**Grafton Township Trustees Meeting Minutes**

**March 8, 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 Wesemeyer made a motion to accept the minutes of February 8th regular meeting, seconded by Trustee Weigel. Carl yes, Andy yes and Christie abstained. Motion carried. **20220308-01**

Trustee Wesemeyer made a motion to accept the minutes of February 15th special meeting, seconded by Trustee Homer-Miller. Carl yes, and Christie yes and Andy yes. Motion carried. **20220308-02**

Trustee Weigel made a motion to pay the bills in the amount of $36,037.12, seconded by Trustee Wesemeyer. Andy yes, Carl yes and Christie. Motion carried. **20220308-03**

Trustee Weigel reported there were 44 calls of service to our township last month; this was per the email from the Lorain County Sheriff’s Office. There were 14 traffic calls, 5 suspicious conditions calls and 6 domestic disturbance calls.

**Committee Reports:**

**Zoning Inspector Mike Strah –** There were 5 permits issued for Grafton Township. They were for 3 accessory buildings, 1 house, and 1 agricultural use.



Expenses - No expenses for zoning this month.

Zoning commission - Meeting for February was cancelled due to illness.

BZA - Craig Davis has submitted an application to the ZBA seeking an area variance. The hearing should be on the schedule for this month.

Correspondence – Mike spoke with Tim Shevel about his interest in the Zoning Commission. Mike asked him to attend the meeting tonight to express his interest. Tim was in attendance and stated he has more time now that his kids are older and wants to give back to the community. He has lived in the township for the past 24 years.

Conditional use inspection are in progress and halfway to completion.

Trustee Homer-Miller made a motion to appoint Tim Shevel to the Zoning Commission, seconded by Trustee Weigel. Christie yes, Andy yes and Carl yes. Motion carried. **20220308-04**

Carl will look at the schedule of appointments for the zoning commission to see what unexpired term he will fill.

Complaints - Mike sent a violation to Thomas Herron of 36300 Law Road for operating an indoor storage business from his residence. Mike received a complaint that vehicles, campers, and boats were stored in an accessory building on the property. Mr. Herron responded timely, and Mike informed him of his view. Mike also informed him of what the permitted uses for that district allowed. Mike will follow up with a site inspection.

Existing Violations / Complaints

Kevin Yates – nuisance material disabled vehicles

Legal Action

Charlie & Laura Wright – Violation of section 602 Permitted use. No permit for a fence.

Met with APA Mangan on 3/7/2022 for a conference call with resident and to view property. Mike recommends having the assistant prosecutor at a special meeting which would be in executive session to discuss the Wright violations.

**Road Department Bob Richards / Chad Uehlein –** Bob gave an update on needed repairs. Truck 1 (dump truck) was taken to CPR in Grafton because it was shaking. It needs a front end alignment. During that appointment, they found a cracked spring on the driver’s side, which is causing it to be out of line. Trustee Homer-Miller made a motion to spend $2,346.40 on the spring repairs for truck 1 seconded by Trustee Weigel. Christie yes, Andy yes and Carl yes. Motion carried. **20220308-05**

Bob mentioned placing an ad for the seasonal mowing job; Trustee Homer-Miller will post similar information to what was posted last year. Bob talked to Terry from Melway who will be here next week to run the roads with Bob and see what needs to be done. Terry mentioned that the cost to complete the roads this year is about double from last year. Bob asked if we are going to go with the county chip seal program; Andy recommended that we go on our own like we did last year. Discussion was had on what roads might or might not need completed this year. Bob met with 2 contractors concerning the historical building windows and siding. Bob has samples of the siding. We can do the projects in phases. The condition of the roof was also discussed. Bob asked if they want him to get a third quote. Carl asked what the end use of the building was. Is it always going to be a historical society? Right now we lease it to the historical society with the township covering the utilities. Carl inquired if we have really looked into the floor of the building. There are some issues that need taken care of regardless of what the use of the building is. Bob talked to Jim Clark regarding the ballfields. They want to start using them for practices on April 1st; games will start at the end of April. We will have to get the portable restrooms there. Dumpster Days was discussed; they will be May 13th and 14th. Bob will call Rumpke to schedule the dumpsters. We will use DMX for scrap and will get the smaller dumpster from Jason Services. Ilona will post the information on the website, and we will post it on the sign out front. The new shorter times on the slides is working. The sign software company hopefully fixed the disconnection issues we were having by switching out a part today.

**Fire Department Tim Adams / Bob Richards –** The yearly maintenance is due on the vehicles. The squads will go first and probably will go to CPR in Grafton.

**Cemetery Michele Gehring –** Michele reported there was only 1 footer sold this past month for $250.00.

**Town Hall Bob Richards –** The hall is being rented a fair amount; hall rentals are picking up.

**EMS Penny Palmer** – There were 6 residential calls for the month of February, which resulted in 6 advanced life support. There were 2 motor vehicle accidents, which resulted in 1 advanced life support and 2 no treat / no transport. They have been working on protocol updates the last month.

