

Violet Township Board of Trustees

March 18, 2015

Regular Meeting

Mr. Weltlich called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Mr. Eisel called the roll: Mr. Weltlich, Mr. Dunlap and Mr. Myers were present. Others present were: Township Engineer, Greg Butcher; Director of Operations, John Eisel; and Fire Chief, Mike Little.

On behalf of the Violet Township Board of Trustees, Mr. Weltlich recognized students from Toll Gate Middle School Evyenia Agganis, Elliot Harman, Nathan Orhrman, and Tyler Wade who lead the Trustees in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence honoring those who protect us around the world. The students were presented with 'Certificates of Recognition.

Mr. Dunlap moved to approve, without public reading as submitted by the Fiscal Officer, the minutes of the Regular Trustee meeting of March 4, 2015. Seconded by Mr. Myers. Roll call vote: Mr. Dunlap, yes; Mr. Myers, yes; Mr. Weltlich, yes. Motion carries 3-0.

Recognition of Guests:

Cheryl Ricketts made a presentation about the annexation of the Smith/Sanders property, at the southeast corner of the Refugee/Pickerington Rd intersection, into the city of Pickerington. She recognized the individuals that have collaborated since June of 2014 to resolve the annexation issue and maximize the quality of life in our community. They are: Township Operations Director BJ King and later John Eisel, Township Engineer Greg Butcher, Atty. Wanda Carter, Pickerington Mayor Lee Gray, City Manager Bill Vance, Atty. Rick Ricketts and Cheryl Ricketts.

Ms. Ricketts spoke of the properties owners' desire to have an annexation agreement that would bring the community together and the owners' request to have the city withdraw the initial annexation petition until a solution to the township and school district's concerns could be found.

The group, facilitated by Ms. Ricketts, discussed the Smith/Sanders annexation specifically and, more broadly worked on an overall plan to address the concerns of both the city and township in regard to zoning and planning, taxes, development, jurisdictional boundaries, and services. They worked to annex the Smith/Sanders property without annexing the school property on the northwest corner of the Refugee/Pickerington Rd intersection.

She expressed her honor in being a part of the group as a facilitator in developing a mission, goals, vision and strategies that would unify the face of the community to developers. It was quickly recognized that there were a lot more commonalities than expected between the two entities. Though there were differences in opinions on how the "get there", everyone wanted to go the same direction to build a stronger community.

Similar financial issues will face both entities in the future and the group thinks that by working together to take advantage of opportunities and deal with obstacles the community can maximize results. Collaboration is the key to getting better results.

The mission statement for the group is to improve our community through collaboration. Ms. Ricketts asked the trustees to give feed back to Mr. Eisel or Mr. Butcher to bring back to the group. The group wants to be sure the trustees are in alignment with and confident about the mission statement, goals and strategies.

The group's initial goal was to create processes and approaches that move our governmental bodies and their leadership toward development of long term collaborative relationships. If the trustees would like, the group would work to develop processes and approaches for more complex issues in the future with the entities working together as a team.

The group's vision is a focused and mutually advantageous and collaborative relationship between Violet Township and the city of Pickerington. The vision should include:

1. A vibrant community with relevant opportunities, amenities and activities for residents of all ages and backgrounds. Schools and children have been emphasized for any years in terms of planning. Our demographics are changing with an aging population. It is important to think of resources for everyone in the community. It is difficult to pay for services as a bedroom community. Planned developments are important to provide revenue and services.
2. We have great opportunities and competitive advantages for businesses within the community. This allows students who graduate the ability to stay in the area and have a great job.
3. Residents, businesses, developers, employees and visitors should make an equitable contribution to payment for community services.
4. Meaningful recognition for being a great place to live

The group came up with six strategies to recommend:

1. Build trust and efficiencies by working under economic development in an area in which both entities have an interest or access.
2. Partner with the county to increase recreational and leisure activities and resources that will drive economic development. Recreation and leisure is one of the top two drivers of economic development into an area and in will increase property values for residents.
3. Identifying ways to maximize opportunities to benefit from economic development along the I-70 and US 33 corridors. We need to use these thoroughfares that tie to economic development.
4. Focusing resources and services in ways that add the most overall value and minimize overall cost. This would include indentifying resources that could be shared. We are already doing this with the road plowing agreement.
5. The City and Township have committed to long range planning and will have defined meetings in 2015 to identify and take action on specific items and objectives.
6. Community wide comprehensive planning that would drive commercial development into appropriate areas and rezone that land for future intended use.

Recommended next steps:

- Get input from the trustees on the drafts of the visions and strategies and make any necessary changes.
- The group started this process with the city and township first because they had the annexation issue to resolve and they have similar responsibilities. There are other interested parties, like the schools, but they don't have the same responsibilities. The group would now like to expand to include representatives from the schools and other governmental entities like the county. Dr. Valerie Browning-Thompson, PLSD superintendent, and Ryan Jenkins, school treasurer, have committed to coming to the next meeting. Jeff Fix, Pickerington city council president, will also begin coming to the meetings. Depending on the development project, there may come a time in the future where the county engineer and/or someone from Fairfield County Regional Planning will be invited. Also, it might be appropriate at some point to include ODOT, other county agencies and various community groups.
- The group recommends that they continue to have collaborative meetings twice a month in 2015 to build momentum and demonstrate the ability to collaborate through results.
- Work together on projects with limited barriers that allow the entities to build the process, approaches and continue to build trust.
- Identify the collaboration areas relevant to the project chosen, prioritize them, build a project timeline, and work through the steps.
- Begin joint work to update long range plans for the entire community which might include consistent zoning practices and other items that would improve collaboration.

