**Grafton Township Trustees Meeting Minutes**

**June 14th, 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 the May 10th regular meeting and May 27th special meeting regarding the County chip seal program and the May 24th public hearing on the change of the definition of nuisance, seconded by Trustee Weigel. Carl yes, Andy yes and Christie yes. Motion carried. **20220614-01**

Trustee Weigel made a motion to pay the bills in the amount of $113,266.81, seconded by Trustee Homer-Miller. Andy yes, Christie yes and Carl yes. Motion carried. **20220614-02**

Bills were higher due to OTARMA insurance premium and the payment to Melway for the pre level road work.

Deputy Osborne was in attendance and stated that our impact officer is Deputy Bareaheiser, he could not be here since he was at another meeting. Deputy Hocking was in attendance who was training. Deputy Osborne stated they are hiring and training new deputies to get them out on the road, they have been short staffed. She provided the phone number for the township impact office at the Sheriff’s Office as well as her email and Deputy Bareaheiser’s email.

**Committee Reports:**

**Zoning Inspector Mike Strah -** There were eight permits issued for Grafton Township. There are for 3 accessory buildings, 2 pools, 1 fence, 1 sign, and 1 house.



Expenses - No expenses for zoning this month.

Zoning commission - The Zoning Commission has paused addressing the solar code since other agencies regulate solar. They are now working on addressing verbiage related to Subdivisions.

BZA - No new applications

Correspondence - 26 phone calls and 16 emails were received for this month. Most where inquiring about setbacks, lot requirements and permit requirements.

New Violations/Complaints – Mike received a complaint from Duane Mc Kee 37748 Law Road in regards to trees on a property line. The neighbor Steven and Tracey Mehallick had marked trees on a shared property line for removal. Mike suggested Duane contact legal representation for advisement of his rights. Mike responded to an email from the Mehallick suggesting they do the same. Mike stated there was nothing the Township could do on private property.

Mike received a call from Tim (Hamker) of Grafton Eastern Road complaining of a neighbor that brings his tractor trailer home on the weekends. He stated the semi starts on its own at all hours of the night. Tim wondered if zoning could do anything about it. Mike suggested he talks to his neighbor and if it is becoming a nuisance or there is a noise issue Mike advised Tim to call the sheriff’s office.

Mike was contacted by Mel Kurtz of Grow Now LLC, inquiring about resolutions and use of their property. They have purchased 17748 State Route 83 (80 acres) and the parcel adjacent to the north (61 acres). Mike met with representatives of Grow Now LLC at their properties and answered their questions. They didn’t share too much information other than they are going to have a tree farm. Their partner is Quasar Energy Group.

Violations were issued for:

* David Kasper- 15777 Highland Drive (unpermitted structure pavilion)
* Christopher Candella & Kimberly Holzinger - 18412 St Rt 57 (605f Yard requirements)
* Timothy & Kathleen Flury - 36211 Dellwood Road (unpermitted structure fence)
* Aaron Osbourne - 36698 St Rt 303 (605f Yard requirements)

Existing Violations / Complaints - Kevin Yates – nuisance material disabled vehicles. Deputy Lopez is still working on gathering information for the cars on Yates property.

Legal Action

Joe Simmons on Law Road had an ordered signed last July for nuisance. He did go ahead and take care of the nuisance (he mowed the grass). But it is now a problem again, since we are still within a year of signing the original order we can issue him another notice to clean it up in 4 days vs 7 days.

Trustee Wesemeyer made a motion to sign the order O.R.C. 505.87 on Joe Simmons , second by Trustee Homer-Miller. Carl yes, Christie yes and Andy yes. **20220614-03**

**Road Department Chad Uehlein –** They are keeping up with the mowing. The first round of road side mowing was completed. They are having issues with the road side mower. Three installs for the driveway pipe were completed. Chad doesn’t want to use his personal cell phone for road department use. Talk was had on do they keep the road department land line in the office they have and get a cell phone or just have a cell phone. Talk was had on who carries the cell phone and since Chad is hourly are we paying him to answer the phone during nonwork hours? When they carry the phone on the weekend are they on call and paid? Amy also addressed the need to be consistent with township employees that have used their personal phone for years such as the cemetery sexton who doesn’t have an office, her cell phone is used for township business with no stipend. Same goes for the 4 elected positions, no offices and have been using personnel cell phones and internet with no stipend. James and Chad are going to get new shirts, with button ups, cost increase from the old shirt of .25 up to .43 for the new button up shirts.

**Fire Department Bob Richards –** Tim has worked on a letter for support for the fire levy coming up in November. Bob gave a copy of the letter to the trustees. Christie liked the letter. Christie will get labels and they will get the letter mailed out in September or October. They are still waiting on parts for the brake job on the squad. Units 170 and 174 had their yearly maintenance, the recall work was done on unit 170, those parts took 5 months to come in. The fittings came in that were ordered as part of the fire marshal grant. They also ordered hose as part of the grant and the salesman told Bob it would be 20 weeks to get in. The issue isn’t the hose but the fittings on the hose. If we needed turnout gear that is out over a year. Bob had a meeting set up for tomorrow with Lexipol (the SOG company). They had to reschedule for next Thursday. Tim Adams is officially retiring as the assistant chief effective June 30th. Trustee Homer-Miller made a motion to hire Tim Adams at a rate of $25 per hour effective July 1st for a as needed basis, second by Trustee Weigel. Christie yes, Andy yes and Carl yes. Motion carried. **20220614-04**

The OTARMA IT Audit was last Friday. Bob showed them around the township, he looked at all the township computers, security system and generator. They will have a report to the township of the audit and an action plan within the next few days. The biggest thing to come out of the audit was having a disaster recovery plan.

