

HARPERSFIELD TOWNSHIP

REGULAR SESSION

Held on February 12, 2024

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

Visitors: Rich and Renee Hanyok; Angie Riffle; Kim Gregory; Lorrie Scott; rep from Harpersfield Hotel: Shawn Neece and Atty Michael David; Greg Myers, Growth Partnership

Atty David, Mr. Neece and Mr. Myers voiced their thoughts on the CRA and TIF overlapping on the Motel 6 refurbishing project. They are frustrated that the Board cannot come to an agreement with them to allow them to move forward with the CRA and start the project. On the advice of Assistant Prosecutor Angiolelli, the Board tabled the discussion and requested a proposal in writing.

Frank commented that Tony Debevc purchased Deer's Leap and plans to demolish the existing building and rebuild. Frank will work with him and give recommendations for fire safety and a sprinkler system.

Frank is concerned about the rumors of April 24th as the date of construction starting on the round-about and how it will affect emergency vehicles getting to the south side of the river. Ed will contact ODOT for information.

Ed made a motion to enter into executive session to consult with legal counsel; Mickey seconded; the Board voted thusly: Mihalick, yes; Spoor, yes; Pristov, yes

Ed made a motion to adjourn the executive session; Mickey seconded; the Board voted thusly: Spoor, yes; Mihalick, yes; Pristov, yes

Ed made a motion to resume the regular session; Mickey seconded; the Board voted unanimously in favor.

Cody informed the Board that he has been researching 2D Excavator systems and his opinion is to purchase it from Columbus Equipment Co., for \$20,923. Ed made a motion to purchase the 2D system; Mickey seconded; the Board voted unanimously in favor.

Cody commented that the insulation has been installed in the garage bay addition and the wall has been removed. This changes the garage area from 50x80 to 50x120. The Board agreed to get the concrete floor done this year and will try to bundle it with the Administration Building sidewalk project.

Cody informed the Board that he wants to do repair work on tiling and ditches on Old Orchard Drive and Pamona Drive. His question for the Board is: who pays for the driveway material (concrete/asphalt) that will have to be torn up during this project? The Board unanimously agreed that the Township would pay for the material. Sharon suggested that we send the property owners letters informing them of this project and describe what the Township plans to do.

Cody stated that he gave the Ashtabula County Engineer his list of roads for road stripping.

Cody stated that he discussed the cul-de-sac on Harper Valley Lane with Tom, Ashtabula County Engineer's office. He recommended that it be cut straight and to get rid of the cul-de-sac and to leave the asphalt as is at the last house; then continue on to the new extension.

Cody commented that he and Jared attended the vendor show at the Township Convention in Columbus. He said there was a lot of equipment to see and glad they went.

Sharon stated that this is the first time an employee has ever attended the Convention and wanted the Board's opinion on how to handle their pay. Do I pay them "regular" pay for attending the Convention and not being at work? The Board unanimously agreed that they be paid regular hours.

Larry showed the Board a drawing of and gave a description of the lodging and party center that MCellar plans to build. He is waiting for a final decision if it will be built under vintage agriculture or get a zoning permit.

Ed made a motion to pay the following bills: #13962 through #13998; totaling \$33,731.67; Mickey seconded; the Board voted unanimously in favor.

Sharon reported the following receipts: #10-2024 through #27-2024; totaling \$22,064.92.

Sharon requested an increase in the Trustee amount of healthcare reimbursement through the ZaneBenefit program; currently it is capped at \$400 and she recommends to increase to \$500. Ed made a motion to increase to \$500; Mickey seconded; the Board voted unanimously in favor.

Sharon requested the Boards thoughts/opinion on the Medical Mutual increase for Jared now that he has added his spouse. Single coverage is \$268.63 and with spouse coverage \$590.98. Does the Board want to continue to cover 100% or have Jared pay a percentage? The Board discussed and decided to table until the next meeting.

Sharon commented that at our Organizational Meeting the Board voted to reimburse for mileage at a rate of 58 cents; she pointed out in the Grassroot Clippings it was reported that the IRS standard mileage rate as of January 1, 2024, is 67 cents. Mickey made a motion to update the mileage rate to 67 cents effective immediately; Ed seconded; the Board voted unanimously in favor.

