

<<<BLOOM TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING 8/23/06>>>

David Petty, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Members present were Trustees Petty, Brian Randles, Joseph Smith, and Fiscal Officer Carol Moore. Also present were Anne Darling Cyphert, Board and Building/Zoning Administrator; Fire Chief Terry Gill; Randy Solt, Acting Road Supervisor; and several interested citizens.

Petty led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Bloom-Carroll High School Girls Softball Team: The board of trustees approved the following **RESOLUTION #29-06** and congratulated the team members and their coaches that attended the meeting:

Whereas the Bloom-Carroll Girl's Softball Team has captured the State Championship Title for Division III

Whereas the Bloom-Carroll Girl's Softball Team has displayed exemplary leadership skills both on and off the field

Whereas the Bloom-Carroll Girl's Softball Team has accomplished the ultimate goal for its 2006 season and

Whereas the Bloom-Carroll Girl's Softball Team has brought pride to many families, friends, school, and our community

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BLOOM TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES THAT we show our gratitude, appreciation, and congratulations to the Bloom-Carroll High School Girl's Softball Team.

ROLL CALL: Petty-Yes; Randles- Yes; Smith-Yes. Resolution carried, 3-0

- Patricia Huston-Holm on Predator Laws: She is a resident of Bloom Township and has a neighbor that is a registered sexual offender. She encouraged the trustees to do whatever the township can legally do to enforce sexual predator laws. She understands the township has limited ability to control the issue but appreciated them hearing her concerns.

The trustees expressed concern. Petty said there are four that we know of in Bloom Twp. One on Lithopolis Road has to register every 90 days and the others must register each year. Cyphert suggested Huston-Holm talk to the Fairfield County Commissioners as well to get their support because it is a county-wide problem.

FISCAL OFFICER REPORT:

- **Motion** by Smith, second by Randles to approve minutes of regular meeting held 8-9-06. Motion carried 3-0.

- **RESOLUTION #30-06: BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BLOOM TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES** that a within fund transfer is approved to correct appropriations for interest and principal for the 3RD annual Medic payment as follows: \$957.44 from 2111-830-830 (Interest) to 2111-820-820 (principal). Motion by Randles, second by Smith.

ROLL CALL: Petty-Yes; Randles- Yes; Smith-Yes. Resolution carried, 3-0

- **Motion** by Randles, second by Smith to approve Fire Dept. bill to Company Wrench for DOT annual inspection and repairs \$2,020.63. Motion carried 3-0.
- **Motion** by Smith, second by Randles to approve payment of bills in the amount of \$83,435.53 and Payroll/charges in the amount of \$50,400.76 having been certified by the fiscal officer that funds are available. Motion carried 3-0.
- Correspondences:
 - NIMS Training info dated 8-14-06 from Matthew Keefe, EMA Director: Petty said all township employees should either take the online course or attend the Workshops offered the first and last Saturday's in September. Federal grants cannot be obtained if NIMS requirements are not met. The trustees stated if employees do not want to take it online but do the workshops instead, overtime will be paid.
 - ODOT ltr dated 7-27-06 (rec'd 8-14) from Gordon Proctor, Director.

NEW BUSINESS:

- The trustees asked Cyphert to send a letter of appreciation to the supervisor of Greg Davis who presented an informational seminar to the board on Tax Increment Financing. Cyphert agreed.
- A letter from Tim Schaffer was sent to the township regarding needs of the township for grant opportunity. Petty stated he has written information to give Schaffer's office regarding the need for another firehouse. The letter from Petty shows the township is willing to fund the project as well. Cyphert was asked to fax his information on township letterhead to Schaffer's office by tomorrow night. She agreed.

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OLD BUSINESS:

- Issue 2 update: communications with the Engineer's Office/Lanier: Randles said he is discussing the information with Solt. The first and second phases were discussed. Engineering has been done on the Bartlett phase to the township line according to Randles. Moore said she has received mixed responses from Lanier whether the application was actually filed by the Engineer's office. She stated former trustee Larry Coyle was the POC for the project when he was in office. Randles said the Issue 2 application needs to be submitted this October. Solt said he would like to see a separate application made for Brandt Road. Discussion of what was done and what was intended for the Issue 2 project. Moore suggested the trustees assign one trustee to check with Jeff Baird and engineering firm Lockwood/Lanier to determine the status of the Issue 2 project and to get some prices. Solt said last year the design plan was not finished in time for the application but it is now done. Smith will find out more information about the Issue 2 project and report back.
- Deferred Compensation Issue: Petty had left a message for Julia Dillon, Assistant Prosecutor, asking for clarification because he had been told that Paul Morehart had approved Violet Township signing the proposed documents to administer the plan. Petty said he had received a reply via a phone message from Julia Dillon who stated that the prosecutor's office has no reason to change their advice to the trustees. She said Paul Morehart has not advised Violet Township to sign the documents to become Plan Administrator. He has the same reservations she has and he has an additional reservation that the township would have to offer the plan to all employees, not just firefighters.

Petty had also been told that, effective in September, townships will be required to offer at least two deferred compensation plans. Petty said he and Moore had spoken with the Ohio Township Association Governmental Affairs Representative Heidi Fought who had informed them this is not the case. Fought, who worked on this bill and is quite familiar with its content, had said the bill allows additional deferred compensation plans to be offered but does not require a compensation plan to be offered in addition to the Ohio Public Employees Deferred Compensation Plan. Petty questioned who monitor's this program and what happens if the program is mismanaged. He said the township cannot hire, fire, or monitor the management firm for the plan.

