**Grafton Township Trustees Meeting Minutes**

**November 9th, 2021**

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

Trustee Homer-Miller made a motion to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of October 12th and the special meetings from October 26th, seconded by Trustee Wesemeyer. Christie yes, Carl yes and Andy yes. Motion carried. **20211109-01**

Trustee Weigel made a motion to pay the bills in the amount of $66,685.56, seconded by Trustee Homer-Miller. Andy yes, Christie yes and Carl yes. Motion carried. **20211109-02**

Deputy Sprouse was unable to attend the meeting. His emailed report was read by Trustee Weigel and indicated the following. There were 25 calls for service in the township throughout October. They are as follows: Domestic Violence (1), Traffic Stops (10), Assist Ambulance/Fire (3), Alarms (2), Animal Complaint (1), Welfare Check (1), Vehicle Accident (2), Disturbance (1), Harassment (1), Suspicious Condition (2) and 911 Hang up (1).

Ilona Seaman, owner of ipanda designs, was in attendance and provided a presentation to the trustees for website design, build and manage. The cost for the development and launch as well as the yearly hosting and maintenance fee is $2,300 there is a $360 discount if paid in full, which brings the total to $1,940. Ilona showed some other township websites she has created and maintained. Her company also just finished up the new website for Lorain County Community Alliance. She also presented a timeline of when our new website would be up and running. She did speak with the son of our former webmaster and he is ok turning the website over to her. Christie stated working with her on the Lorain County Township Association website, she updates the site very timely. Ilona stated she will get the updates made within 24 hours. Trustee Homer-Miller made a motion to accept the proposal and hire ipanda designs to handle and manage Grafton Township’s website, second by Trustee Wesemeyer. Christie yes, Carl yes and Andy yes. Motion carried. **20211109-03**

**Committee Reports:**

**Zoning Inspector Mike Strah –** There were 2 permits issued for 1 addition and 1 fence.



Expenses – No expenses for the month.

Correspondence - Franklin Messer responded to the violation issued to his former residence. The vehicles located on the property are his and he will move them. There are issues that need to be worked out with attorney’s, his ex-wife, and when he will be allowed on the property to remove the vehicles.

Gary Nagle contacted Mike about a driveway permit on his property on Neff Road west of Mennell Road. Also, he was interested in information on Rural Water, and if they were extending service in the area. Trustee Wesemeyer stated Rural Water is moving forward with the planning. The tap fees have been paid. There is no timeline for when the water line will go, he doesn’t know the size either.

Dennis Reaser contacted Mike about zoning requirements on his property. After a lengthy discussion, he requested a BZA application. Trustee Wesemeyer stated he received a call today from Fred Giese, chairman of the BZA, regarding the Reaser hearing. Joe Ferritto sent the application to Carl. Looks like they are trying to do a regular lot split. Carl recommended we have the prosecutor there and a court reporter. The trustees are all in agreement on having the court reporter there and the prosecutor.

Current Violations / Complaints

* Charles and Laura Wright – Constructing a fence without a permit. Mike posted the notice on the property on 8/30/2021. No correspondence. Mike is requesting legal proceeding to begin. Trustee Wesemeyer makes a motion to begin legal proceedings regarding constructing a fence without a permit, second by Trustee Weigel. Carl yes, Andy yes and Christie yes. Motion carried. **20211109-04**
* Janet Yates – 17611 Chamberlain Rd. Nuisance/vehicles. The Township moved forward with clean-up ordered. The resident was removing the vehicles this week.
* Kevin Yates – 17295 Chamberlain Road. Nuisance/vehicles. Resident has been in contact and is working on the issues.

