**Grafton Township Trustees Meeting Minutes**

**November 1st, 2022**

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

Trustee Homer-Miller made a motion to accept the minutes of the October 11th regular meeting and the special meeting on October 16th, seconded by Trustee Wesemeyer. Christie yes, Carl yes and Andy yes. Motion carried. **20221101-01**

Trustee Weigel made a motion to pay the bills in the amount of $24,962.20, seconded by Trustee Wesemeyer. Andy yes, Carl yes and Christie yes. Motion carried. **20221101-02**

Sheriff’s Office – No deputy in attendance but Andy read the recent report. There were about 70 calls last month in the township, mostly traffic stops, some domestics, assisting fire and ems, and premise checks. Nothing out of the ordinary in the township.

**Committee Reports:**

**Zoning Inspector Mike Strah –** There were 10 permits issued for the month. They are as follows 4 houses, 4 accessory buildings, 1 addition, and 1 agricultural use.



Expenses - Zoning had an expense of $ 9.90 for postage.

Zoning commission - The Zoning Commission met this past month. They continued working on refining the language pertaining to ponds.

BZA - The Zoning Board of Appeals reconvened on October 25th to hear additional information related to Michael and Nadine Heaths’ area variance. The board granted the area variance for them.

Correspondence - 56 phone calls and 9 emails were received for this month.

Mike received the unclaimed certified letter mailed to Kevin Yates. He has posted the letter on the property and photographed to serve as official notification of violations pertaining to O.R.C. 505.871.

Mike has received phone calls with concerns related to the Grow Now LLC. owned property.

On October 25th at approximately 6:00 p.m. Mike stopped and viewed the Jailhouse Taverne property to see if the advertise Midview Jazz concert had been conducted. There was not an outdoor performance. Jack Lugas was present at the property, and he informed me that the business had closed. There was a small group of people who appeared to be removing items from the restaurant.

New Violations / Complaints - Nothing new

Existing Violations / Complaints - Kevin Yates – nuisance material disabled vehicles

**Road Department Chad Uehlein –** Chad reported that the Erhart Road Project was completed and opened on October 14th. The last of the road side mowing should be completed this week. They did about 500’ of ditching done this month and they had two burials. Chad received a quote for the chipper in the amount of $4,665.60, this work will need to be done in the near future. Chad discussed the brakes on truck #2, they took it to Whirlwind in Eaton for them to take a look at the truck, they can do the brakes for around $1,330. Trustee Wesemeyer made a motion to have the brakes repair on Truck 2 at Whirlwind at a cost not to exceed $1,400, second by Trustee Weigel. Carl yes, Andy yes and Christie yes. Motion carried. **20221101-03**

For $30 a truck load we can get rid of the concrete from the Erhart Road project, it will probably take three truck loads. Carl wants to do some research on the chipper repair, they will discuss this next month.

**Fire Department Bob Richards –** Bob reported the Anna Palmer has completed her physical and everything came back good. Bob installed the furnace vent extensions in the fire department and hall from where we had the snow come in from last year’s storm. The hose that was ordered from the Fire Marshal Grant finally came in after 22 weeks. Half of the lights on squad 175 do not work after the turbo repairs were just completed, Bob is taking the squad back in tomorrow to the Ford dealer. A new garage seal is needed for door number 6 in the fire department. The backflow testing is scheduled for tomorrow with Schafer Plumbing at 10am. All the pressurized fire hydrants have been tested and lubricated, all the paperwork was dropped off to Rural Water today. All the mailings went out to the residents regarding the upcoming levy, all the costs for the mailing was paid by the fire department association. Bob would like to purchase class B foam, the fire chiefs association have gone with this to standardize what the fire departments are using in the county. This material has less harsh chemicals in it and can be used for class A and well as B. The cost is around $220 for 5 gallons. Bob would like to purchase 9 five gallon containers, there would be no freight since it is stocked locally. Trustee Wesemeyer made a motion to purchase class B foam for the fire department at a cost not to exceed $2,000, second by Trustee Homer-Miller. Carl yes, Christie yes and Andy yes. Motion carried. **20221101-04**

**Cemetery Michele Gehring –** Michele reported there were 2 cremations and 2 standard burials last month and 3 of those were on a Saturday. $2,200 was the income for the cemetery last month.

