corner of State Route 57. Unfortunately, the project did not score high enough; so it was not funded. We have the pipe left over from another project that could be used to replace the culvert thru Erhart Road. This could help get the project funded at a later date. Carl has the easement forms for both properties, that need to be notarized, in which Carl will coordinate with Amy in regards to the Crocker Road SWAC project that we were already funded for. Trustee Wesemeyer made a motion to apply for Issue 1 Grant (OPWC) for the 2020 year for Crocker Road Culvert Replacement and Neff Road Resurfacing, and authorize Trustee Carl Wesemeyer and Fiscal Officer Amy Richards to act on the behalf of Grafton Township in this application, second by Trustee Homer-Miller. Carl yes, Christie yes and Jean yes. Motion carried. **20190813-12**

Carl mentioned that the attorney we hired to handle the annexation is James Matthew, and that the costs will be split with Eaton Township.

**Trustee Christie Homer-Miller –** Christie mentioned the email that was received from the Sheriff’s Office in regards to ID badges. Christie is going to resubmit the NOPEC invoice which she received from Amy tonight, to receive our grant money. Christie has a few questions regarding vacating the paper streets; she will talk with Jerry Innes to get more clarity.

Trustee Haight made a motion to go into executive session with Frank Raski for personnel reasons, second by trustee Homer-Miller. Jean yes, Christie yes and Carl yes. Motion carried. **20190813-13**

After the executive session a roll call was taken. Christie yes, Carl yes and Jean yes.

Trustees will accept the resignation of Frank Raski effected September 27th.

Trustee Wesemeyer made a motion to adjourn the meeting, second by Trustee Homer-Miller. Carl yes, Jean yes and Christie yes. Motion carried. **20190813-14**

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