

# HARPERSFIELD TOWNSHIP

## REGULAR SESSION

Held on February 28, 2022

The Board of Harpersfield Township convened in regular session from 7 PM to 9:45 PM in the Harpersfield Township Administration Building. Ed Spoor, Chairman, called the meeting to order with the following members and visitors present:

Edwin Spoor	Present	James Pristov	Present
Raymond Gruber Jr	Present on Zoom	Sharon Rohrbaugh	Present

Employees: Cody Craine, Larry Lister, Frank Henry

Visitors: Rich and Renee Hanyok, Jamie Arcaro, JP Ducro

The minutes from the regular session held on February 14, 2022, were reviewed; Jim made a motion to approve the minutes as written; Ray seconded; the Board voted unanimously in favor.

Jamie Arcaro, Fiscal Analyst Ashtabula County Commissioners, and JP DuCro, Ashtabula County Commissioner, attended the meeting to discuss the new lodging software purchased by the County. It is to streamline the payment of the lodging tax for lodging establishments. The Host will make one payment to the County and for a 1% fee the County will send the municipalities their permissive tax (minus 1% fee) each quarter. The County is locked into the program for a period of three years but they will allow the municipality to opt out after 1 year. The program also monitors all the sites that hosts can work with to rent out their homes and will alert the County if someone is renting and not paying the permissive tax. It will calculate the amount owed to both the County and the municipality including any penalty and interest that is due. Larry asked if this set up would be able to charge the campers that are parking at local wineries; Jamie said she would check into it but did not think so. Sharon commented that she has a good relationship with the hosts in the Township and is not sure she wants to forfeit the 1% fee.

Ray asked Commissioner DuCro about the status of the Lodge and he responded that they got another extension until April 1, 2022.

Frank informed the Board that Rome Township will be doing a 120 class which is now the minimum state requirement; he is going to try to get as many firemen as he can to attend.

Frank and the Board discussed the future and the creation of a fire district; as it is getting harder to have volunteer firemen show up for calls it might be something that we will have to consider.

Cody showed the Board the plans for the pavilion to be built in Harpersfield Cemetery. It will be larger than the tent supplied by funeral home companies for services. The plan is to have the service in the pavilion instead of by graveside. Cody has received one quote from Rich Sheppard for \$19,500.

Cody spoke with Jared and he is willing to take over the paperwork involved as Cemetery Sexton for \$100 extra per month. Ray made a motion to allow this effective March 1, 2022; Jim seconded; the Board voted unanimously in favor.

Cody received one quote for the concrete floor in the storage bay from ZMasonry LLC for \$24,800 (this is without the heated floor).

Cody stated that he is having issues getting salt delivered and found a company in PA that he can get it from cheaper than under the ODOT bid but the Township has to go get it; he will pick up three loads and try it this year and would like to use this company as a back up plan when they get into trouble again getting the salt delivered. Also, Cody informed Ray that he wants to request 400 tons of salt for next year under the ODOT program.

Cody commented that he needs to replace thirteen culverts and would like to order the pipe now before prices go up (more than they have) and to be sure he has the material when he can schedule the work; Jim made a motion to allow Cody to place the order for the pipe now; Ed seconded; the Board voted unanimously in favor.

Cody asked Ray to contact the County to see if they can/would relocate the recycling bins. Cody would like to build a salt bin at that location. Ray will call the County to see what can be done.

Larry commented that Spire has purchased the Motel 6 building.

Ray will verify the property parcel number that the Dollar Store will be built on and if it is in our TIF district we will be able to TIF the property.

Jim made a motion to pay the following bills: #12879 through #12895; totaling \$28,010.08; Ray seconded; the Board voted unanimously in favor.

Sharon reported the following receipts: #16-2022 through #37-2022; totaling \$41,370.76.

Jim suggested Sharon contact County Auditor Thomas to ask about the procedure of moving the ARPA funds to General Funds; Ed is not sure he is in favor of this as he wants to use the funds for infrastructure.

Ray informed the Board that we did not get approved for the ODOT grant that we applied for to build a sidewalk between the bike trail and Beringer Place.

Ray commented that he spoke with Everett Henry and was told that the residents of the burned down grange building have removed the vehicles (minus the camper) and have moved the fuel oil from the tank to 50 gallon drums; the Board agreed that as long as they are making attempts to clean up the debris we will not proceed with the Township cleaning it up.

The Board discussed the cemetery sexton position and decided to hire it out for one year and see how it goes. We will post it two different ways – one with all of the cemeteries and the two fire dept properties and second with just the two large cemeteries.

Ed was contacted by George Couch who lodged a complaint about damage to his driveway; it was agreed that we will wait until the snow is melted and look at what his complaint is.

Ed stated that the facia on the old Town Hall building needs to be painted; Ray will contact Rich Sheppard and ask when he can get it done.

Ed informed the Board that he was contacted by Jonathan (Spire) to ask if we could take over and maintain the small access road between Wendy's and Chops; Cody informed Ed that we took over the maintenance of that road when we took over Spire Circle. Ed described that Jonathan wants to make it a two lane road; Cody disagreed with this; Sharon asked what happened to the idea of the entrance/exit that was to happen on Clay Street and Larry responded that Jonathan now wants to gate off Spire and not make it a thru-way to Clay Street; it was decided at that point to have a meeting with Jonathan so he can describe what his plans are (and the Board would like Cody to be in attendance).

Rich Hanyok asked the Board for help getting on the list for the County Engineer to clean out the ditch beside their property; Jim said he would contact Tim Martin, County Engineer.

Meeting adjourned until March 14, 2022

Edwin Spoor

Raymond Gruber Jr

James Pristov

Sharon Rohrbaugh