

# Violet Township Board of Trustees

July 18, 2012

Regular Meeting

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

Christopher H. Smith, Fiscal Officer called the roll: Mr. Myers, Mr. Dunlap and Mr. Weltlich were present. Other Township employees present were: Director of Operations, Bill Yaple; Fire Chief, John Eisel and Engineer, Greg Butcher.

Mr. Myers asked everyone in attendance to join him the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

**Mr. Dunlap moved to approve without public reading, the minutes of the Regular meeting of 7-05-2012. Seconded by Mr. Weltlich. Roll call vote: Mr. Dunlap, yes; Mr. Weltlich, yes; and Mr. Myers, yes. The minutes of the Regular meeting of 7-05-2012 are approved 3-0.**

**Mr. Weltlich moved to approve the minutes without public reading, the minutes of the Public Hearing on the Tax Budget meeting of 7-5-2012. Seconded by Mr. Dunlap. Roll call vote: Mr. Weltlich, yes; Mr. Dunlap, yes; Mr. Myers, yes. The minutes of the Public Hearing on the Tax Budget meeting of 7-5-2012 are approved 3-0.**

## **Recognition of Guests and Public Comment:**

None

## **Public Comment**

None

## **County Authorities:**

Chief Deputy Perrigo was present and reported they had many issues from the storm damage; the main one being their radio antenna got blown sideways and messed up their radio reception. This just got fixed today.

Chief Deputy Perrigo praised all the hard work being done at the Sheriff's substation.

Mr. Myers reported that Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Jason Dolin will be using an office in our facility a few times a month.

## **Departmental Reports**

### **Fire Department**

Chief Eisel reported he attended the Fairfield County Soil and Water Conservation District meeting last week and it appears they are going to put together a user agreement if we would need it for the use of the Gator purchased for a spraying program. Fairfield Soil and Water is cooperating with other agencies and counties around Fairfield County. Chief Eisel believes it will be housed at our Maintenance Facility most of the time.

The new fire engine came back from Fire and Marine in Springfield yesterday. Pierce is coming to town next week to train our crews. The engine will be in service by the end of next week.

Mr. Dunlap asked if there was any way we could improve communications between South Central Power, the Sheriff's office, fire department and Road Department with regards to wires down. Chief Eisel said during the ice storm they communicated via fax but he would look into this.

Chief Eisel reported he has attended a few planning meetings for the upcoming Violet Festival.

Mr. Weltlich reported he and Mr. Yaple attended a seminar where Senator Kasich talked allegedly if you cooperate among political subdivisions there is money to get. It is up to \$100,000.

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Mr. Dunlap asked if the issues about the Violet Festival Parade lineup had been resolved. Chief Eisel reported Mr. Myers had handled this.

**Township Engineer**

Mr. Butcher reported he prepared a letter on behalf of the Trustees to Bob and Ron Wright thanking them for their help with the past storm cleanup of June 29th.

Mr. Butcher reported he and Chief Eisel have discussed the Pelatonia event on August 10th and they have concluded that it is really more of a 'law enforcement' participate event but we will still support the event in whatever capacity they ask us to provide. Mr. Butcher commented that the organizers have been adamant that 'rules of the road' would be enforced and the thing to remember is there will be between six and seven thousand cyclists putting up about \$2000 each.

Mr. Butcher gave the Trustees a series of photos of the vandalism done on four gravestones at Heistand Cemetery in Summerfield 16. The pictures indicate that there was some extensive damage done to the stones. Mr. Butcher met with a monument restoration company to get a price on what it would take to restore the stones to as good a condition as to what it was originally.

Mr. Butcher reported there is an issue as it relates to biking and the bike trail that has recently been constructed along Blacklick Creek, Hines Road, Tussing and Refugee Road across from the water treatment plant. There is a convenient pull-off for cars to park and offload their bikes and get on the trail. It is our right-of-way from the west side of the bridge and about  $\frac{3}{4}$  the way up the hill on Tussing. Mr. Butcher has a safety concern that we have several vehicles that are parking on a consistent basis on the shoulder. There have not been any accidents but he has received phone calls from people indicating that in their opinion are safety issues. Mr. Butcher wanted to bring this to the Trustees attention so that we can evaluate it and make a decision. Mr. Butcher would like to put No Parking signs up or there are other options such as reaching out to the Metro Parks to see if there would be a partnership in addressing the issue. Mr. Butcher will talk to some people and come back to the Trustees with suggestions.