Existing Violations

* Kevin Yates – nuisance material disabled vehicles
* Charlie & Laura Wright – Violation of section 602 Permitted use. No permit for fence.
* Donna Messer – 15010 Island Rd. Nuisance material and disabled vehicles

**Road Department Bob Richards / Chad Uehlein –** Bob reported the weather was finally nice enough to do the crack sealing, Eaton Township came down with the machine and the parking lot was done. They did a great job. Bob is going to try and get a cost on what it cost to do the parking lot to see if it is comparable to what we did on Crocker Road. West Roof completed the resealing of the roof and they did their clean up as well. Bob spoke to the engineer and planner for the double round about for Route 83 and 303. The bid is slated to go out in April 2022 and start on June 2022. Bob also let him know the property for the vets park is now owned by the township and not the historical society. Carl took the paperwork for the transfer to the Recorders Office to have it recorded. Bob handed out copies of the stimulus grant application for the trustees to review. We can spend a few minutes after the meeting to go over the application and if they are good with it, Bob will get it submitted before the November 19th deadline. The tree company that has been storing their equipment across the street while they work in the area will be doing some work for the township, cutting down some trees on Neff Road. The scag mower will need a radiator by the spring, this mower is 11 years old and is showing wear and tear. Do the trustees want Bob to look into purchasing a new one or put a new radiator in and run it. Right now it has some trade in value. The trustees will think about it over the winter. Bob has to get more pipe for new driveways going in. He will get it ordered. Bob has enough to pipe to do the driveway that was requested today. Bob is getting the equipment ready for the snow. Bob and Chad completed the clean up of the Yates property. All the hours were turned over to the fiscal officer. Amy stated the total cost was $1,328.90 and it was taken to the auditors office today to add it on the tax bill. The filing fee was only $1.00. The trustees stated the property looked good.

**Fire Department Tim Adams / Bob Richards –** The ladder testing was completed on Sunday morning at the fire station, Eaton also brought trucks down to get theirs ladder tested. The report was sent today. All the dry and pressurized hydrants were tested and flushed, and all the paperwork has been turned into Rural Lorain County Water Authority. Penny Palmer put the most hours in for this project along with Dan Hlas and a few others. There are 4 portable radios that have Medina County frequencies on them to communicate to Liverpool Township and Litchfield, they have since changed frequencies and these radios are obsolete, Bob would like permission to place them on eBay – he has seen them sold anywhere from $25-$150 each. Trustee Weigel makes a motion to sell unused, obsolete items, second by Trustee Homer-Miller. Andy yes, Christie yes and Carl yes. Motion carried. **20211109-05**

Brad Puckmeyer is proceeding thru with his paperwork and requirements. Penny has to get him on the drug license and he has to pass the protocol test. Bob is working on getting him his gear. Unit 177 was out with a severe oil leak. CPR in Grafton came out to the fire department to do the repairs. There are two air packs that needed repaired, they have been fixed and are back in service. The radios in Unit 173 are no longer supported and can not get parts. Bob has a quote from VASU but it is not accurate because there are some things that they already have. The quote has it is today is $4,300. Bob will work on getting an accurate quote and will have it for the next meeting. The emergency number and dedicated fax will be installed next Tuesday. The wire has already been ran inside the building. They are still waiting on a response from York Fire on the survey.

**Cemetery Michele Gehring –** Michelereported that last month there was one sale of standard grave and 2 burials.

**Town Hall Bob Richards –** There was a recent rental that had some minor damage. The glue/tape they used for decorations pulled some of the drywall off the wall. Bob will have Brian Romes complete the repairs.

**EMS Penny Palmer** – There were 6 residential calls for the month of October, which resulted in 5 advanced life support and 1 no treat / no transport or cancelled. There was 3 motor vehicle accidents, which resulted in 1 advanced life support, 7 no treat / no transport and 1 Lifeflight. Mutual aid was received from Eaton Township for 2 residential calls and 1 motor vehicle accident. Supplies were ordered for a cost of $225.76

**Rural Water –** Starting work on getting water to Mennell Road and Neff Road. They have a new website. The new website will allow for easier payments.

