

HARPERSFIELD TOWNSHIP

REGULAR SESSION

Held on July 17, 2023

The Board of Harpersfield Township convened in regular session from 7 PM to 9:30 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; Larry Lister; Frank Henry

Visitors: Bob Wilhelm; Matt Rahija

Frank informed the Board that an extra step will be installed on Unit 662 (Sherman Welding - \$1920) and a on demand hot water tank will be installed in the fire station (\$1565.91).

Matt requested permission to switch the admin/fire station building internet service from Spectrum to Windstream. With Windstream we can get internet and one phone line for less than the Spectrum internet and by cancelling the existing Windstream account saves the Township \$200 per month. Frank stated that we can cancel the fire dept fax line and phone line from the existing Windstream account and just switch the zoning fax line over to the new Windstream internet/phone line account. The Board gave permission for Matt to make the changes.

Larry presented a new zoning fee schedule to the Board; the Board reviewed the recommendations, discussed some changes and Ed made a motion to accept the zoning fee schedule with the changes made to be effective immediately; Jim seconded; the Board voted unanimously in favor.

Ed will approach Jonathan (Spire) to see if he has any interest in including the "Welker" property in the JEDD.

Jim made a motion to waive the zoning fee for the road department salt shed building (Zoning Permit #2023032); Ed seconded; the Board voted unanimously in favor.

Ed made a motion to pay the following bills: #13640 through #13659; totaling \$21,529.46; Jim seconded; the Board voted unanimously in favor.

Sharon reported the following receipts: #102-2023 through #142-2023; totaling \$40,691.18.

Mr. Spoor moved the adoption of the following Resolution:

Whereas, the amount of taxes which may be raised within the ten-mill limitation will be insufficient to provide an adequate amount for the necessary requirements of Harpersfield Township.

Therefore be it Resolved, by the Harpersfield Township Board of Trustees, Ashtabula County, two-thirds of all members elected thereto concurring, that it is necessary to levy a tax in excess of the ten-mill limitation for the benefit of Harpersfield Township for the purpose to provide and maintain fire service and/or fire equipment.

At a rate not exceeding 1.41 mills for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to \$49 for each \$100,000 of the County Auditor's appraised value, which will generate \$103,649 annually, and is for five years commencing and appearing on the tax list for 2024 first due in calendar year 2025.

Such tax is authorized to be submitted to a vote of the electors of Harpersfield Township, pursuant to ORC Section 5705.19, .191, .192, .194, .21, .26, and which shall be:

A renewal of an existing levy of 1.5 mills

Be it further resolved that the question of levying additional taxes be submitted to the electors of said Harpersfield Township at the general election to be held at the usual voting places within said Harpersfield Township on November 7, 2023.

And be it further resolved that the Fiscal Officer of Harpersfield Township be and is hereby directed to certify a copy of the resolution to the Board of Elections of Ashtabula County, Ohio, and notify said Board of Elections to cause notice of election on the question of levying said tax to be given as required by law.

Mr. Pristov seconded the adoption of this resolution.

The vote was as follows:

Raymond Gruber Jr – yes

Edwin Spoor – yes

James Pristov – yes

Sharon informed the Board that we do not have to attend the Ashtabula County Budget hearings unless the Budget Commission deems it necessary, but we still have to submit estimates for the 2024 budget:

General Fund	385,840
Motor Vehicle Tax	13,020
Gasoline Tax	140,100
Road & Bridge	495,700.62
Cemetery Fund	6,000
Zoning Fund	5,000
Fire Levy Fund	124,500
Permissive Vehicle Tax	12,000
St Lighting Assessment	14,500
JEDD III	22,000
General Bond-bldg	22,356
PACE (Spire)	168,366.98
PACE (Marriott)	89,967.74
Bike trail	3,500
Dump truck note	26,055
Dump truck note ('23)	29,500
Backhoe	28,670
Totals of all funds	1,587,076.34

Jim moved to adopt the budget as presented; Ed seconded; the Board voted thusly:

Edwin Spoor – yes James Pristov – yes Raymond Gruber Jr – yes

Ed made a motion to appoint Larry Lister to fill the zoning administrator vacancy at the salary of the previous administrator; Jim seconded; the Board voted unanimously in favor.

Ray reported that Geneva City contacted a company that paves golf course pathways and they have agreed to pave the bike trail extension.

Ray received a complaint about trucks using LaFevre Road to go to condos and speeders, requested reduced speed limits and signage for children at play. The speed limit cannot be reduced and Cody informed the Board that we follow ODOT rules regarding signage “do not provide signage for ‘children at play’ – ‘blind/deaf children’ etc., these types of signage are not recommend for use on any roadway at any time.

Ray informed the Board that the EPA tire grant was submitted.

Ray commented on the OTARMA citations resulting from the inspection.

The Board reviewed the County Engineer’s estimate to pave Old Orchard, Pamona and Roxbury at a cost \$184,622. Sharon informed the Board that we do not have the funds. It was suggested that we just pave Old Orchard at an estimate of \$116,340. The Board agreed to just put Old Orchard Drive out for bid with bid opening on August 21, 2023 at 6:45 PM.

Ray made a motion to donate \$500 to the Geneva School District Back to School Distribution; Jim seconded; the Board voted unanimously in favor.

Ray made an announcement that he is resigning as Trustee effective September 30, 2023. He stated that it has been an honor working for the Township and a pleasure to work with everyone.

The meeting was adjourned until August 21, 2023

Raymond Gruber Jr

Edwin Spoor

James Pristov

Sharon Rohrbaugh