Mr. Weltlich was surprised Ms. Ricketts did not include Canal Winchester and talk about them as a partner (JEDD). Ms. Ricketts said as she understood from what Ms. Carter said was that was not 'officially' operational. If this is something that makes sense they will be coming back to talk about it.

Mr. Weltlich added we have a CEDA with Canal Winchester that will someday cross the road and be called Violet Pointe.

Public Comment:

Sandy Poyer of 11564 Canterbury Avenue was present. Ms. Poyer spoke about how she has started a block watch for the Summerfield community on face book. She wants to know what else they can do since crime has certainly increased. Mr. Dunlap explained he and Mr. Eisel met with Chief Deputy Perrigo yesterday and Mr. Eisel explained he has been in contact with Sergeant Hendershot and they have talked about reaching out to all the Civic Associations and look at ways to 'rejuvenate' that interest. We are trying to get a group together to start a Block Watch. Mr. Hayes said he would like to run something in the paper.

Don Rector of 10200 Oxford Drive, Pickerington was present. Mr. Rector is also a resident of Summerfield and wanted to follow up on Ms. Poyer's comments. Mr. Rector said that because of Mrs. Poyers facebook page it has brought a heightened awareness and they have access or awareness faster than they ever have before.

Mr. Rector would like to see the Township as a single trash hauler. He would like to save our roads.

Mr. Eisel added this topic is 'in the works' and will be included with our roundtable discussions with the Homeowners Associations. He is currently working with our Law Director on this. Mr. Eisel explained the main reason people do not want to go to a single trash hauler is they fear their freedom of choice will be taken away.

Mr. Dunlap added that there might be a possibility that we could 'cooperate' and go in with the City of Pickerington's bid for trash services.

County Authorities:

None

Departmental Reports:**Fire Chief: Mike Little**

Chief Little reported he did not have any resolutions for this meeting.

Chief Little handed out the February monthly report and explained there is really not a lot to look at trend wise.

Chief Little passed out copies of the updated Fairfield County Mutual Aid Agreement. The signature page will need to be completed once it is available. The same as the original other than making the necessary updated due to ORC changes.

Chief Little will be attending the Chamber State of the City/Township lunch this week and will also attend the State of the County lunch next week.

The Lieutenants written exam is March 28th from 9 am to noon. We have eight personnel taking the exam. All will move on to the Assessment Center scheduled for April 18 and the Oral Interviews scheduled for April 23 and 24. The new list will be in effect from May 2, 2015 to May 1, 2018.

Chief Little had the MECC COG (Council of Governments) documents ready for review. There will be more changes to this document and Chief Little added that the Trustees needed to add any changes comments to him by the second meeting in April. The intent is to get (2) entities to agree by June 1st. Mr. Weltlich asked why there were just (2) entities involved in this process. Mr. Eisel said the ORC requires at least (2). The true intent behind this is that the (6) six founding members of MECC would be the (6) six members on the board. The intent of the Executive Board is for either the township administrator or one of the elected officials. The Executive Advisory Committee would be the Fire Chiefs. The three most likely to be on board would be us, Truro and Mifflin.

We had an incident at Station Three where one of our firefighter's trucks got broken into. Doc will be ordering some mechanical locks to secure the buildings. Mr. Weltlich recommended getting cameras in. Chief Little is dealing with the lease of the building first and waiting on contracts.

Mr. Myers asked about the generator. Chief Little said we were just waiting on some paperwork so that we can move forward. Doc already has a plan.

Mr. Dunlap asked Chief Little to re-look at the issue of the bay doors being open.

Township Engineer: Greg Butcher

Mr. Butcher reported they have dedicated 75% of our staff to the filling of potholes. They have been working aggressively at patching potholes daily. Anyone can report a pothole by contacting the administrative office or Mr. Butcher. This information has also been placed on our social media platforms.

The annual meeting with the Fairfield County Engineer has been scheduled for 10 a.m. on March 30 at the Engineer's Office.

Mr. Butcher had (3) project updates:

Mr. Butcher reported Mingo Estates is advertising now. Bids will be opened March 27 at 1:00 p.m. at the Administrative Office at 1:00 p.m.

We are working aggressively to get Stonecreek Drive improvements started this year. We are doing some background work now with the utility companies.

We are trying to get the Woodsfield Safe Routes to Schools project underway this year. Contract documents are being finalized for this.

Mr. Butcher had a resolution for utilizing ODOT and the state's cooperative purchasing program for salt purchasing for 2015-2016. This allows us to be in a large consortium and feels this is best for us.

