

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

HARPERSFIELD TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES

REGULAR SESSION

Held on September 19, 2011

The Board of Harpersfield Township convened in regular session from 7 PM to 8:05 PM in the Harpersfield Town Hall. Ed Demshar, Chairman, called the meeting to order with the following members and visitors present:

Edward Demshar	Present	James Pristov	Present
Clifford Henry	Present	Sharon Rohrbaugh	Present

Employees: Peggy Miller, Everett Henry

Visitors: Roger Shahan, Aaron Miller, Ed and Jackie Spoor, Frank Slanina, Jeff Lang, Bob Alderman, Ron Valitsky

The minutes from the regular meeting and the bid opening held on September 6, 2011, were reviewed. Cliff made a motion to waive the reading of the minutes and to approve the minutes as written; Jim seconded; the Board voted unanimously in favor.

Peggy reported issuing one zoning permit. Peggy stated that she was contacted by an individual that is interested in putting in an indoor shooting range in an R-1 district, it is not a permitted use in R-1 so she explained that they have the right to apply for a variance.

Cliff commented that he inspected the building on Mirna Road and stated that nothing indicates the building is being used for agricultural purposes. Peggy stated that her last contact with them was one year ago and at that time she gave them six months (or spring) to show that the building was being used for agricultural purposes. At this time there is no garden, no crops, no fence, and no animals on the property. Both Cliff and Peggy commented that the "barn" looks more like a cabin. We dealt with the property owner in good faith and have given him more than enough time to show some type of agricultural activity. Cliff stated that the property owner will have to apply for a zoning permit, then a variance, and technically the Township could require him to tear the building down. Cliff will have Attorney Malchesky write a letter to the property owner about the zoning permit and to inform him that Peggy will be contacting the Ashtabula County Building Dept. and the Ashtabula County Health Dept. Tim Brewster contacted the Zoning Dept. to inquire about changing an area on Rt. 534 from R1 to A/C; the west side of Rt. 534 in that area is A/C.

Jessica Wilt questioned if permits needed to be obtained to put up signs for the school levy; no permits are necessary if the large signs will be portable.

Doug Dean attended the Zoning Commission meeting, they explained the procedures that he must follow to change the property to a P.U.D., the Commission and the Trustees informed Mr. Dean that they would work with him, Cliff commented that he got the feeling that Doug would not be proceeding. At the Commission's meeting it was discussed to change the zoning to allow churches to be built in all areas (districts) within the Township. Aaron Miller also reported finding a discrepancy in the Zoning Text that should be corrected. Chapter 5: #18 Firearm Ranges Indoor and/or Target Shooting Buildings (NC District); #19 Firearm Ranges Outdoor (RC District). Chapter 8: Zoning District "RC" lists Firearm Ranges and/or Target shooting buildings under conditional uses where in Chapter 5 it lists them being allowed in the NC District.

Everett received quotes for the 8 foot snowblower to be mounted on the new roadside mower tractor: John Deere (Cope Equipment) - \$5300; Wood - \$6544 (Bortnick Equipment); Beuhler Farm King - \$3850 (Bortnick Equipment). Cliff made a motion to review the Beuhler Farm King and if it is and will do what the Township needs, to purchase that model. Ed suggested that Everett actually look at the unit to determine the quality. Jim seconded the motion if the unit meets the Township's requirements. The Board voted unanimously in favor.

Everett reported that the Road Dept has been replacing culverts this year, most recently one on Matson Road and another on Bishop Road. C.I.R. will be replacing the one on Old Orchard Drive by the end of September.

Everett reported that the Fire Dept. order new batteries and pads for the AED unit and also the Fire Prevention material for the Cork School presentation.

Everett gave an update on the latest cab and chassis, it arrived here and was inspected by the firemen and is now at Five Star in Erie to have the transmission and frame work done. It will then go to Fire Fly Fire Equipment for the tank swap. If all goes as planned, the Township should have the unit back and in service by the end of the year.

Jim and Everett have been working with Bonnie Zachowski, Golden Rule Grant Consultants, to apply for a grant to replace the funds for the latest cab and chassis project.