Paving is complete and budget wise we are in good shape. Mr. Butcher has received many compliments on the repairs.

Debris cleanup is wrapping up. We will be done this coming Friday. The City of Pickerington has contracted with Keller Farms to do most of their cleanup. Mr. Butcher didn't feel this was necessary for us.

**Director of Operations**

Mr. Yapple reported we will stay with the Ohio Township Association and the group rating for BWC. Mr. Yapple gave the Trustees a breakdown of 2007 to 2013; what we have spent and what we are projecting to spend with BWC.

In April, May and June we had 9 single family building permits with a total of 13 for the year. We had 38 other permits for the quarter. 63 of those type permits to date adding about 4 million in construction value. We have had 6 commercial permits for the quarter and 9 for the year at a little over half million in valuation.

Mr. Yapple reported he received a few calls regarding a letter sent by Columbia Natural Gas that they were going to assign Violet Township residents to Volunteer Energy. The residents called Columbia Gas and they were told that we had agreed and were in an aggregation program to do that. Mr. Yapple called the Public Utilities Commission (PUCO) who got a hold of Volunteer Energy and there was some work that was not done correctly. They sent another letter to those same residents explaining they made a mistake and they are not going to be forced to go with Volunteer Energy. However, they may be forced to go to IGS as Columbia will not be a fuel supplier.

Mr. Yapple had a resolution to purchase the sign for Busey Park and one for the replacement tax levy for the Senior Center.

We have not heard any word on the grants coming back from Fairfield County for the abandoned property.

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Mr. Yapple reported he is getting closer to picking out the carpet for our building.

We received a call from a contractor from Tennessee regarding the nuisance at Hampton Ridge Development. He will be coming next week to repair the basement and close it back up.

Mr. Yapple reported Work is being done on 4 East Columbus Street. They are working on tuck pointing of the walls and replacement of the block. They started replacing the steel door today and will do the one window. By mid next week they should be off on the west side of the building and will be able to get the garage doors. There is a lot of junk in the building that we are trying to clean up and get rid of.

Mr. Yapple asked if Mr. Butcher had the change order for the Waterloo Road Bridge Project for the Trustees to sign.

Per Mr. Weltlich's request Mr. Yapple spoke to Woody Carrie to find out what her financial status was. Mr. Yapple reported her status as far as income for the Lancaster Public Transit is good and appears her ridership is in good shape. Ms. Woody will attend a Trustee meeting next month to discuss funding for 2013 so she can apply for her grant in October. We need to put together some information before the August meeting for the Trustees to look at.

Senate Bill 238 which is the bill that required elected officials to report financial information passed the Senate but was removed from that bill by the House so it is still laying there. It is pending before the conference committee. Mr. Yapple believes it talks about population but includes all incorporated areas. They are also asking a delayed start of two years after approval if the House puts it back on a voting schedule.

We discussed trash contracts with the City of Pickerington the bid is on the street.

Mr. Dunlap asked if Mr. Butcher if he had noticed more recycling trailers over at our location. Mr. Butcher said he had not. Mr. Dunlap was told by one of the drivers that they were to move one of the extra trailers to our location. Mr. Yapple will check on this but he did think they were picking up more often at the OU location.

Mr. Yapple presented a resolution to replace the existing senior levy which is two cents for every one hundred dollars of the valuation 2 tens of a mill. The existing levy expires at the end of 2012 tax year paid in 2013. They are running this levy November, 2012 to begin 2013 and paid in 2014. **Mr. Myers made a motion to adopt Resolution 2012-0718-01 – Resolution Declaring it Necessary to Levy a Tax in Excess of the Ten Mill Limitation. Seconded by Mr. Weltlich. Discussion: Mr. Weltlich was not comfortable with the language where it says if the valuation remains constant through the life of the levy this implies that if it goes up or down then the collection of revenue goes up or down. He wants this clarified. Mr. Smith said that the levy being a replacement speaks to his concern. Mr. Smith will get clarification to see if it is just by example or if it is binding and he will double check on this. Roll call vote: Mr. Myers, yes; Mr. Weltlich, yes; Mr. Dunlap, yes. Resolution 2012-0718-01 passes 3-0.**

Mr. Yapple explained we have a resolution to purchase a sign for Busey Road Park. It will be double faced sign (approximately 42 by 96) sand carved at a cost of \$4,300.00. **Mr. Dunlap made a motion to adopt Resolution 2012-0718-03 – Authorize Director of Operations to Purchase Sign for Busey Road Park. Seconded by Mr. Weltlich. Discussion: Mr. Dunlap asked if the company would install the sign. Mr. Yapple said they would. Mr. Myers asked about a zoning permit. Mr. Yapple said he spoke to Canal Winchester and we do not need any permits. Roll call vote: Mr. Dunlap, yes; Mr. Weltlich, yes; Mr. Myers, yes. Resolution 2012-0718-03 passes 3-0.**

Mr. Weltlich asked what the timeframe was for the prosecutors to use our office. Mr. Yapple said the office was tied up all last week with the auditor's paperwork but it won't take long to box up some files to ship out to Fire Proof.

