

# HARPERSFIELD TOWNSHIP

## REGULAR SESSION

Held on October 14, 2019

The Board of Harpersfield Township convened in regular session from 7 PM to 8:35 PM in the Harpersfield Township Administration Building. Cliff Henry, Chairman, called the meeting to order with the following members and visitors present:

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

Employees: Larry Lister; Everett Henry

Visitors: Ed Carlson; Jim Carlson; Ed Spoor; Renee & Rich Hanyok; Jeff Lang; Rodney Gardner; Janet Cutler

The minutes from the regular session September 23, 2019, were reviewed. Ray made a motion to accept the minutes as written; Jim seconded; the Board voted unanimously in favor.

Jim Carlson attended the meeting to discuss/describe his proposed ideas for the property he purchased off of Old Orchard Drive.

Ray contacted the Ohio Ethics Commission and spoke with Attorney John Roski about his situation regarding anything pertaining to the sale of Spire as he sits on the Port Authority Board. Atty Roski advised Ray to excuse himself from the meeting whenever the topic of Spire is brought up to alleviate any issues with "any conflicts of interest" that might come up.

As Cody was absent, Ray gave his report: Matson Road culvert project was completed by the Ashtabula County Engineer department. State Road to Harpersfield Park is currently closed because of the expansion of work on the dam. Cody did a video of the road for proof of any road damage due to the equipment using the road pertaining to the dam work. He spoke with the construction company and they assured him the trucks will not be over weight so a permit is not needed.

Cody reported that the painting of the old town hall building is complete except for the high trim that for safety purposed requires a bucket equipment. He also would like to see in next year's budget a new roof put on the building.

Cody is requesting to take a township truck home (in the winter months) to use to check the roads for snow plowing. The Trustees discussed this and decided to table the request until guidelines are made.

Everett informed the Board that the "mock safety drill" at Cork School went really well. The theme of the drill was "a chemical release" and not "an active shooter". He added that the Fire Prevention program at Cork School and the Safety seminar at HDT went well also.

Everett found that the "Hile property" is now listed under "delinquent taxes" and asked if it would be possible to proceed with the legal process of tearing the house down. Cliff will contact the Ashtabula County Prosecutor.

Everett gave the Board an update about the people living in the old grange building. Sheriff Deputies entered the building and found drug paraphernalia inside; the people using the building had vacated and gone into hiding. Everett is concerned about the large volume of trash outside the building and if it could have hypodermic needles in the bags of trash.

Jim made a motion to pay the following bills: #11211 through #11243; totaling \$27,395.24; Ray seconded; the Board voted unanimously in favor.

Sharon reported the following receipts: #185-2019 through #210-2019; totaling \$35,411.22.

Sharon informed the Board that OTARMA is offering a "Faithful Performance Bond". This will replace the current type of bond for newly elected officials (Sharon and Ed Spoor). Ray made a motion to pass the resolution adopting a policy to allow the use of an "employee dishonesty and faithful performance of duty" coverage document, rather than surety bond, to cover loss by fraudulent or dishonest actions of employees and failure of employees to faithfully perform duties. Jim seconded; the Board voted unanimously in favor.

Jim announced that the 2020 calendars are in. Ray commented that the winery video is complete.

Ray met with Atty Malchesky and even if Daniel Smith splits his property the new lots cannot be a part of a TIFF district and he agreed that the wording in the JEDD III contract regarding GaREAT (this pertains to the \$400,000 sewer bill) should have been worded differently it is a matter with Geneva City and Ron Clutter and does not involve the Township. Ray contacted Geneva City and pointed it out to them. They will have their solicitor look into it.

Ray stated that Tim has completed work on ten headstone footers. This work will be paid for with the cemetery grant funds. Ray made a motion to open a new fund for the \$1,000 cemetery grant funds and transfer the \$1,000 matching funds into the new fund as well; Jim seconded; the Board voted unanimously in favor.

Ray made a motion to amend the "Resolution Imposing a Tax on Transient Lodging"; to change the verbiage in Section 9, Failure to Collect and Report Tax, Determination of Fiscal Officer. "Any vendor who fails to file a complete return and exempt report, with payment, postmarked on or before the last day of every month, shall pay a penalty at the rate of 10% of any balance due and an additional fine of \$25 will be due for not reporting in a timely fashion if your account reaches more than 6 months of delinquency". This change is to be effective immediately. Jim seconded; the Board voted unanimously.

Ray received a letter from Tom, Ashtabula County Engineer's office; he has completed a speed limit study on Harper Valley Lane, Jobey Trail, LaFevre and Bishop Rds; he included with the letter proposed resolutions. Ray made a motion to accept the speed zone resolution for Harper Valley Lane and Jobey Trail that states:

The engineering and traffic investigation confirms that the statutory speed limit of 55 MPH is unrealistic. By virtue of the ORC 4511.21 the Board of Harpersfield Township Trustees declares a reasonable and safe speed limit of 25 MPH be adopted for Harper Valley Lane and Jobey Trail.

The engineering and traffic investigation of LaFevre Road does not support any further reductions in speed, or expansion of zones.

The engineering and traffic investigation of Bishop Road confirms that the statutory speed limit of 55 MPH is unrealistic and by virtue of the provisions of ORC 451.21 the Director of Transportation is hereby requested to review the engineering and traffic investigation and to determine and declare a reasonable speed limit on Bishop Road between the intersection with LaFevre Road and the intersection with Old Harpersfield Road. Tom recommends a speed of 45 MPH if ODOT concurs.

Jim seconded all three resolutions; the Board voted unanimously in favor.

Cliff made a motion to re-instate Ed Sulecki to the Board of Zoning Appeals; Jim seconded; the Board voted unanimously in favor.

Rodney Gardner was in attendance to support Jim Carlson vision for the newly purchased property that abuts to Mr. Gardner's property.

Everett thanked everyone for the support shown to Fireman Tom Perko at his recent fundraiser.

Meeting adjourned until October 28, 2019

Clifford Henry

Raymond Gruber Jr

James Pristov

Sharon Rohrbaugh