Union Local President Brad Shull of the Bloom Township Fire Department said the trustees should tell Fought to further research the language issue. Randles recommended Shull contact Fought to get more information. Shull said we haven't necessarily come to an impasse yet but asked that a meeting take place with a representative of the proposed deferred compensation plan, Bloom, Violet, and the prosecutor's office as well as his state association.

Shull said he is looking into filing a grievance and asked the trustees to rescind their decision from the last meeting to hold off the grievance. Randles said if the prosecutor's office advises the board, they need to follow the advice being given. Smith also was not in favor of rescinding the motion. Shull said the union is obligated to file a grievance within a timeline if one is to be filed. Smith reiterated the board must follow the advice of the prosecutor. Shull asked that the decision to not do the proposed deferred comp plan be put off until the September meeting. Shull said the prosecutor's office may need more education on this because they may not be familiar with this kind of issue. Shull questioned how the prosecutor's office could come up with an opinion that quickly without consulting anyone outside their office. Randles reminded Shull they (the firefighters) had agreed for the trustees to send the issue to the prosecutor's office. Shull said they figured that was the only option they had. Randles said the board is not trying to cause problems for the union. Shull said there are 77 municipalities involved in this changeover and most of those municipalities have changed over so there has to be some legitimacy to the program. Randles reminded him that we were also told that Violet Township had signed when in fact it had not. The message left by Dillon on voice mail was played. Shull said more research is needed before the second meeting in September.

The trustees agreed to change the date of the letter sent by Moore notifying the firefighters of the trustees decision not to adopt the plan. They also needed to change the next regular meeting due to scheduling conflicts.

Motion by Randles, second by Smith to change next regular meeting from September 13, 2006 to September 6, 2006 at 7:30 p.m. Motion carried 3-0.

Motion by Randles, second by Smith to extend the date of the letter notifying them about the decision on the proposed deferred compensation program to August 28, 2006. Motion carried 3-0.

Gill suggested having Cyphert send a mass emailing out to OTA member townships for their feedback on the proposed deferred compensation program. Cyphert asked the trustees if they would like her to do that. They said OK.

Shull said he would still like to have a meeting with all involved with the deferred comp representative. Petty stated he would attend if such a meeting occurs. Petty said it boils down to the advice of the prosecutor.

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ZONING & BOARD OFFICE REPORT:

- GTS Drainage Systems: Cyphert stated she spoke with Soil and Water Conservation regarding the John Eisz complaint about his neighbor's geo-thermal system on Alspach Road. She said they advised Mr. Eisz (and the health department advised as well) that this is a civil issue between neighbors and recommended he consult with an attorney.
- Copper top: Greencastle roof estimates: Cyphert said Able Roofing provided a ballpark estimate around \$3600 to place a copper top and siding around the steeple.
- Noxious Weeds: Darrell Hardin will mow noxious weeds on Alspach Road at Gamble property when he has an opportunity. Cyphert has been working with the mortgage company to address noxious weeds at the former Hazel property on Lithopolis Road in Greencastle. The attorney stated they will be mowing the weeds this week.
- LTR received from Fairfield Department of Health: permits for tattoo/body piercing services. Cyphert stated if such a business begins in the township she will make sure they are also referred to the health department.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT:

- Gill presented a letter regarding postponing expansion of the fire department to two staffed stations. He said there have been no complaints from residents regarding response times but we still need to consider the issue. He will contact a property owner interested in selling a building to the township for a substation use to let them know we are not interested at this time.
- Discussion regarding payoff of medic: Gill said when the budget was considered, the situation was not an issue at that time. He said two options for payoff are appropriations from carry-over or move money within the budget which he does not recommend due to unforeseen increased salary expenses. Randles favored saving the interest expense by paying off the debt this year. Moore noted that the General Fund is earning 5.5% on the over \$20,000 still owed while the interest rate on the debt is only 4.5%. Randles stated interest rates paid to the township could go down so we should consider that. Gill said a new truck will cost \$400,000 to \$500,000 dollars so between that expense and building a new building, there will come a time when financing will be necessary. Petty does not want to move money around. Discussion regarding final settlement of taxes: still to come in. Petty would like to make third payment and wait until the last meeting in September to see what the final settlement is before discussing payoff. The trustees agreed. Gill said the trustees may want to consider asking the voters to look at voting on funding a new firehouse. The trustees will look at the medic payment issue next month.
- Roof issue: the firehouse roof is still being worked on.

ROAD DEPARTMENT REPORT:

- Update on Paving Projects: Solt said Amanda Northern Road paving has been completed. A roller had gotten stuck on a steep hill on Amanda No. causing ruts. The crew will fix the road.
- Update on Culvert Projects: Culvert projects also doing well.
- Update on New Truck: should be done next week.
- **Motion** by Smith, second by Randles, to approve emergency expense of \$5,200 for 500 additional tons and hauling of reground asphalt to complete berming project. Leftover will be used on Brandt Road. Motion carried 3-0.
- Solt reported that berming projects are also going well.

OTHER: None.

ADJOURNMENT:

Petty adjourned the meeting.

David Petty
Chairperson

Carol J. Moore
Fiscal Officer