

# HARPERSFIELD TOWNSHIP

## REGULAR SESSION

Held on November 15, 2021

The Board of Harpersfield Township convened in regular session from 7 PM to 8:45 PM in the Harpersfield Township Administration Building. James Pristov, Chairman, called the meeting to order with the following members and visitors present:

James Pristov	Present	Raymond Gruber Jr	Present
Edwin Spoor	Absent	Sharon Rohrbaugh	Present

Employees: Larry Liser; Frank Henry

Visitors: Michelle Sholtis; Renee and Rich Hanyok; Everett Henry; Jeff Jenk; Ashley Carey

The minutes from the regular session held on October 25, 2021, were reviewed. Ray made a motion to approve the minutes as written; Jim seconded; the Board voted unanimously in favor.

Frank reported that the Fire Prevention program to be held at Cork School was cancelled due to the teacher's strike; he is hoping to be able to reschedule.

Larry stated that a groundbreaking ceremony was held for Starbucks and Marriott hotel.

Michelle Sholtis asked Larry if a picnic table could be placed along the bike trail; Larry will ask Spire if they would have an objection.

Ray made a motion to pay the following bills: #12635 through #12682; totaling \$73,714.62; Jim seconded; the Board voted unanimously in favor.

Sharon reported the following receipts: #259-2021 through #271-2021; totaling \$23,217.51.

Sharon questioned the Board on paying Cody for holiday pay while on sick leave (due to covid); it states in the Employee Handbook: "Any sick days taken the day before or after a holiday "may" result in loss of holiday pay to the employee. The Board of Trustees shall review all cases." The Board allowed to be paid as holiday and not use sick time. Cody asked if his Supervisor pay should be decreased and given to Jared while he was out sick with covid; the Board unanimously voted no.

Koski Construction has completed the paving project on Claymill Road and the project was \$6,310.70 over the bid. Ray made a motion to pay the difference; Jim seconded; the Board voted unanimously in favor.

Ray showed the third (and final) video created by Fraser Video Productions; everyone agreed that it was well done and displayed things to do and see in the Township that were not included in the first two videos.

Ray received an update on the Grange building; Terry Palmer presented the status to the Ashtabula County Health Board and he recommended to the Board that the building needs to be condemned; the Board voted to move the process over to the Ashtabula County Prosecutor.

The Board decided to not be included in the plans for the skateboard park tentatively planned to be constructed on Spire property.

Ray commented on the NOPEC settlement negotiations that secured a record \$306 million in consumer refunds. FirstEnergy will refund the settlement to consumers through 2025 as follows:

Within 30 days of PUCO approval, Residential consumers will receive a lump-sum payment of about \$26.91 on their electric bills .

Starting in 2022 – 1.87 per month per consumer

2023 - \$1.40 per month per consumer

2024 - \$1.05 per month per consumer

2025 - \$0.58 per month per consumer

Ray reported that Cody had a confrontation with Trumbull Township Road Supervisor and has requested to not renew the road agreement with Trumbull Township next year. The agreement pertained to the maintenance of Matson and Leslie Roads that are shared roads between both townships. Cody

informed Ray that he will take care of both roads. Ray made a motion to support Cody in his position to not renew the contract; Jim seconded; the Board voted unanimously in favor.

Ray stated that the Board received a letter from Ashtabula County 503 Corp regarding an application for the Community Reinvestment Area tax exemption for Geneva Hotel LLC. The application states the company is requesting a tax exemption incentive of 50% for 10 years on the new construction. The Ashtabula County Board of Commissioners would like the Township to provide a letter of support for the project. Ray made a motion to send a letter of support in establishing a CRA tax exemption for Geneva Hotel LLC; Jim seconded; the Board voted unanimously in favor.

Ray stated that the 1.5 mill road and bridge levy passed with a total of 541 votes cast – 367 for the tax levy and 174 against the tax levy.

Jim contacted Wendy Zele regarding Spire Road lights that are out; Wendy responded that FirstEnergy did not install the lights so it is our responsibility to find someone else to change the bulbs.

Jim requested that the Township give Melissa Ziegler a gift card to thank her for all of her work on the calendar and the visitor bureau advertisement page; Ray seconded; the Board unanimously agreed.

Michelle Sholtis and Ashley Carey informed the Board of what the community is still dealing with regarding the individuals living in the Grange building. Loud band music being played all night long, encroaching on neighboring properties; numerous sheriff patrol responding to calls; people roaming the roads.

Jeff Jenks questioned the Board on their plans to replace the trees Cody removed along the cemetery fence on Harper Valley Lane. Different types of trees/bushes were discussed; nothing decided at this time.

Ray contacted Mr. Keyerleber regarding the center of the roundabout; he informed him that the Board voted to be involved in all plans submitted to ODOT and that a suggestion would be to start a committee to set guidelines and possibly a fundraiser.

Meeting adjourned until December 13, 2021

James Pristov

Raymond Gruber Jr

Edwin Spoor  
"absent"

Sharon Rohrbaugh