

<BLOOM TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING 06-11-08>

Joseph Smith, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M. Members present were Trustees Smith, Brian Randles, and Fiscal Officer Carol Moore. David Petty was absent due to attending a special meeting of local officials regarding Health Dept. fees. Also present were Anne Darling Cyphert, Board Admin.& B/Z Administrator; Fire Chief Terry Gill; Road Supervisor Randy Solt; and several interested citizens.

PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- Robert Stebelton inquired about the invoice from the JEDD attorney and asked if Albers has a conflict of interest due to possibly owning land in Greenfield Twp. He reminded the trustees that he had asked Albers at the May 14 meeting if he owned property in the JEDD area and that Albers would not answer him. Stebelton suggested the trustees not pay the current attorney bill. He said it is money wasted. Smith said the trustees will ask for an explanation from the attorney. Stebelton asked when they would decide on the JEDD. Smith said not tonight, maybe next meeting, he is in no hurry. Smith said so far he is not real happy about it.
- Dan Boyer of Kauffman Road said he is still trying to get the firewood that was taken from his property when trees were cut for the OPWC project. Smith said we will make it right with him.
- Frank Schwartz of Lithopolis Road discussed the history of Lithopolis Road. He said he taught history for 30 years in Groveport, specializing in Ohio history. He gave a historical perspective of Greencastle. Due to the history of this area, he would not like to see too many houses, but would like to see the township get a committee together to get Lithopolis Road memorialized for tourists to see its significance as a primary trail beginning with Zane Trace.

Schwartz would like to see preservation efforts continued. He complimented Mr. Stebelton for his efforts to preserve Rockmill. He said our current township meeting hall is historic. He said the building next door to our township office building which is owned by the township should be preserved.

Schwartz said he is concerned about the yellow house in Greencastle. The trustees told him it is in litigation. Cyphert said the former owner is incarcerated and litigation is still going on. He said if this house burns, don't blame him for it.

- Rita Stebelton said the historical society will hold a ceremony where a marker will be placed June 22, at 2:00 p.m. in Carroll at Bessie Benson Park.

FISCAL OFFICER REPORT: by Carol Moore

- **Motion** by Randles, second by Smith to approve minutes of the regular meeting held MAY 28, 2008. Motion carried 2-0.
- **Motion** by Randles, second by Smith to approve payment of Workers' Compensation premium Group Rating Fee in the amount of \$6,029 to Frank Gates. Motion carried 2-0.
- Moore called for a motion to approve payment to John Albers in the amount of \$6,733.00 for JEDD counsel. Discussion: Randles suggested holding the check until we make sure it is not a conflict of interest. Smith agreed. **Motion** by Randles, second by Smith to hold the check until the trustees receive an opinion from the prosecutor's office. Motion carried 2-0.
- **Motion** by Randles, second by Smith to approve payment of bills in the amount of \$97,191.32 and Payroll/ charges in the amount of \$54,131.08 having been certified by the Fiscal Officer that funds are available. Motion carried 2-0.
- Initial review and discussion of 2009 township budget.

Motion by Randles, second by Smith to set Public 2009 Budget Hearing for July 9, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. prior to regular meeting. Motion carried 2-0.

Moore presented the 2009 Budget for the trustees to review and discuss. She pointed out some highlights in the budget and said we will discuss the budget more at the next trustee meeting. Moore said our rate of interest on checking and investments has decreased which affects the General Fund balance significantly. Next year Bloom Twp's Health Dept fee will be 39,829. Moore said we have three engineering contracts in the works for the Road Dept projects: Kauffman Rd phase two and three (\$48,000) and Sitterley Rd drainage (\$23,000). Moore said those contracts have been received and Lockwood Lanier has requested the trustees sign them, however the county engineer's office needs to review them and take them to the prosecutor's office and the county commissioners need to approve them. Smith said he met with the engineer's office today and it looks like the Kauffman Rd project will come in under budget.