**Rural Water –** Carl reported that they are working on extending lines. Bob talked to Joe Waldecker regarding running a bigger main down to the corner of Neff and Mennell. Joe explained the EPA regulations are why they cannot put in a bigger main. Bob asked about getting a hydrant installed; Joe will get him a price and will get back to Bob.

**LORCO –** They are working on finalizing their grants. Amy asked how the area planning works. Does LORCO have jurisdiction in our township - say a developer wanted to put a development in and needed sewers, would it have to be LORCO? Bob inquired about a feasibility study. We can have one, but it will cost the township to have it done. Carl will inquire and get a price. Carl has a meeting on Thursday. Annexation was discussed and how to curtail Grafton Village from annexing land from the township.

**Fiscal Officer Amy Richards** – Amy stated that our permanent appropriations are due to the county by April 1st. They changed slightly from the temporary appropriations passed last year. Trustee Wesemeyer made a motion to accept the permanent appropriations in the amount of $1,386,000, seconded by Trustee Weigel. Carl yes, Andy yes and Christie yes. Motion carried. **20220308-06**



Amy also mentioned the that fire levy is up for renewal this November. She presented 5 resolutions to ask the county auditor to determine how much money the different type of levies will bring in.

Trustee Homer-Miller made a motion to request that the County Auditor certify the total current valuation for a 2 mil renewal fire levy, seconded by Trustee Weigel. Christie yes, Andy yes and Carl yes. Resolution passed. **20220308-07**

Trustee Homer-Miller made a motion to request that the County Auditor certify the total current valuation for a 2 mil replacement fire levy, seconded by Trustee Weigel. Christie yes, Andy yes and Carl yes. Resolution passed. **20220308-08**

Trustee Homer-Miller made a motion to request that the County Auditor certify the total current valuation for a 2 mil renewal with an additional (increase) .5 mil fire levy, seconded by Trustee Weigel. Christie yes, Andy yes and Carl yes. Resolution passed. **20220308-09**

Trustee Homer-Miller made a motion to request that the County Auditor certify the total current valuation for a 2 mil replacement with an additional (increase) .5 mil fire levy, seconded by Trustee Weigel. Christie yes, Andy yes and Carl yes. Resolution passed. **20220308-10**

Trustee Homer-Miller made a motion to request that the County Auditor certify the total current valuation for a 2 mil renewal with an additional (increase) 1 mil fire levy, seconded by Trustee Weigel. Christie yes, Andy yes and Carl yes. Resolution passed. **20220308-11**

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 got ahold of Mr. McWilliams regarding the easement for the Erhart Road ditch project. He is out of town for the next 2 weeks. He has concerns about the easement. Hopefully when he is back in town, we can get the easement signed. Carl received a complaint regarding the new fireworks law that will go into effect this July. The person wanted to know what the township was going to do. The trustees can pass a resolution to not allow the fireworks; the issue will be enforcement. It is illegal to set fireworks off now, but it has not stopped residents in the past. The trustees are not going to do anything at this time. We were unable to stop it when it was illegal, and now that it is going to be legal, there is not much the township can do. The grant for the culvert on Island Road that we applied for thru ODOT was not awarded to us; no township in Lorain County received the grant.

**Trustee Christie Homer-Miller –** The zoning board of appeals fee was changed and needs updated on the website. Grafton Village sent a meeting notice they are having regarding the boundaries; Christie called the Village to get more information on the meeting. The NOPEC community sponsorship grant of $500 was received by the fire department association. The township received $150, and the food pantry received $350. Christie received a thank you letter from the food pantry. Updated job descriptions should be presented to the employees and get their signatures. Tim Shevel will fill the unexpired term of Michelle Hicks which runs thru December 31, 2024. Christie asked about digitizing the records. Amy and Ilona are going to apply for the Ohio Historical records grant; it is a matching grant. The trustees are good with Amy applying for the matching grant.

**Trustee Andy Weigel –** Andy stated everything went out to bid for the road department building; he has not received any back yet.

**Audience –** Jeanette inquired about Pride Day – Christie will have more information at the next meeting. It is now called Keep Lorain County Beautiful.

Trustee Weigel made a motion go into executive session at 9:00 p.m. for personnel reasons - possible new hire and fire chief compensation - seconded by Trustee Homer-Miller. Andy yes, Christie yes and Carl yes. Motion carried. **20220308-12**

Trustee Weigel made a motion to go back into regular session at 10:15 p.m.; seconded by Trustee Homer-Miller. Andy yes, Christie and Carl yes. Motion carried. **20220308-13**

No action was taken after the executive session.

Trustee Weigel made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:20 p.m.; seconded by Trustee Homer-Miller. Andy yes, Christie and Carl yes. Motion carried. **20220308-14**

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