

HARPERSFIELD TOWNSHIP

REGULAR SESSION

Held on October 16, 2017

The Board of Harpersfield Township convened in regular session from 7 PM to 8:30 PM in the Harpersfield Township Administration Building. Raymond Gruber Jr, Chairman, called the meeting to order with the following members and visitors present:

Raymond Gruber Jr	Present	James Pristov	Present
Clifford Henry	Present	Sharon Rohrbaugh	Present

Employees: Larry Lister, Steve Opron

Visitors: numerous residents that reside on Berringer Place; Ron Valitsky; Chris and Rich Craine; Jeff Lang; Cassie Parker

The minutes from the regular meeting held on October 2, 2017 were not available for the meeting.

Larry informed the Board that the variance for Michael Parker was denied by the BZA and that another variance hearing is scheduled on October 26th for David Pelley. Larry questioned the Board as to what Mr. Parker's next step would be and was instructed that he would have to take the matter before the Court.

Larry suggested to the Board that we use the white folding chairs for our meeting room instead of the orange chairs previously used. The Board will transfer the orange chairs to be used in the old town hall building.

Steve informed the Board that the paving roller quit working (dead cylinder). Cody has researched and cannot find a rebuild kit or parts to repair. Jim suggested to borrow one when needed and not replace it.

Steve commented that the ditch behind Alexander Road needs to be cleaned – the Board stated before he does to get the permission forms completed.

It was brought to the Board's attention that the guardrail on State Road (between Rt. 534 and South River Rd) is leaning and in need of repair (similar that was done to Clyde Hill). Ray asked Steve to get measurements and he will make phone calls to get estimates.

Steve stated that on Wednesday Martuccio Asphalt is scheduled to apply AEP to the damaged portion of Fortier and Bishop Roads and the remainder to be applied to Hemlock Lane.

Jim made a motion to pay the bills: #9866 through #9894; totaling \$25,478.52; Cliff seconded; the Board voted unanimously in favor.

Sharon reported the following receipts: #203-2017 through #213-2017; totaling \$15,384.91.

Sharon informed the Board that she contacted the State Auditor for more guidance on the JEDD III financial situation she is have with Geneva City. The response was: "I would strongly suggest you have the Ashtabula County Prosecutor look at the JEDD III agreement/addendums on behalf of the Township and get his opinion". Ray will make an appointment and discuss the matter with the County Prosecutor.

Sharon commented on the Budget Training Class that she attended and suggested that the Board use the "Reserve Funds" idea to set aside funds for large expenses, such as: equipment, building repairs, road projects.

Cliff reported that our road crew mowed the Jobey Trail retention pond area.

Jim reminded us about the ALICE drill happening at Cork School on October 24th at 2 PM.

Ray and Steve are creating a monthly road report (for road signs and road inspections) per OTARMA's request.

Ray reported that Spire has made their first payment of \$396,000; the Ashtabula County Auditor will distribute the funds to the entities with the March property settlements. Rep Patterson has drafted the legislation; it is being reviewed then will go through the hearing process; we might not get results until early in 2018 as to whether the PILOT process will move forward to allow Spire to have more time to pay the taxes.

Ray commented on the hotel study and stated that he has requested a decrease from \$19,000 and a 30-day extension to make a decision to move forward with the next phase.

Ray remarked on the city water survey received regarding Clay Street: they received 23 responses out of the 37 surveys sent out and the results were 11 for/12 against.

Ray spoke with Ashtabula County Engineer Martin regarding the old Rt. 534 spurs. Tim stated that the State gave the spurs to the Township and we do receive gas tax funds for them. He explained that we have three options available:

1 – vacate (if we choose this option we would lose the funds received – which would be very little amount) and only the County can grant permission for this process

2 – nonmaintained status (again we would not receive funds); if we would choose this option and residents would petition the Township to bring the spurs back to active status; then the Township could have the property owners pay the cost to bring the road back to standards.

3 – do nothing

We do not have to maintain the spurs for utility access to poles.

After the Board discussed their options, Ray made a motion that Township Highway 154 – Old Harpersfield Road – be placed into nonmaintained status by the Township Trustees; Cliff seconded; the Board voted unanimously in favor.

Ray was contacted by Jim Jacobs and his driveway apron was not finished after the Clay Street paving was done; Ray contacted ODOT and they will take care of it.

Stephanie Jones on Old Orchard Drive reported that the culvert at the end of her driveway is collapsing. Our policy is the property owner buys the culvert and the road crew installs. She claimed that when the ditch was cleaned it created a natural deterioration of the pipe. Steve and Ray looked at the situation and determined that is not the case and if she buys the pipe we will install it for her. Steve will contact her with this information.

Ray was contacted by David Fuller who is interested in our old stop signs and poles. Hartsgrove Township is creating a park and could use the stop signs. Ray would like to donate the signs (after our new signs have been installed) to Hartsgrove and to Metro Park.

Ray commented that he would like to recommend Eddy Echerd as JEDD III chair (to replace Tony Kosicek that resigned).

Ray would like to be a member of the Ashtabula County Convention and Visitors Bureau; the cost for non-profit member is \$25 (annual). Cliff made a motion to become a member; Jim seconded; the Board voted unanimously in favor.

Several residents of Berringer Place were in attendance to ask the Board for help with a situation they feel is out of control with the “Spire dorms” and the students that reside in them. Several stated that the students roam the neighborhood going into yards where they have no permission to be. The students group walk down the road blocking the way for vehicles and touch cars as they pass. The residents are very frustrated with Ron Clutter and his lack of control of the students. The Board will contact the County Prosecutor and Mr. Clutter. Larry will investigate if any of the issues are in violation of the zoning policy.

Chris and Rich Craine attended the meeting as they had an issue with their store signs being taken over the weekend. Larry mistakenly removed one of the signs as he felt it was in violation of the zoning policy. The Board walked him through the proper steps to be taken if a similar situation happens and the Board voted to re-pay the Craine’s for the sign.

Meeting adjourned until November 6, 2017

Raymond Gruber Jr

Clifford Henry

James Pristov

Sharon Rohrbaugh