

<BLOOM TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING 02/25/2009>

Dave Petty, Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Members present were Trustees Petty, Joseph Smith, and Brian Randles. Also present were Fiscal Officer Tony Pranger; Board Administrator Anne Darling Cyphert; Fire Chief Terry Gill; Road Supervisor Randy Solt, and interested citizens including scout members of Canal Winchester Troop 793. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and we paused for a moment of silence in honor of our military troops.

PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT:

Eric Sandine, Mayor of Lithopolis, told the trustees he would like for them to consider joining with the village in running a joint 4 mill police levy that would involve the village and the township. The village needs to renew its levy soon. Sandine and Chief Jay Barton presented a proposal to put a township wide, 10 year, 2.5 mil police levy on the Nov, 2009 ballot which would retire the village police levy in 2010. The two presented an information sheet (on file at the Administrative Office Building) that explains the financial specifics. Barton discussed response time out of the village and safety issues. Petty said our fire chief has researched a safety district from Oakwood that involves firefighters that also having an Ohio Police Officers Training District. Petty said it is something we can consider. Smith and Randles said the sheriff's office offered to provide township protection for about \$350,000 when we were having burglaries in the area. Township office has not had a public request for a contracted police service in at least 15 years. P.D. now costs \$184,000 per year for the village. About \$670,000 total would be needed to fund the department. The trustees will discuss the matter further at the March 25, 2009 meeting.

Sandine said the village is in the pipeline for stimulus money because the main road is eligible. Smith said that county should be involved in sharing the costs of improving street in Lithopolis. Randles said if he needs a letter of support since we have a fire department we can send one.

Barton said the idea of a joint levy is recommended between the village and township for consideration but is not reflected on services provided by the county sheriff's office.

Mark Heister, Alspach Road resident, said he is pleased to see the boy scouts here as part of grassroots government. He said he is bothered by what he witnessed with the prior meeting between the firefighters and the trustees. He said it was micro managing. Randles explained quarterly meetings are routine and not to be considered that way. Heister said you pay a fire chief to run a fire department and should let him do it. He said be wise and self evaluate how you run things.

- **Motion** by Smith, second by Randles to approve minutes of the MEETING held Feb.11, 2009. Motion carried 3-0.
- **Motion** by Randles, second by Smith to approve payment of bills in the amount of \$44,832.21 and Payroll/ charges in the amount of \$63,768.86 having been certified by the Fiscal Officer that funds are available.
- **Motion** by Smith, second by Randles to approve payment to Franklin Equip. for \$2,065.06 for repair of radiator for road dept. backhoe. Discussion from trustees as to why a rebuilt one was not appropriate. Solt said they cut a deal and deducted \$150 from the bill. It was down 1.5 days before it was repaired. Motion carried 3-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS and COMMUNICATIONS

- Meeting for trustees to meet with County Engineer to discuss Bloom Twp needs – FEB 26 at 5:15pm at Engineer's Office. Discussion that the County Engineer would like to trade Elder Road for winter maintenance in exchange for somewhere in the southern end of the township. Solt suggested the dead end of Sitterley. Solt said he still plows the Bloom Elementary lot. Sandine said they have communicated their willingness to assist the county with Elder Road. The issue will be discussed with the engineer tomorrow evening. The county will do its own chip and sealing this summer to save costs. Brandt Road needs repair work due to springs underneath. The trustees will discuss contracting chip and seal with the county at a later date.
- Reminder to department heads per resolution to submit items for the meeting agenda to the Administrative Office by the Friday before the Board of Trustees meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Petty attended meeting with Congressman Austria and discussed moving the limit higher on force accounts. Meetings will be coordinated with the state legislature on the issue. A meeting about bike trails is planned for the county RPC March 3. Funding is questionable.

OLD BUSINESS:

Fairfield Farms Report: RPC had a meeting that he and Solt attended about Fairfield Farms and why the roads have not yet been turned over. Drainage issues still exist. A follow up meeting will be held on the progress from the developer. All asphalt has been laid. Township cannot accept the subdivision until the problems are corrected.

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New propane tank is outside and will be hooked up when old tank has 5%. Per the trustee's request, Cyphert will ask Wendell Miller to hook up the new connection after the old tank is drained. Randles said if Miller is unable to do it, call him and he will do it.

BOARD ADMINISTRATORS REPORT: by Anne Darling Cyphert, Board Admin.

-Hazel House Update: The Fifth District Court of Appeals has upheld the local court's decision to allow the house to go to foreclosure. The attorney thinks that will happen in September and they are working with the mortgage company to come up with a plan to cut the front noxious weeds this summer.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT: by Chief Terry Gill

Regarding the village of Lithopolis suggestion, Gill explained if we continue to ask taxpayers for money we must be creative. We should include Carroll, Greenfield Twp. Fire Department as well. Smith disagreed that Greenfield should be involved because they cannot gain support to pass a fire levy.

Gill said he agrees with Heister's comments and presented Article 14 of the Union Contract regarding how quarterly meetings should be conducted and said if they continue to have the meetings the trustees should follow the contract. He said it undermines his authority.

Braun vehicle repairs are nearly complete. Some door repairs also needed at the cost of \$1738. **Motion** by Randles, second by Smith to approve the payment of \$1738 to Life Star. Motion carried 3-0.

Randles said if Gill has a problem with the quarterly meetings he should have said so earlier. Randles said it is open dialogue and has been ongoing with former trustees routinely over the years. Gill said subject matters brought up at the last meeting were a waste of time and small matters. Gill said he needs the backing of the trustees and when the public recognizes it they should listen. Randles said there needs to be open communication. Smith said the firefighters were being petty about asking for a \$1 payroll deduction but is willing to listen to discussions about insurance. Gill said 97% of public service is perception. Smith said if they have a problem they can go through the grievance procedures. Randles asked if Gill wants the quarterly meetings stopped. Gill said yes. The trustees studied Article 14 of the union contract. Gill said the nominal group technique should not have been discussed at that last meeting.

Motion by Smith, second by Randles to end the quarterly meetings and future meetings will be held at the discretion of Chief Gill. Motion carried 3-0.

Gill said a call occurred on a gas leak at Keller Farms that was blowing gravel from line. Due to safety reasons, Fire department had to shut it off which shut off heat to greenhouses per legal code. A passerby phoned in the report.

ROAD DEPARTMENT REPORT: by Road Supervisor Randy Solt

Solt reported he has newly revised salt contract and submitted it.

Randles said Solt spoke to him about uniform rental service. He suggested purchasing uniforms for cost savings.

OTHER:

The trustees decided to grant the Board Administrator authority to have legal counsel negotiate an end a pending case per the letter submitted by the attorney.

Motion by Smith, second by Randles to grant the Board Administrator authority to have legal counsel negotiate an end to a pending case per the letter submitted by the attorney. Motion carried 3-0.

ADJOURNMENT

David Petty, Chair

Tony Pranger, Fiscal Officer