Mr. Butcher also had a resolution to nominate himself to the OPWC District 17 Integrating Committee. This committee has been very good to us over the years.

Mr. Dunlap made a motion to adopt Resolution 2015-0318-01 – Nominate Greg Butcher, PE to Ohio Public Works Commission District 17 Integrating Committee. Seconded by Mr. Myers. Roll call vote: Mr. Dunlap, yes; Mr. Myers, yes; Mr. Weltlich. Motion carries 3-0.

Mr. Myers made a motion to adopt Resolution 2015-0318-02 – Authorize Participation with ODOT to Procure Sodium Chloride/Rock Salt through Two Separate Contracts (a Summer Fill and a Winter Use). Seconded by Mr. Dunlap. Discussion: Mr. Butcher explained this encompasses winter and summer fill and the prices could vary for each. **Roll call vote: Mr. Myers, yes; Mr. Dunlap, yes; Mr. Weltlich, yes. Motion carries 3-0.**

Mr. Weltlich asked if all the Ash trees were down at Busey Park. Mr. Butcher said they were.

Director of Operations: John Eisel

Mr. Eisel reported he also attended the County Annual GIS meeting today and they continue to be leaders in the state and beyond in the GIS technology. The data has become invaluable that is used day in and day out. There are many new features coming out that will be very useful for us.

The LED Monitors have been purchased and will be installed.

Mr. Eisel reported our BWC premium audit for calendar year 2013 is scheduled for April 8 at 1:00 p.m.

We have reached out to Senator Balderson in regards to the importance of HB 53, the Transportation Budget, and the benefits of the amendment that would allow local governments to increase the permissive motor vehicle license plate fee by \$500. The amendment was not added in the House, and the hope is that it will be added in the Senate.

We have a shared phone system with several entities. The oversight group met to amend the Shared Services Agreement with the addition of the West Licking Fire District. This requires no additional infrastructure or capacity, and will reduce the rates to all current participants.

Mr. Eisel will meet with Scott Warrick on March 20th in regards to facilitating our Strategic Planning for the Township.

The Grange Flag Retirement Ceremony is going to be held June 8 at 7:00 p.m. at the Maintenance Facility.

Mr. Eisel will attend the Canal Winchester Annual CRA Building Tour on March 24th.

The Road Department equipment replacement list has been sent to Rockmill Financial to investigate financial options to proceed.

With regard to the Senior Center parking Lot, Mr. Eisel and Mr. Butcher met with the City and engineering firm reps to review concepts. This was presented to the Senior Center Board on March 11 and was passed. If they move the dumpster from its current location and put it on a pad in the rear. The end result is there is a net increase of 11 parking spaces. Instead of 5 handicap spaces they would end up with 6.

Mr. Eisel reported all three Trustees will attend the Pickerington Chamber luncheon on March 19th at 11:30 a.m.

Mr. Butcher and Mr. Eisel will attend a BWC conference end of March beginning of April. The Fire Department is completing noise level monitoring. All of our (3) ISSP requirements will be completed before June. We have all worked together to get this done.

Mr. Eisel reported the State of the County address is next week and the MORPC State of the Region is April 2nd.

Mr. Weltlich asked if Mr. Eisel had reached out to Schaefer and Balderson. Mr. Eisel received a 'canned' email that the amendment did not get included in the house and had moved to the senate. He has not gotten any feedback from Balderson. Senator Balderson has not responded to Mr. Eisel's request for a meeting.

Fiscal Officer:

Mr. Eisel had the bank reconciliation and the bills for the Fiscal Office. Mr. Eisel reported Mr. Sauer sent his apologies as he developed the flu after he got home today.

Trustee Reports:

None

Trustees out of Office Meetings Where More than one (1) Trustee present

None

Old Business

None

Tabled Business

None

New Business

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Violet Township Board of Trustees will be Wednesday, April 1, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. at the Violet Township Administrative offices.

Pay Bills

Mr. Myers made a motion to pay the bills. Seconded by Mr. Dunlap. Roll call vote: Mr. Myers, yes; Mr. Dunlap, yes; Mr. Weltlich, yes. Motion passes 3-0.

Mr. Dunlap made a motion to take a 10 minute recess and go into Executive Session per the ORC Section 121.22 (G) (1) to discuss personnel issues. Seconded by Mr. Myers. Included in the Executive Session were the (3) Trustees. Mr. Weltlich announced they would go into Executive Session after a ten (10) minute recess and once they come out of Executive Session they will adjourn and not conduct any further business. Roll call vote: Mr. Dunlap, yes; Mr. Myers, yes; Mr. Weltlich, yes. Motion carries 3-0.

Adjournment

Mr. Dunlap moved to come out of Executive Session and adjourn the regular meeting at 10:33 p.m. Mr. Myers seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Dunlap, yes; Mr. Myers, yes; Mr. Weltlich, yes. Motion carries 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 10:33 p.m..

Respectfully Submitted,

Brian Sauer, Fiscal Officer

Joniann Goldberg, Administrative
Assistant

Approved by:

Terry J. Dunlap, Sr., Trustee

Harry W. Myers, Jr., Trustee

Gary P. Weltlich, Trustee

Date: _____