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**Fiscal Officer**

Mr. Smith reported we have been in the middle of the audit with the State. Overall things went well. They have left the building and we are now wrapping things up. This is the least amount of time they have spent on premise.

Mr. Smith also reported he and Chief Eisel spent the morning at the Auditor's Office and talked primarily about our TIF'S and our tax abatements. We will have some increased monies coming next year. Mr. Smith also talked them about the tax budget and they said everything looked great.

Mr. Dunlap asked for clarification on 'our' TIF'S and tax abatements. Mr. Smith said it was the TIF'S and tax abatements that other municipalities have put on.

**Trustee Reports:**

Mr. Weltlich asked the Trustees to consider providing \$5,000 to act as a bridge financing to get us from now until the blackout period is over in late November so that the Pickerington Food Pantry can get through this financial crisis. If the Trustees agree he will approach the City of Pickerington and the Senior Center. The PCMA goal is to raise \$20,000 between now and August 15<sup>th</sup> when the United Way blackout goes into effect. Mr. Weltlich explained the 'blackout' as being when you take money from the Fairfield County United Way you are prohibited from fund raising from August 15<sup>th</sup> to November 30<sup>th</sup> because that is when they run their campaign. We have not gotten this year's money from the United way because we haven't signed an agreement to comply with the blackout. We are supposed to get the money quarterly and now they are talking about monthly. The last time we gave money to the Food Pantry was in 2010. Mr. Weltlich also mentioned that the request for food has doubled in the last three months. Mr. Weltlich explained there is an established criteria that a person has to meet and we are very stringent about enforcing this. **Mr. Myers made a motion to donate \$5,000.00 to the Pickerington Food Pantry for the year 2012. Seconded by Mr. Dunlap. Roll call vote: Mr. Myers, yes; Mr. Dunlap, yes; Mr. Weltlich, abstained. Motion A0718-2012 passes 2-0.**

**Trustees out of Office Meetings:**

There will be one or more Trustee and the Fiscal Officer attending the Tax Budget Hearing on August 6<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. at the Fairfield County Courthouse 3<sup>rd</sup> floor.

There will be more than one Trustee at the Violet Festival Parade on July 27, 2012.

**Old Business:**

None

**Tabled Business:**

None

**New Business:**

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Violet Township Board of Trustees will be August 1, 2012 at 7:30 p.m.

**Pay Bills:**

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

**Executive Session:**

Mr. explained they would be going into Executive Session to discuss pending and/or imminent court action with the Township's Attorney(s) R.C. 121/22(G) (3) at 8:35 p.m. to include the three Trustees, the Director of Operations, the Fiscal Officer and the Township Attorney(s) William Loveland and Paul La Fayette. Discussion: Mr. Dunlap respectfully requested that it be restated as R.C. 121.22(G) (3) as there is no slash.

**Mr. Weltlich made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:35 p.m. as stated by the Chairman. Seconded by Mr. Myers. Roll call vote: Mr. Weltlich, yes; Mr. Myers, yes; Mr. Dunlap, yes. Motion carried 3-0.**

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**Mr. Weltlich made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 9:21 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Myers. Roll call vote: Mr. Weltlich, yes; Mr. Myers, yes; Mr. Dunlap, yes. Motion carried 3-0.**

**Adjourn:**

**Mr. Dunlap made a motion adjourn the regular meeting. Mr. Weltlich seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Dunlap, yes; Mr. Weltlich, yes; Mr. Myers, yes. Motion passes 3-0. The meeting stands adjourned at 9:22 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,

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Christopher H. Smith, Fiscal Officer

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Joniann Goldberg, Administrative  
Assistant

Approved by:

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Terry J. Dunlap, Sr., Trustee

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Harry W. Myers, Jr., Trustee

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Gary P. Weltlich, Trustee

Date: \_\_\_\_\_