

# HARPERSFIELD TOWNSHIP

## REGULAR SESSION

Held on January 22, 2024

The Board of Harpersfield Township convened in regular session from 7 PM to 9:10 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; Larry Lister; Frank Henry

Visitors: Renee and Rich Hanyok; Tonia Varckette; Greg Myers; Paula Pristov; Atty Mike David and Shawn Niece; Asst Prosecutor Michael Angiolelli; Bob Wilhelm

The minutes from the regular session held on December 11, 2023 and the Organizational meeting held on December 29, 2023 were reviewed. Ed made a motion to approve both sets of minutes as written; Mickey seconded; the Board voted unanimously in favor.

Greg Myers, Growth Partnership, Shawn Niece and Atty Mike David were in attendance to discuss a CRA abatement that has been requested of the Ashtabula County Commissioners for the refurbishing of the Motel 6 building. They have requested 75% abatement of the increased value for a period of 10 years. The reason they are here is to discuss the TIF that the Township has on the property which overlaps the CRA and they are requesting that we cancel our TIF. After a lengthy discussion, it was mentioned to apply for a 50% abatement. The Board explained to them that the Township created the TIF because we need the revenue to pay our half of the JEDD III sewer expense and that the Motel 6 building is in JEDD III. It was mentioned that the CRA and TIF could be applied to the increased value. The discussion ended with both parties agreeing to collect more information and that the Township will confer with Asst Prosecutor Angiolelli.

Frank informed the Board that he has five men signed up for the fire training class through Auburn but held at Rome Fire Station. Frank is going to apply for a BWC grant to purchase three sets of turn out gear.

Frank reported that he received the portables radios and that the Perry Power Plant grant funds paid \$7000 and the Township paid the balance of \$900.

Ed made a motion to renew the property and building insurance policy with OTARMA at the annual premium of \$37,838.88; Mickey seconded; the Board voted unanimously in favor. After reviewing the coverage on the fire equipment, it was decided to upgrade the value of the fire trucks and change the valuation to replacement coverage. Sharon will reach out to OTARMA for an amendment to the renewal.

Cody reported that he took the 550 truck to Classic for recall repairs to the steering.

Cody stated that the drainage pipe has been installed in Harpersfield Cemetery.

Cody investigated uniforms through Ronyak (recommended by Ed) and they did not offer the uniforms that the road crew use. He then spoke with the rep from Cintas who told him that if he comes to garage once a month (currently is weekly) the cost will be \$75.73 per week versus \$185.73 per week. The contract would have to be for five years. Ed made a motion to approve the new program with Cintas; Mickey seconded; the Board voted unanimously in favor.

Larry showed the Board the zoning maps he has been working on and the Board approved and signed them.

Larry informed the Board that he submitted the structure being built on Rt. 307 without a zoning permit to the Ashtabula County Prosecutor through the Matrix system.

Larry described a request to put a drive through property that starts in Lake County and comes out on Shilling Road. He is concerned about this idea as it will create a land lock situation.

Larry showed the Board the sidewalk drawing with the handicapped ramp and where the two parking spots will be.

Larry stated that the "hunting cabin" that we were having zoning issues with on West Street has been removed.

Ed made a motion to pay the following bills: #13929 through #13959; totaling \$41,565.85; Mickey seconded; the Board voted unanimously in favor.

Sharon reported the following receipts: #1-2024 through #9-2024; totaling \$2,238.05.

Sharon informed the Board that the Medical Mutual policy we have for employees increased by 7.51%. Monthly premium for 2023 were \$249.86 and for 2024 will be \$268.63. Mickey made a motion to renew the Medical Mutual policy for 2024; Ed seconded; the Board voted unanimously in favor.

Sharon commented that we received confirmation we have been awarded a NOPEC Energized Community grant of \$4,545 for 2024.

Sharon contacted Ashtabula County Auditor Thomas regarding how we proceed with the TIF on the Pizza Roto property. He responded that the parcel is part of our TIF resolution so when the property value increases the Auditor will engage the TIF, we do not have to take any further action.

Mickey reported that she received a complaint about a vacant house structure on Cork Cold Springs Rd that is in very bad condition. Ed stated that we will not pursue anything at this time as the property was just sold so we have to give new owners time to see what they do.

Mickey made a motion to appoint Ann Moses to the Zoning Commission Board to finish a term that expires in 2026; Ed seconded; the Board voted unanimously in favor.

Mickey made a motion to appoint Beth Henning to the Zoning Commission as an alternate; Ed seconded; the Board voted unanimously in favor.

Ed made a motion to pay the alternates to attend hearings/meetings even if they are not needed; Mickey seconded; the Board voted unanimously in favor.

Mickey stated that Ken McLeod will serve as Chairman for the Zoning Commission and Ed Pristov will serve as Vice-Chairman.

Mickey made a motion to appoint Paula Pristov to the BZA to finish a term that expires in 2028; Ed seconded; the Board voted unanimously in favor.

Mickey stated that Angie Riffle will serve as Chairman for the BZA and Don Bowling will serve as Vice-Chairman.

Tonia Varckette attended the meeting to request a donation for the Geneva Senior Center. Ed made a motion to donate \$2,000 to the Senior Center; Mickey seconded; the Board voted unanimously in favor.

Jim commented that the Harpersfield bridge project has been extended until May 31, 2024.

The meeting adjourned until February 12, 2023

James Pristov

Mickey Mihalick

Edwin Spoor

Sharon Rohrbaugh