**Town Hall Bob Richards –** Hall rentals are going good, nothing to report.

**EMS Penny Palmer** – Penny was absent, Jeanette read the EMS report. There were 10 residential calls for the month of October, which resulted in 9 advanced life support and 1 was not transported. There were 2 motor vehicle accidents this past month, which resulted in 1 advanced life support and 1 was not transported or no patient found. Eaton Township provided mutual aid twice for residential calls and once for a motor vehicle accident. The two new tablets are working well in the squads and we can stop the service on the hot spots.

**Rural Water –** Rural Water has been doing wash out of the tanks. So far the Columbia, Nova and Penfield tanks have been washed. The Miller Road and Wellington pump stations are nearing 50 years old, they will be upgraded soon. Miller Road will go from 4 millions gallons per day to 8 million gallons and the Wellington pump station will go from 440,000 gallons per minute to 750,000 gallons per minute. There are 27 subdivisions that Rural Water is installing taps into right now.

**LORCO –** They are working on getting the force main from Cinnamon Lake to West Salem sewer plant. The contracts have been signed. They are also working on 10 different subdivisions now.

**Fiscal Officer Amy Richards** – Amy reported the resolution for accepting the tax rate was turned into the County Auditor. We will need to pass a resolution for our permanent or temporary appropriations by the end of December. Amy stated she will have those ready for the December meeting. Trustee Wesemeyer makes a motion to send the trustees, fiscal officer, zoning inspector, cemetery sexton, department heads, 2 zoning board of appeals members, and 2 zoning commission members to the annual winter Ohio Township Association conference and to pay for the registration, mileage, and food expenses, second by Trustee Weigel. Carl yes, Andy yes and Christie yes. Motion carried. **20221101-05**

Amy did state the OPWC project was submitted online. This was the first time doing it online and Amy did confirm with OPWC that our application was received.

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 has three different projects he is considering applying for the Storm Water Grant. Trustee Weigel made a motion to allow Carl Wesemeyer to apply for grants and authorize him to sign the forms for storm water, second by Trustee Homer-Miller. Andy yes, Christie yes and Carl yes. Motion carried. **20221101-06**

**Trustee Christie Homer-Miller –** Christie reported that the company that is going to redo the basketball court into the pickleball court is going to keep the same price since they are not going to be able to complete it this year. The Health Department is also holding the grant for us. The 2022 close out report for the solid waste grant was submitted. Christie asked Amy to let her know when we have received the funds it should be around $4100. Christie heard that there probably is not going to be a 2023 solid waste grant because that department is not doing well financially. NOPEC is having their annual meeting Tuesday November 15th in Twinsburg, Christie can’t attend due to a scheduling conflict if Andy or Carl want to attend it starts at 9am. The township submitted matching ARPA funds thru the commissioners for play ground equipment. We still don’t know if we received the matching funds but we are hopefully. Reminder voting day is next Tuesday and that is why the meeting is today.

**Trustee Andy Weigel –** Nothing new that was not already discussed.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** None

**Audience Questions:** Grow Now LLC and the old Belden Property use was discussed in length. Many residents were in attendance to voice their concerns that they do not want a lagoon. All three trustees stated they are not in favor of the lagoon and will do what they can to not allow it. Nothing has been submitted to the township regarding the property plans so at this point we are making assumptions on what the property owners are going to do on that property. The trustees can’t share what they don’t know and at this point they are watching and waiting for something to be turned into the township. The only permit they have received was for a fence. Mike did receive a permit for a structure but it was denied since the permit was not filled out correctly. The township first heard about a possible lagoon was in July when the owner came to the meeting to introduce himself. After that meeting Carl meet with the trustee from Pittsfield to talk about how they were able to stop it. When the company tried this 9 years ago in Pittsfield our township zoning officials met with their zoning commission and our zoning was updated to reflect not allowing a lagoon. Fiscal Officer Amy Richards read the July meeting minutes which are posted on the township website, many residents stated they read the minutes and didn’t see that the new owner attended the meeting. Residents are going to meet again on November 6th to discuss options on how to stop it. Only one trustee will attend since all three can’t meet with out it being a public meeting.

Trustee Weigel made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:04 p.m.; seconded by Trustee Homer-Miller. Andy yes, Christie yes and Carl yes. Motion carried. **20221011-07**

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