Ed made a motion to accept the Settlement Agreement received from Tax Commissioner of Ohio regarding PPN 220030001100 (North Coast Driving School) that will now allow that parcel to be included in TIF#2; Mickey seconded; the Board voted thusly: Mihalick, yes; Spoor, yes; Pristov, yes
A copy of the settlement agreement will be attached to the minutes.

Mickey will be attending a Sunshine Law seminar and Ed made a motion to appoint Mickey as the elected officer's designee; Jim seconded; the Board voted unanimously in favor.

Ed made a motion to adopt:

Be it resolved by the Board of Township Trustees that to provide for the current expenses and other expenditures of said Board of Trustees, during the fiscal year, ending December 31, 2024, the following expenditures are to be made for and during the fiscal year, as follows:

General Fund	491,667.92
Motor Vehicle License Tax	43,467.52
Gasoline Tax	248,930.17
Road & Bridge Fund	663,665.03
Cemetery Fund	15,094.06
Bike Trail	1,744.86
Zoning	24,986.12
Fire Levy Fund	197,177.71
Permissive Motor Vehicle	23,824.46
Fire Truck Loan	713.85
Fire Truck Bond	2,707.67
ARPA	6,080.70
Street Lighting	21,318.11
Building Bond	22,569.50
Fire Truck Bond	3,197.85
PACE #1 (Spire lighting)	185,381.05
PACE #2 (Marriott)	89,967.74
Cemetery Grant	26.60
JEDD III sewer project	78,622.75
2023 Dump Trk loan	29,566.29
2020 Dump Trk loan	26,055.00

Backhoe loan 28,670.00

Total appropriations for these funds for 2024: \$2,205,434.96

Mickey seconded the motion, the Board voted thusly: Spoor, yes; Pristov, yes; Mihalick, yes

Ed made a motion to accept the NOPEC grant agreement:

NOPEC ENERGIZED COMMUNITY GRANT for 2024

A Resolution authorizing all actions necessary to accept NOPEC 2024 Energized Community Grant

WHEREAS, Harpersfield Township ("Grantee") is a member of NOPEC and is eligible for one or more NOPEC Energized Community Grant(s) for 2024 as provided for in the NEC Grant Program guidelines; and

WHEREAS, the Grantee wishes to enter into a Grant Agreement with NOPEC in substantially the form presented to this Board of Trustees to receive one or more NEC Grant(s); and

NOW, THEREFORE, Be it ordained by Harpersfield Board of Trustees, Ashtabula County, Ohio, that:

SECTION 1 – this Board of Trustees finds and determines that it is in the best interest of the Grantee to enter into the Grant Agreement to accept the NEC grant for 2024, and authorizes the Chairman of the Board to execute the Grant Agreement to accept the NEC grant funds.

SECTION 2 – this Board finds and determines that all formal actions of this Board concerning and relating to the adoption of this Resolution were taken in an open meeting of this Board and that all deliberations of this Board were in meetings open to the public in compliance with the law.

Mickey seconded the motion; the Board voted unanimously in favor

Mickey started researching on a columbarium structure to hold funerary urns (cremated ashes). She showed a picture of one built by Belding Monument, Madison and gave the Board some details of ones that are in local cemeteries. The Board agreed that they want her to pursue this.

Mickey spoke with Judge Schroeder regarding the previous property complaint he voiced and informed him the property has a new owner and we have to wait to see what happens. He then voiced a complaint regarding a property on Rt. 534 south of Cork Cold Springs Rd.

Ed reported that the South River Road water line (between Rt. 534 and Stoltz Rd) could start in a couple of months. The water line engineering plans for Bishop Road are ready to be submitted to the EPA.

Jim reported that at the annual Fireman dinner/program it was announced that after 47 years of service Bob Wilhelm has retired from the department.

Angie Riffle attended the meeting to voice a complaint that she is having with a neighbor that is damaging her yard and filling in ditches which is creating a problem with the culvert. Some of the issues are a civil matter and the Township cannot help but Cody will check on the damage in the road right-a-way and make sure the ditches are clean to not affect the road.

The meeting adjourned until February 26, 2024

James Pristov

Mickey Mihalick

Edwin Spoor

Sharon Rohrbaugh