

# HARPERSFIELD TOWNSHIP

## REGULAR SESSION

Held on August 21, 2023

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

Raymond Gruber Jr

Edwin Spoor

James Pristov

Sharon Rohrbaugh

Employees: Cody Craine; Frank Henry

Visitors: Rich and Renee Hanyok; John Coblentz; Ann Moses; Mickey Mihalic

Frank stated that Gov. DeWine signed a bill that will cut the cost of our Marcs radio payment in half for 2024 and 2025. We currently pay \$900 per quarter.

Cody informed the Board that the dust control project finished today and he plans to have the salt building completed by the end of September.

Jim made a motion to pay the following bills: #13671 through #13697; totaling \$33,953.49; Ed seconded; the Board voted unanimously in favor.

Sharon reported the following receipts: #143-2023 through #183-2023; totaling \$452,489.46.

Sharon informed the Board that she received a phone call from Wendy Zele (First Energy/Illuminating Co) to let us know that street lighting is now "shoppable" and recommended we contact NOPEC which would save the Township money to switch. The Board agreed to contact NOPEC and question if this is possible and what the procedures would be to make the change. Ray will reach out to his contact at NOPEC.

Sharon commented that we received the assessment funds for our expenses in cleaning the grange building property.

Sharon questioned the Board on their opinion on how to handle the short term rental happening at 1970 South Broadway. A letter was sent to that address but a response has not been received. Cody went on the Vrbo site and verified that it is definitely a short term rental property. The Board suggested to reach out to property owner again and inform them that the County Prosecutor will get involved if necessary.

Ed spoke with Nick Ferrante about the abandoned boat that is on his property on Bishop Road. Doherty Landfill will accept the boat and crush it for \$100 which will be paid by Nick.

Ed stated that the County received a 2.4 million grant from Dave Joyce office for the water line on South River Road and the water tower to be built on neighboring property by Dollar General (Rt. 534).

Jim stated that the HVFD will hold their Halloween party at the Community Center on October 29<sup>th</sup> from 2 to 4 PM.

Jim commented that after October 2023 the bid threshold increases to \$75,000. We will not have to bid out for projects under \$75,000.

Jim received an email from Wendy Zele (First Energy) that they were offering free tree-planting opportunities for communities. There is a team of volunteers that will help with tree selection to planting and clean-up. Jim plans to reach out to Wendy to find out if the free trees he gives to the Cork School students would qualify for this program.

Jim reported that a resident on Berringer Place left his driveway in his RV with the awning extended and knocked down two of the street lamp posts. The Illuminating Co will make the repairs.

Ray commented on a LED light bulb program that NOPEC is suggesting to be used with their grant funds. Even though this is a good program for the residents, Sharon stated that we cannot participate this year as the NOPEC grant funds are already committed to a project.

Ray asked which of the Board members would like to take his spot on the roundabout committee; Ed agreed to join the committee.

Ray informed Ed and Jim that one of them will have to attend the Department of Taxation hearing in January in Columbus for the TIF district.

Ray stated that the EPA tire grant was accepted and that they have already picked up the tires from the road garage.

Ray announced that the Ohio Division of Real Estate received our final report for FY 2023 cemetery grant award.

John Coblenz was in attendance to ask the Board about his situation on West Street. He placed a cabin on his property without a foundation and it is undersized for our zoning. According to John, Marty (our previous zoning administrator) informed him that because of the 140 acres of land that the cabin would be agricultural. Sharon agreed that Marty did tell John that but added that she also informed Marty that a dwelling could not be agriculture and to inform John of that; Marty chose to not follow up with John. Larry now has informed John that he is not in compliance with our zoning and John wants to know where that leaves him. John also informed the Board that he has divided his property and has arranged over 5 acres to be owned by someone else and that property has the cabin on it. Ed will get an opinion from the County Prosecutor on previous zoning administrator handling of this and also the cabin being on someone else's property now.

Ann Moses attended the meeting to ask if 35 mph signs could be put up on both ends of Van Pelt Road (currently a sign is on only one end). Cody will put one up.

The meeting adjourned until September 11, 2023

Raymond Gruber Jr

Edwin Spoor

James Pristov

Sharon Rohrbaugh