

## <BLOOM TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING 7/2308>

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

**PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None

**FISCAL OFFICER REPORT:** by Carol Moore

- **Motion** by Randles, second by Petty to approve minutes of the Special Meeting, Budget Hearing, and Regular meeting held JUL 9, 2008. Motion passed 3-0.
- **Motion** by Petty, second by Randles to approve Fire Dept bill \$2700 with Ohio Rehab Diagnostic Ctr for Stress Tests reimbursed by Wellness Grant. Motion carried 3-0.
- **Motion** by Randles, second by Petty to approve payment of bills in the amount of \$and Payroll/ charges in the amount of \$having been certified by the Fiscal Officer that funds are available. Motion passed 3-0.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS and COMMUNICATIONS**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Real Estate Tax Advance received for 2<sup>nd</sup> half: Fire \$300,000; R & B \$50,000; Road Improvement \$70,000.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Smith discussed the Hocking Run culvert issue. Solt and Smith reviewed the situation and found an overflow line and another line. They then lead into a drop box. Then goes into two field tiles that then empty out onto a resident's lot. Soil and Water Conservation recommended he run a 15 inch line to the township ditch. The two lines come from Mason Road and a pond behind his property. He said the plans did not show this. The resident is paying for the pipe to get rid of water in his basement. The subdivision has not yet been turned over to the township. Smith told the residents the township would facilitate a meeting if desired. We will wait to hear back from the residents. The resident also planned to meet with a representative from the Health Department to address the issue.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- Basement water problem update: Water problem has been resolved. At the next meeting we will act on the proposal from Service Master to complete the remediation.
- OPWC Kauffman Rd update. Randles is impressed with the project and would like to have a ribbon cutting ceremony. Petty said a good job was done but at the dead-end curve it appears motorists are cutting it tight because gravel is on the road. Curve sign must be erected. Smith said Jeff Baird called him and said Shelly will repair road edge if it breaks for up to five years because the paver made a mistake.
- OPWC applications for Phase 2 & 3 and contract for Sitterley drainage project. Petty reported there is a delay in the paperwork for OPWC applications due to review of the language by the prosecutor's office. The state is looking for projects. If the township put 5% down and financed the rest for 10 years for the Brandt Road project, it could result in more points for approval for the project. The decision is to pay for the project as it is completed as the township has traditionally done. Petty said Phase 2 & 3 does not include Brandt Road. The remaining Kauffman Road project was broken into two parts to break the cost down. Moore asked if there would be signage to warn of the road narrowing at the bridge. Solt said it is the responsibility of the county to put up narrow bridge signs.

**ZONING & BOARD OFFICE REPORT:** by Anne Darling Cyphert, Board Admin & B/Z Admin.

- Cyphert met with Jason Dolin, Assistant Fairfield County Prosecutor regarding the two noxious weeds complaints and other issues. He did not have a legal opinion regarding whether chemicals could be used as Randles had suggested but said cutting may be a better option. Hazel property still has no date set for sheriff's sale so with that information, Dolin said to notify Hazel by certified mail sent to his prison and tell him to arrange for the weeds to be cut, then if not cut, township proceeds to have weeds cut. Cyphert has a call in to the company the township has used in the past for weed cutting to notify them they will likely be contracted to cut the Hazel property. Hazel signed for the certified mail at his prison and if the weeds are not cut by August 1, the township will cut them for him with the costs attached to his tax bill. The home is still in the name of Hazel and not yet in the name of the bank even though the civil court case action occurred in March. It is taking a long time to change to the bank's name, although it appears the court ruled in favor of the bank. Dolin said when it is still in the name of the owner and not the bank, it makes it easier to take action. The criminal proceedings in the case have now concluded which now allows us to take action on the weeds.
- Regarding the Keene property, a date has been set for sheriff sale. Dolin recommended waiting, because it will soon go up for auction, to see if the weeds get cut. Cyphert spoke to the man who filed the complaint against Keene and he is satisfied with the information.
- Cyphert met with Jason Dolin regarding the Schumacher property/junk and junk vehicles, on Winchester Southern Road. Dolin has waited for several months to hear from Municipal Prosecutor Terre Vandervoort as to a possible companion resolution to go with the one he prepared but he did not hear back from her. In the meantime, Cyphert spoke with Sheriff Dave Phalen today and he said we can still have them do the removal which is the question Dolin has been trying to ask Vandervoort. This evening we are finally at the point where we are ready to pass the resolution ordering Mr. Richard Schumacher of 2650 Winchester Southern Road to remove all junk vehicles from the property.

**RESOLUTION #22-08** (on file in office of Fiscal Officer). Motion by Petty, second by Randles. Roll Call: Petty – Yes; Randles – Yes; Smith – Yes. Resolution adopted 3-0.