Smith discussed the Anderson property. There are drainage issues. The property owner proposed to have a ditch dug and an embankment made to help with this. It could cost about \$4000. Smith met with Mrs. Brooks on Kauffman Road who is concerned the embankment was cut too steep and it is hard to mow. Jeff Baird suggested putting rock there to keep her from having to mow it. Costs are being drawn up by the county engineer's office. He said Mrs. Brooks said she would be happy if we put rocks and vines in there.

Moore said Solt requested two mowers totaling \$12,000 come from Cemetery Fund but she said that would deplete that fund and suggested it come from Road and Bridge fund. Solt said he may only request one. Randles said they are only about 3 or 4 years old and asked how much usage

<BLOOM TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING 06-11-08>

they have had. Solt said about 300 to 400 hours. Dan Starkey, cemetery sexton, said one continually breaks down. Randles suggested getting it repaired rather than buying a new one. Smith concurred. Cost estimates will be sought from various companies.

Moore said 2009 is the final year for Fire District Fund payment of \$50,000 into the Reserve Fire Building Fund. It will stand at \$509,000.

Moore invited the trustees to advise her of any changes they would like to see in the 2009 Budget.

- **Motion** by Randles, second by Smith to approve policy renewal with OTARMA for property and liability insurance. Motion carried 2-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS and COMMUNICATIONS

- THANK YOU to the Road Dept for recycling old damaged aluminum road signs earning \$76.05 for the township. Also, for recouping \$454.29 from old steel culverts from Greencastle Office.
- Letter dtd 5/21/08 from Franklin Hirsch, Health Commissioner with subject: Proposed Fee Increases. Petty is attending a meeting this evening regarding fees for the District Advisory Committee.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Randles said it was brought to his attention that our counsel on the JEDD is in a possible LLC that owns land or is purchasing land in Greenfield Twp. adjacent to our area of the JEDD. Randles said he thinks we should send Albers a letter and ask him if he does feel this is a conflict of interest and consult the prosecutor's office just to make sure we are covering our bases on this. He showed the board a copy of the real estate contract. Randles said that Mr. Stebelton did ask Mr. Albers if he owned land here and Mr. Albers would not answer that question. Cyphert will submit a notice to Mr. Albers and send the issue to Mr. Dolin for review. Moore said she is concerned that our bill is still running up at this minute because the trustees have not directed Albers to stop his research. The trustees directed Cyphert to advise Mr. Albers also, in the letter, to discontinue work on the JEDD until a decision has been made and further services are needed.
- Randles spoke to Solt regarding excess tar on Mason Road. Smith said he also received a complaint on it. The Road Department will apply limestone to the road tomorrow.
- Annexation request: 4.7204 acres from the township into the village of Lithopolis. Smith says he has historically opposed annexations and will continue to do so. Cyphert said the attorney for the petitioners said they don't want to annex but were threatened by the village that their sewer services would be cut off if they didn't do it.

Motion by Randles, second by Smith to formally oppose the annexation of Petitioners Tri-County into the Village of Lithopolis. Motion carried 2-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

- 2008 Summer Road Maintenance Bid Opening. Only one bid was submitted. Smith opened the bid from The Shelly Company and noted the paperwork was complete. Discussion of the increased prices compared to last year.

RESOLUTION #18-08: BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BLOOM TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES that the bid submitted by The Shelly Company for the 2008 Summer Resurfacing and Repair Project is accepted. **Motion** by Smith, second by Petty.

ROLL CALL: Randles-yes; Smith-yes; Petty-absent. Motion carried 2-0. The bid is on file in the office of the Fiscal Officer.

- Basement water update: Smith asked Solt for an update. Solt said there has been too much rain. Smith asked Solt to get something started. Solt said he will try to get something started.

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

- Cyphert asked the trustees how to proceed with Mr. Schwartz's suggestions. The trustees said the jurisdiction of Lithopolis Road is under the county, not the township.
- Resolution for Solid Waste District This was mentioned at the May 14th meeting, presented for review at the May 28th meeting, and now we have a request to pass a resolution from the Solid Waste District that will maintain in-district fees at current level but will increase fees for trash accepted from out of district.

