

HARPERSFIELD TOWNSHIP

REGULAR SESSION

Held on December 11, 2023

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

James Pristov

Mickey Mihalick

Edwin Spoor

Sharon Rohrbaugh

Employees: Cody Craine; Larry Lister

Visitors: Paula Pristov; Ashtabula County Prosecutor Colleen O'Toole; Assistant Prosecutor Michael Angiolelli

The minutes from the regular session held on November 27, 2023, were reviewed. Ed made a motion to approve the minutes as written; Mickey seconded; the Board voted unanimously in favor.

Cody stated that the power on the pole in the adm parking lot has been switched to underground. The phone lines need to be taken off of the pole so that it can be removed.

Cody reported that the road crew completed just under three miles of ditching and twelve cross pipes were upsized from 7 inch to 12 inch.

Larry commented that the contractor is starting the installation of solar panels on the roof of the buildings at Spire. He added that Chops Restaurant opened today.

After Larry mentioned some of the problems that the BZA incurs, County Prosecutor O'Toole offered to assist the BZA Board members to aid in their decisions for variances or conditional use hearings.

Larry informed the Board that he is in the process of updating and color coding the zoning maps.

Ed made a motion to pay the following bills: #13838 through #13904; totaling \$58,888.60; Mickey seconded; the Board voted unanimously in favor.

Sharon reported the following receipts: #274-2023 through #288-2023; totaling \$23,378.43.

Ed reported that Greg Myers, Growth Partnership, contacted him to inform the Township that Spire has filed with the County for a CRA (75% tax abatement) for 10 years for the refurbishing project at the old Motel 6 building. Ed informed him that we have that property included in our TIF district. Greg is requesting that the Township cancel our TIF from that property so that they can move forward with the CRA. The Board decided to invite Greg to our next meeting to discuss this matter.

Ed asked about the legality of a Township charging bed tax for nursing facilities that use ambulance service to transport their patients to help offset the cost to the ambulance company. Prosecutor stated she will research and get back to Ed.

Jim explained the moratorium that Geneva City has placed on any future growth in the Township until their "study" of their sewer lines is complete sometime in February 2024. Prosecutor O'Toole stated that she will represent the Township if any litigation or mediation are necessary and she strongly suggested that the Board question the City on exactly what "is the study".

The Board agreed to forward the opinion letter received from the County Prosecutor to Spire to "hopefully" put an end to who owns the bike trail and the use of motorized vehicles on the trail. The opinion is that Spire Academy owns the land the trail is on but the Township owns the easement granted by Roni Lee, LLC. By owning the easement, the Township can ensure usage of the trail as long as they use the trail for the purposes granted. The easement runs with the land no matter who owns the land and the Township will be able to use the trail as a public trail. As for the motorized vehicle issue: The limitation on Spire Academy is that they cannot use the path in a way that is "inconsistent with the reasonable use of the easement". The original intent of the easement was to provide a "non-motorized transportation", therefore to have any type of motorized vehicles accessing the trail is inconsistent with the purpose.

The meeting adjourned until December 29, 2023

James Pristov

Edwin Spoor

Mickey Mihalick

Sharon Rohrbaugh