Jim made a motion to pay the following bills: #5888 thru #5912, totaling \$25,123.20; Cliff seconded; the Board voted unanimously in favor.

Sharon reported the following receipts: #182-11 thru 189-11, totaling \$2,679.36.

Ed commented that we will submit a "request schedule change" for the Barnum Road-Phase 2 project to inform OPWC "Issue 1" that we will be working on that project next summer.

Cliff stated that we have sent letters to the owner of the vacant BP gas station property and have not received any responses and the lawn has not been maintained. If we are going to mow the grass, we have nothing in writing for a fee structure. Cliff suggested that we set a fee of \$150 per person and piece of equipment with a \$300 minimum based on two hours. We will first send out letters with a time limit, then we will assess the property taxes, we will do this as a last resort as we do not want to go into the mowing business.

Peggy commented that the BP gas station signs are getting dangerous. She has included this in her previous letters. The Board recommended that Peggy give Attorney Malchesky copies of the previous letters and have him send a letter with a deadline to complete both the mowing and the signs.

Cliff reported that the Ashtabula County Engineer is currently working on cleaning the ditch between Jobey Trail and Fortier Road. The Engineer's Dept will close LaFevre Road (south of Rt. 307) on September 21st for one day to replace a culvert. Cliff will obtain a signature from Ms. Mihalick giving permission for the Engineer's Dept to come onto her property in order for them to properly complete the ditch project.

Cliff stated that before the Ashtabula County Engineer will clean the ditch between two properties on Barnum Road the township must submit the request in writing. The Board agreed to have Cliff submit this request.

Cliff reported that the Ashtabula County Health Dept. inspected the vacated house on Harpersfield Road, the water has been removed from the basement and the house sealed, therefore, it should not affect the neighbor next door. The individual that lodged the complaint was not happy with this information and will pursue the matter with the EPA and LaTourette's office.

Cliff has been in contact with Larry Advey (Geneva Rod and Gun Club) and Charles Krzic, Mr. Advey wants to meet with Mr. Krzic to work out some kind of agreement and not to involve the Township in the matter.

Cliff gave an update regarding the Bishop Road grant application; the requested changes to the previously sent letters and narratives were made and sent back and received.

Jim commented that the Fire Dept. will be cleaning the covered bridge on October 4th, Everett added that they clean the bridge twice a year.

Jim attended the Ashtabula County Association meeting and commented that the speaker was from BJAAM Environmental Inc. and presented info regarding NELA (Northcoast Environmental Landowners Assoc.) which has held several meetings in the area to inform property owners about leasing land to oil companies.

Ed commented that he spent 45 minutes on the phone with Charles Krzic and feels that he was calmer about several issues by the time the conversation ended.

Ed stated that on September 22nd there will be a meeting to discuss the "saving" of the dam at the Covered Bridge.

Ed commented on the new picnic tables at the Park, this year they hope to build 10 tables on the north side and next summer 10 on the south side. They are very nice looking, very well built and concreted in the ground.

Ed stated that on September 11th, Best Friends Restaurant donated funds received for meals from 9 AM to 10 AM to our Fire Dept.; the total donated was \$535. This was a very impressive gesture to the Fire Dept on this very memorable day.

Ed made a motion to accept the Township Safety Policy that was written by Attorney Malchesky with two additions: that only township employees are allowed to operate or be in Township owned equipment and cell phones or electronic devices are not permitted to be used while operating Township equipment. This Safety Policy is required by BWC to help keep our rates down. Jim seconded, the Board voted unanimously in favor. Ed will meet with the Road Dept to review the Safety policy.

Bob Alderman thanked the Board for what they are doing with Doug Dean (and the P.U.D. request) and looking out for the residents.

Everett asked the Board if any of them have been in contact with Mike Brenneman as Everett still has not been able to contact him to get the fireman gear back that he has and Mr. Brenneman is no longer with the Dept.

The meeting adjourned until the next regular meeting to be held on October 3, 2011.

Edward Demshar

James Pristov

Clifford Henry

Sharon Rohrbaugh