- Dolin has spent an abundance of time over the last several months working with the attorney for WHIZ radio regarding the tower on the Stebelton property on Amanda Northern Road. While the location of the tower proposes to remain the same, the prosecutor was concerned the township was not getting enough of an easement to the Stebelton property in the event removal would be required due to abandonment. He spoke with the WHIZ attorney and WHIZ owners decided to purchase land from a contiguous land owner that would give the township more of an easement if ever needed. The application for the tower is

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expected to come back to the BZA next month and should be filed this week. The proposed easement will be presented to the trustees for approval, along with the bond, just as before when this application was pending. The only responsibility the trustees have is to approve the bond and easement. All other issues will be decided by the BZA.

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT:** by Chief Terry Gill

- Gill reported on replacing and repair of Lithopolis tornado siren. He said it can be replaced with a new version for \$2200 for siren and \$575 for control board, plus shipping costs. It can be replaced for under \$4000. He met with the mayor of Lithopolis regarding the costs. Gill will meet with him again regarding sharing the costs.

**Motion** by Randles, second by Petty to replace the tornado siren at Lithopolis and to ask the village to pay one-half the cost. Motion carried 3-0.

Gill requested the trustees consider using part general fund and part fire department funds for maintenance of tornado sirens. The trustees agreed.

**Motion** by Randles, second by Petty to set aside \$1,000 in General Fund and \$1,000 in Fire Fund each year beginning in 2009 for maintaining tornado sirens. Motion carried 3-0.

- Petty began a discussion regarding the expiring Fire Protection Levy. Petty reported that at the last Fairfield County Association Meeting, the county auditor's representative advised townships to only run levies in even numbered years so election costs will be kept down. The total cost of an off-year election will now be paid by those with issues on the ballot. The county does not have an estimate of those costs but said they would be sizable. Discussion of possible levy scenarios to follow the current 5-year 2.75 mill levy that expires this year, last collected in 2009. Petty said it needs to be pointed out that a continuous levy was the recommendation of the county deputy auditor. Moore said a continuous levy assures job security to firefighters as opposed to worrying every 5-yrs if funding will continue.

Gill said the firefighters don't want it to appear to the voters that it is a tax increase. He said the levy would be up against two school levies. Moore reminded Gill the firefighters said they would work to pass the levy.

Randels asked the two residents in attendance how they felt about what we should put on the ballot. Both spoke in favor of a continuous levy.

It was decided that the current 2.75 five-year levy should be replaced by a 2.50 continuing levy to be effective 2009, first collected in 2010.

**Motion** by Petty, second by Randles, to send request to county auditor for Certification of Current Tax Valuation & Revenue Amount based upon a 2.5 mill continuous replacement levy.

Gill said the firefighters would do whatever it takes to help pass a levy.

Gill said they identified short and long term goals. There were three main goals. Two have been completed: getting a new bargaining contract approved, and getting a new medic (getting 6% back). Gill said the third goal is to reduce response time. He said the importance of a second fire station isn't as important as we thought it would be. He said we need to be looking at apparatus. He would like the trustees to be thinking about replacement at \$500,000 for a new truck. New environmental restrictions could add 5% to the costs of a new truck plus a steel surcharge will add another 5%. He said we should not wait much longer due to cost increases for a new truck. He said we might be ahead to order a fire truck if we pass a levy this fall. He said we can save the taxpayers money. He provided the trustees with a Findlay information sheet. Gill said since we don't have the anticipated growth, we should look at buying a truck instead of building another fire station.

Randles asked why we didn't buy this new truck instead of the new medic because we had the money then. Gill said we would not have had the money for a truck until 2009 because of the accumulating building fund.

Petty said based upon the hoops we have to jump through in getting the levy on the ballot, he recommends we move the August 13 meeting to August 6. The trustees agreed.

**Motion** by Randles, second by Petty to move the August 13 meeting to August 6 at 7:30 p.m. Motion carried 3-0.

### **ROAD DEPARTMENT REPORT:**

- Right-of-Way Permit- Calvin Robinson (application on file): This is for a covered ditch. Solt reviewed it and approved it. The trustees approved it as long as if a problem exists in the future, the township has the right to remove it. Solt will deliver the permit to Robinson.
- Report on Culvert Projects Started. Four are in and 5 more should be completed next week.
- Solt presented the proposed road summer maintenance (paving) project list for 2008. He said the list totals a little over the appropriated \$450,000 so something can be taken off the list. The trustees will review it and vote on it next week.
- Solt said he will address Bankers' driveway issue next week now that the office drainage work is done.

### **OTHER:**

Randles said the Health District Advisory Meeting is August 11. Smith will go to it and vote. Randles will try to go with Smith.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Smith adjourned the meeting.