**LORCO –** They received a million dollar ARP Grant for down in Ashland County. They handle the sewers for Cinnamon Lake and this million dollars will go towards a pump line from Cinnamon Lake to West Salem. West Salem is building a brand new sewer plant. Ashland County was very supported. They tried to work with Lorain County for ARP funding and it doesn’t look like LORCO will get money from Lorain County at this time.

**Fiscal Officer Amy Richards** – Amy stated the current contract with Lorain County for the Health Plan is going to expire the end of the year, the contract ran from 2019-2021. The County sent over an extension to the current contract with no changes. Trustee Weigel makes a motion to extend the current contract with Lorain County for the health care thru 12/31/2024, second by Trustee Wesemeyer. Andy yes, Carl yes and Christie yes. Motion carried. **20211109-06**

Amy received the Lorain County Specialized Rescue Response Contract from Director of Emergency Management. Trustee Wesemeyer makes a motion to enter into a contract with the Office of Emergency Management for the Specialized Rescue Response, second by Trustee Homer-Miller. Carl yes, Christie yes and Andy yes. Motion carried. **20211109-07**

Trustee Wesemeyer makes a motion to send the trustees, fiscal officer, zoning inspector, cemetery sexton, 2 zoning board of appeals members, and 2 zoning commission members, to pay for the registration, mileage, and food expenses, second by Trustee Homer-Miller. Carl yes, Christie yes and Andy yes. Motion carried. **20211109-08**

The conference will be in Columbus January 26th-January 28th.

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 inquired about if anyone found anymore information on the annexation from Grafton Village. Amy and Jason from Eaton did find additional information and Eaton is looking into going to the supreme court. Carl will talk with Jason from Eaton.

**Trustee Christie Homer-Miller –** Christie picked up the wood epoxy to repair the holes and gaps in the wood in the one room school house. When time permits the road department can work on the repairs. The neighboring property from the one room school house is having foundation issues and they want to install wall anchors which would go into our property. The trustees are not in favor of them crossing property lines for a multitude of reasons. The slate roof repairs were supposed to happen in November and Christie is not sure if they will happen in November or December. The next historical society meeting is tomorrow. The annual meeting for NOPEC was today, Christie participated via online. NOPEC customers will see a credit on their statements from 2022-2025 from a settlement with FirstEnergy the total is $306 million in refunds. This is about $86 per household. The credits will be $1.87 per month for 2022, $1.40 per month for 2023, $1.05 per month for 2024 and $.58 per month for 2025. Christie has information if anyone wants it. The last portable restroom was removed. Trash Consortium meeting was held last month, it was voted on to keep Megan Moore and her new law firm and she is keeping the same rate. The education center has not opened yet, it may open next April and they want it to coincide with Earth Day. The next trash consortium will be here on January 19th. Brenda Jaloweic was in attendance to discuss her flooding issue she has at her home on Grafton Eastern. This could be a SWAC project. Carl is still trying to get the one project we have approved to get completed, we are waiting on the engineers office. We can’t take on another project until we get the current one finished. Carl will get with Ms. Jaloweic in the next few weeks and take a look at her property. Christie reminded the audience we need volunteers for the fire department and zoning.

**Trustee Andy Weigel –** Andy received the plans via email but no one could open the pdf file. Andy emailed the architect have him resend the file.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** None

**Audience Questions:** There were several residents in the audience to discuss April Hill and how it is a private road and they would like to see how the township can accept the road into the township. Carl stated that the township does not allow islands in subdivisions and April Hill has two islands. When this was brought to the trustees years ago, they didn’t want the island gone. The main issue is the residents want the subdivision snow plowed. Discussion was had, the first step is the trustees need to talk to our legal counsel to see what the first steps are. We also need to get a cost to remove the islands. The trustees are not saying no but they need to get more research to see how to proceed.

Jean Craig inquired if the township is planning anything for Veteran’s Day, the township is not.

Trustee Weigel made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m.; seconded by Trustee Homer-Miller. Andy yes, Christie yes, and Carl yes. Motion carried. **20211109-09**

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