

## OHIO TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES

December 9, 2019

The trustees met in regular session with Mr. Hinson and Mr. Vogelsang present. There is currently a vacancy on the board of trustees.

Also present were Asst. Chief Scott Light, PTFD, Ron McGlone, Chris Busse, Marcella Beard, Mike Souders, David O'Connor, Valerie Renn, Frank Renn, Vernon Hawkins, Gale Tinsley, Larry Bramlage, Emily Niehaus, Tom Niehaus, Don Adams, Megan Alley of the Clermont Sun, Emily Supinger and Les Smith.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Mr. Hinson.

***Mr. Vogelsang made a motion to accept the minutes of the November 11, 2019 regular meeting, seconded by Mr. Hinson. Both members voted "yea"***

***Mr. Vogelsang made a motion to accept the minutes of the November 19, 2019 special meeting, seconded by Mr. Hinson. Both members voted "yea"***

Emily Supinger swore in Emily Niehaus to fill the vacant trustee position formerly held by Charles Polster that expires December 31, 2021. Emily Supinger then swore in Keith Vogelsang for his new term beginning January 1, 2020 and ending on December 31, 2023. Ms. Niehaus took her seat with the board of trustees and participated in the remainder of the meeting.

Vernon Hawkins spoke to everyone in attendance concerning the upcoming New Richmond Schools levy. He is the co-chairman of the levy committee. The history of lost revenue totaling \$8 million was noted. The school district's total budget is \$27 million. \$3 million in cuts have already been made. A 9.4 mil levy is being put on the March 2020 ballot. It is the first levy request from the school district since 1977. New Richmond Schools have the lowest millage of all 49 school districts in the neighboring 4 counties.

Marcella Beard asked if zoning fees could be waived for her property. She explained that she is having an issue with the county wanting zoning permits for construction performed by the previous owner. Les Smith further explained her situation. Emily Supinger explained that the board of trustees does have the ability to waive fees if deemed appropriate. Mr. Vogelsang asked where the property was. Les Smith explained that it is in Lazy Days Campground. Mr. Vogelsang noted that he would like to look into the matter further before making a decision. Emily Niehaus asked Marcella Beard what her plan was for the new construction. Marcella Beard noted that she is trying to get the property ready for the spring and that she has permits for a fence and a shed; still working on the permit for a carport.

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Frank Renn asked why the township's most recent financial information was not showing up on the Ohio Checkbook website. Bill Gilpin explained that it was recently brought to his attention by Mr. Adams that 2018 was not on the site and that he is working with the state to get the problem corrected. Frank Renn then asked why the township meeting agenda and minutes were not available on the township website. Mr. Hinson reported that the board is going to discuss it later in the meeting. Frank Renn then reported that he feels items are sometimes "rubber stamped" that are unknown before the meeting. Keith Vogelsang was asked about the neighborhood watch program. Mr. Vogelsang noted that the group last met four years ago. Frank Renn then asked what was going on with the speed limit study. Mr. Hinson reported that speed studies are being done on Chestnut Lane, Fagins Run and Grays Lane but that the county has not yet notified the township of their results of the speed study. Frank Renn then went on to say that he feels the trustees disgraced themselves by having a meeting on Veterans Day last month. Mr. Hinson noted that Frank Renn also held a meeting on Veterans day in 2013 when he was the chairperson of the board of trustees, to which he replied that he could do whatever he wanted since he was a veteran. Frank Renn then made references to material that was on Mr. Vogelsang's campaign literature; also made references to the township trustees settling a lawsuit for a sunshine law violation and read aloud his thoughts on the matter. Frank Renn then noted that he is a Vietnam veteran. Mr. Hinson thanked him for his service.

Asst. Chief Light, PTFD, gave his report (on file). Reported that the department is experiencing 2 to 3 additional runs per day after taking over the territory formerly served by Amelia Village.

Cpl. Feilhauer, CCSO: absent, no report

Les Smith gave his zoning report (on file). Mr. Vogelsang asked how much Marcella Beard has paid so far in zoning fees; answer given was \$100. Emily Supinger noted that Les Smith will still have the same amount of time involved processing the permit applications if fees are waived.

Dave O'Connor maintenance report: Still hoping to get Chestnut Lane work near Rays Run completed yet this year. Mr. Vogelsang asked where we were on the Petri Drive drainage issue. Dave O'Connor noted he is hoping to hire an engineer early in 2020 to assess the situation and make a recommendation. Mr. Hinson asked if the leak was fixed in the Chevrolet squad. Dave O'Connor reported that it was driven in the rain today with no issues.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**COMMUNICATIONS:** Bill Gilpin reported receiving the annual letter from Duke Energy with proposed rate changes; no action required.

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**NEW BUSINESS:**

*December Motions:*

***Mr. Vogelsang made a motion that the trustees of Ohio Township are entitled to the maximum compensation permitted per the Ohio Revised Code and to continue on the Salary Method of payment, seconded by Ms. Niehaus. All members voted “yea”***

***Ms. Niehaus made a motion to continue the Group Health Care Insurance Plan and Dental Care Program as written with the township to continue paying the out of pocket and deductible expenses for those who are eligible being the three trustees, fiscal officer, full time employees, their spouses and dependents, up to a maximum of \$3,000.00 deductible per family, seconded by Mr. Vogelsang. All members voted “yea”***

*2020 Temporary Appropriations:* Bill Gilpin reviewed the 2020 temporary appropriations and asked the board to approve the temporary appropriations.

***Mr. Vogelsang made a motion to approve the 2020 temporary appropriations as presented, seconded by Ms. Niehaus. All members voted “yea”***

*2020 Organizational Meeting:*

***Ms. Niehaus made a motion to hold the 2020 organizational meeting on January 4, 2020 at 9:00am, seconded by Mr. Vogelsang. All members voted “yea”***

*Website Maintenance:* Mr. Hinson reported that he feels we need to hire someone to improve and manage our website. Ms. Niehaus noted that we should call neighboring townships for references.

Mr. Vogelsang asked what obligation the township has to provide an agenda prior to the meeting. Emily Supinger replied that the township does not have a legal obligation to have an agenda, and that the Ohio Revised Code section that Frank Renn has referenced provides that an individual may request advance notice of a meeting where a specific item is going to be discussed. One of the ways that the Township can comply with its obligation to provide advance notice of specific topics is to simply provide interested parties with a copy of the meeting agenda in advance.

Mr. Vogelsang asked Dave O’Connor about the repairs needed for the tennis courts. Dave O’Connor reported that he will be contacting several vendors early in the new year to get quotes on making the necessary repairs.

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Mr. Vogelsang asked about the HVAC system at the township hall. Dave O'Connor noted that our grant application was denied and the plan right now would be to replace them ourselves if it fails. There was discussion on the CDBG grant application process that has made it very difficult for Ohio Township to qualify for the program.

Mr. Hinson asked someone else could take over checking the office phone messages in 2020 since he is now taking care of the hall and park reservations. Mr. Vogelsang will take care of.

Mr. Gilpin reported that the Records Commission, being the chairman and fiscal officer, met at 6:15pm. Since there were no records to be destroyed, no action was taken.

Bill Gilpin stated there is no need for a motion to reduce appropriations this year as all funds have excess appropriations above budgeted levels. An updated certificate of estimated resources is being obtained for the year end also.

Fund balances were discussed.

The following were read and approved with warrants written for same: (payment summary on following page).

***Mr. Vogelsang made a motion to adjourn at 7:55 pm, seconded by Ms. Niehaus. All members voted "yea"***