**Cemetery Michele Gehring –** Michele was out due to surgery. Christie gave her report. Nesbitt Cemetery was cleaned during Keep Lorain County Beautiful last month. Wallace upright headstone was repaired. Four footers were put in and she has contacted the monument companies. All the flags have been placed on veteran graves. The mapping of Belden cemetery continues. A quote was received to repair the mausoleum roof in Belden Cemetery. Trustee Wesemeyer made a motion to accept the quote to do the repairs from Jarrell Construction Company in the amount of $1,500 second by Trustee Weigel. Carl yes, Andy yes and Christie yes. Motion carried. **20220614-05**

**Town Hall Bob Richards –** Bob reported that the Cleveland Door Company was out today to look at the handicap door on the hall. The circuit board had to be replaced. Becky Herrin and she was inquiring about using the pavilion to have a township garage sale for safety reasons. She talked to a few residents and they like the idea of having the sale at the pavilion due to the high speed of our roads and driveways and parking. The sale would be on 6/25 and there would be a $10 charge per resident that wanted to set up a table and the donation would go to the fire department. The trustees do not have any issues with using the pavilion for a garage sale. Amy will put it on the sign out front. Bob also had an inquiry from the game club to use the pavilion for their game dinner in the fall, he didn’t attend the meeting tonight but asked about water and electric. The pavilion has electric but not water.

**EMS Penny Palmer** – There were 8 residential calls for the month of May, which resulted in 6 advanced life support and 2 were not transported. There were two motor vehicle accidents this past month, which resulted in 3 advanced life support. They responded to LaGrange to assist with a residential call last month. They received mutual aid from Eaton for an motor vehicle accident and LaGrange for a residential call. They are preparing for summer weather, reviewing protocols for heat and sports related emergencies.

**Rural Water –** Carl reported that they have not received the permit to install on Mennell Road, they are working on getting prices. They are moving forward though. Bob is getting mixed message that when the water lines are rerouted that the water line will be big enough for a hydrant but the flow pressure wouldn’t handle it but then Bob heard all they have to do is open one value. With everything getting torn up now is the time to put a hydrant in or a valve that we would pay for. Carl will ask.

**LORCO –** The bid opening for Cinnamon Lake was postponed to the end of the month. They are still working on engineering for new subdivisions.

**Fiscal Officer Amy Richards** – Amy read two correspondences from the Lorain County Commissioners regarding the annexation from Grafton Village. Amy stated a resolution is need to accept the transfer of sick time from Eaton Township for James Kelly since our policy and procedures does not address transfer of sick time. Trustee Weigel made a motion to accept the transfer of 152 hours of sick time from Eaton Township for James Kelly, second by Trustee Wesemeyer. Andy yes, Carl yes and Christie yes. Resolution passes. **20220614-06**

Amy received the LMRE Ballot, Andy will sent it in. Carl asked if Amy received anything from the County regarding Erhart Ditch Project, she has not. Amy also emailed the three trustees an issue coming up in the township regarding poison hemlock. It is in our township and at the Thursday LCTA meeting Lynn Ickes will do a brief presentation on it and what the township’s responsibility is now that is in the township. Amy will have the budget for the next meeting.

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 mentioned the surveying going on Dellwood by Reaser, not sure what is happening with the surveying or why it is being done. The bid opening was completed and we know who won the bid but we haven’t seen any paperwork regarding the Erhart Ditch Project.

**Trustee Christie Homer-Miller –** Christie reported there were 121 households that took advantage of dumpster days. The MOU was received from the county regarding the solid waste grant, this year we are getting $4,118.86. Trustees are good with Christie signing the MOU. The application is due back to the county on June 30th. Discussion was had on what to spend the money on. We have enough picnic tables. More plastic mats for the road department was an idea as well as doing something with the concession stand (roof, siding and gutters). Christie will forward the NOPEC information to get into the Rural Urban. The next grant is the NOPEC Energy Grant which is $3,362. In the past we have done the installation for the road department and switching over to LED lights. The light fixture of the light pole is still an old halogen and there is a light in the veterans gazebo that is not even working. Maybe we can use it to replace some windows at the historical society. Bob also mentioned that the furnace in the back bay of the fire station is from the 60’s and doesn’t work right. It turns on and off all on it’s own.

**Trustee Andy Weigel –** Andy reported that he added James Kelly to the random drug testing. He also talked to Sherry from Mercy regarding registering for the clearing house. Andy is working on this. Jeanette send Andy some items, Jeanette is working with Ilona on the digitization project. It is going good and they are moving forward with the records. They have done 5 boxes so far.

**New Business:** Bob Flickinger discussed the Historical Society relationship with the township and how to work together to make less work for both. He would like to take some of the gravel out of the park. And not replace some of the bushes. They want to make it easier to mow and maintain. Bob asked if the trustees would like copies of the meeting minutes. The trustees said yes they would like to receive the minutes to know what is going on. Linda mentioned the have carpentry bees, is there something that can be done to get rid of them.

Trustee Homer-Miller made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:11 p.m.; seconded by Trustee Weigel. Christie yes, Andy yes and Carl yes. Motion carried. **20220614-07**

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