RESOLUTION #19-08: BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BLOOM TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES that the amendment presented by the District Solid Waste Management Plan be accepted (copy on file). Motion by: Randles, second by Smith.

ROLL CALL: Randles-yes; Smith-yes; Petty-absent. Motion carried 2-0.

- Update on RPC Comprehensive Land Use Plan: Cyphert spoke with Brooks Davis at Fairfield County Regional Planning Commission. RPC plans to revise the Comprehensive Land Use Plan that the county adopted several years ago. The county plans to use a different consultant this time and will utilize representatives from each township in the development of the plan. Cyphert requested the trustees allow her to represent Bloom Township on the committee once RPC has the formation stages underway. The trustees approved.

<BLOOM TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING 06-11-08>

- RPC Plat Change: Fox Chase Preliminary Plan: RPC approved final construction drawings but the developer, CountryTyme, encountered some problems with soils during construction. Due to these problems, the developer is submitting a revised preliminary plan with a new road layout. RPC needs us to review and submit comments to them by this Friday. Cyphert asked department supervisors and any trustee that wants to comment to write them down on the legal pad on the table outside of the trustee's and fiscal officer's offices and she will send them to RPC for review.
- OTARMA Course: OTARMA is offering some free on-line information that could assist us in potential liability issues. Cyphert will review the information and report to department supervisors, trustees, and fiscal officer any recommendations from OTARMA.
- Legislative Update: House Bill 592 continues to be controversial not only in townships but with school districts as well. Cyphert attended a seminar last week offered by the Ohio School Boards Association where opposition was discussed. There is discussion now that three additional members might be added to the committee to review ways to reduce local government.
- Noxious Weeds: We are coming up on the date (June 21) when the township will begin receiving complaints on noxious weeds. Once these complaints are received, they will be put on the trustee meeting agenda for possible action from the trustees to send out official notifications to the property owner.
- Hazel Property: A new law firm has been hired by the mortgage company to assist in getting this property on the auction block. Cyphert is working with Jennie Wilcox, a paralegal in the firm, to get a timeline on when the weeds will be cut and when she expects it to go up for public auction. Once it goes to auction, Cyphert will be working with the new owners to try to get immediate compliance in both zoning and building permits.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT: by Chief Terry Gill

- Gill reported the Pierce Fire Truck needs front end work, tires, and other normal maintenance and repairs. He said the Pierce is at Badgers for DOD inspection.
- Station 551 kitchen maintenance project is proceeding.

ROAD DEPARTMENT REPORT: by Road Supervisor Randy Solt

- Demolition Hammer: Solt reported the warranty is one year from date of purchase on demo hammer. Randles asked Solt if he had spoken to Moore about the expenditures. He said he had. **Motion** by Randles, second by Smith to approve up to \$5,500 purchase of Demolition Hammer for Road Dept use on Minihoe. Also, approve within Fund transfer of \$5,500 from 2031-330-360-0000 (Contracted Services) to 2031-760-740-0000 to cover this purchase. Motion carried 2-0.
- Solt said he also had received safety complaints on Mason Road's excess tar. He will address the problem with limestone. Randles said Mason Road should be considered next year for paving.
- **Motion** by Randles, second by Smith to enter into the contract as presented by ODOT for purchase of estimated 800 Tons of salt for next winter season. Motion carried 2-0.
- Solt presented a draft bid advertisement he received from Steve Eversole for a storage building. Moore said a lot of money is being spent out of the Road Dept funds and Solt may want to talk with Dave Petty who has suggested we may want to delay the building project.

OTHER:

- Starkey said he gave the trustees a memo regarding veterans. **Motion** by Randles, second by Smith to purchase 25' flag post for \$736.00 for Wesley Chapel Cemetery. Motion carried 2-0. Starkey will have it up by the 4th of July.
- Randles said he would like to see a flag pole erected and lighted at the township hall.

ADJOURNMENT

Smith adjourned the meeting.

Joseph E. Smith
Chair

Carol J. Moore
Fiscal Officer