

Violet Township Board of Trustees

July 5, 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 Yapple; 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. Weltlich moved to approve without public reading, the minutes of the Regular meeting minutes of 6-20-2012. Seconded by Mr. Dunlap. Roll call vote: Mr. Weltlich, yes; Mr. Dunlap, yes; and Mr. Myers, yes. The minutes of the Regular meeting of 6-20-2012 are approved 3-0.

Recognition of Guests and Public Comment:

County Authorities:

Jason Dolin from the Fairfield County Prosecutors office was present. Mr. Dolin announced he would be replacing Paul Morehart as Mr. Morehart is retiring.

Mr. Myers reported that he and Mr. Yapple met with Mr. Dolin and Mr. Marx last Tuesday and were asked if they could use an office space so they could have presence at the Township a couple days a month. We have an office that is currently being used for storage that can be cleaned out. Mr. Dolin explained they want to have more of a 'presence' here in Violet Township. **Mr. Dunlap made a motion to make the room available for the Prosecutors office to use. Seconded by Mr. Weltlich. Roll call vote: Mr. Dunlap, yes; Mr. Weltlich, yes; Mr. Myers, yes. Motion A-0705-2012 – Allow Prosecutors Office to use office in the Administrative offices of the Township.** Mr. Dunlap added that once all the details are worked out we could do a press release to notify the residents of what is going on.

Departmental Reports

Fire Department

Chief Eisel reported they took delivery of the new fire truck. Some equipment will be mounted and Doc is working with Finley Fire Equipment on the return of the other fire truck.

Storms from last Friday and Sunday kept the Fire Department abnormally busy. In those two days they responded to 89 calls which was double to their normal response. Calls were mostly from storm related issues such as wires and trees down. Chief Eisel gave kudos to law enforcement as they absorbed another 20 of those calls for us. Kudos to South Central Power as they had their hands full too.

In the interest of public safety, the Fire Department decided to move the fireworks to 9:30 pm instead of 10:00 pm due to the possible bad weather coming in.

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

Township Engineer

Mr. Butcher reported there may be some federal assistance with the cleanup efforts from last week's storms. We are working through this with Emergency Management Assistance. Mr. Butcher reported it is his understanding that the Commissioners have declared our county as a disaster area. We are familiar with the tracking of hours, cost, equipment etc. Mr. Butcher has no hesitation in closing down any of our roads. Our guys did their best in clearing the roads and responded accordingly.

Next week there may be some paving done by the Shelly Company. Mr. Butcher will meet with them tomorrow to go over the plan.

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Mr. Dunlap recommended we write a thank you letter to Bob and Ron Wright for bringing up their back hoe and putting in a good 5 hours to help clear Allen Road.

Mr. Dunlap asked if we said something to Shelly Company about a re-roll on Allen and Stemen roads. Mr. Butcher will do that when he meets with them tomorrow,

Mr. Weltlich suggested having the road crew signing the letter to the Wrights expressing their appreciation for their help.

Director of Operations

Mr. Yapple had information in the Trustees packet from Fairfield County Regional Planning showing what the fees would be for the next five years as the Trustees said last year they didn't know about it soon enough to get it in their budget.

Lancaster Public Transit System is working towards a grant through MORPC to do some park-n-ride operations that will serve northwest Fairfield County to downtown Columbus. Carrie is doing the paperwork.

We received a call last week wanting to know if we had any abandoned houses. Through Fairfield County Action there is some grant money in the state of Ohio. \$500,000 is allocated to each county in the state supposedly with no matching funds to remove older abandoned buildings within the community. Bill and Kelly came up with a few houses. The property owners will have to agree to it.

Mr. Yapple had given the Trustees information about the upcoming paving in July and August for the City streets and alleys.

Mr. Yapple also had given the Trustees a proposal for the sign board from the sign company that built our sign. The cost is about \$3200.00. We are still working through this.

We received a thank you from the Fairfield County Board of Elections for the use of our facility. The general election will be November 6, 2012.

Mr. Yapple reported Joy Davis has been attending a meeting with Etna Township and the City of Pataskala regarding SR310 improvements at Interstate 70. ODOT is proposing to improve the bridge at 310 and 70 and there is thought of a 5 lane road when they do this. They are saying they don't have the funds to do it all and Etna Township would like to hire a consultant to find other means to fund this. Ms. Davis is asking us to put \$500 to \$1000 in as in the future this could be beneficial to this community.

Mr. Weltlich made a motion to recess the regular meeting and go into the Public Hearing for the budget at 8:00 pm. Seconded by Mr. Myers. Roll call vote: Mr. Weltlich, yes; Mr. Myers, yes; Mr. Dunlap, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

Mr. Dunlap made a motion to close the public hearing for the 2013 Tax Budget at 8:18 pm and return to the Regular Trustees meeting. Seconded by Mr. Weltlich. Roll call vote: Mr. Dunlap, yes; Mr. Weltlich, yes; Mr. Myers, yes. Motion carried 3-0.

The Trustees went back to discussion about SR310 Interstate 70. Mr. Yapple asked if the Trustees wanted to participate in a monetary way with no obligations of future funding. There was no interest expressed.

Mr. Yapple asked if the Trustees would be participating in the Violet Festival Parade. Mr. Weltlich said it would be appropriate if they were there.

Senator Balderson informed Mr. Myers to let him know how much he enjoyed the July 4th parade.

Mr. Myers had asked Mr. Yapple about 505 and actions in Chevington South. Mr. Yapple spoke to Ms. Sarko about this and our issues are that we just got the title search done today and the problem is that every once in a while the front yard gets mowed and about that same time comes a mowing crew from the bank and he pulls up because it is mowed (as you cannot see the back of the house from the front) then he leaves. The biggest problem is there are some real issues with the clear title on that property. This is

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why the bank has not foreclosed on it yet. We have to notify every lien holder that we are doing this and in this case there are several on this property. The title search people said it is one of the worst ones they have ever dealt with. Mr. Yapple added that every 505 action we do we have to do a title search because you have to notify every lien holder that is posted on the property. If we miss one it voids everything we do.

Mr. Yapple presented a resolution as the first step for the senior services levy. In two weeks we will do the second step for this process. **Mr. Weltlich made a motion to adopt Resolution 2012-0705-01 – Resolution Requesting the Auditor of Fairfield County, Ohio, to Certify to Violet Township, Fairfield County, Ohio, the Total Current Tax Valuation of the Subdivision and the Dollar Amount of Revenue to be Generated by a Replacement or Renewal Levy of Existing Senior Services. Discussion: Mr. Yapple explained that in two weeks we will do the resolution to establish which way we will go and how much it will bring in. Seconded by Mr. Dunlap. Roll call vote: Mr. Weltlich, yes; Mr. Dunlap, yes; Mr. Myers, yes. Resolution 2012-0705-01 passes 3-0. To reiterate Mr. Weltlich asked if in two weeks from now when we receive a response then we will evaluate whether we want a replacement or a renewal. The filing date is August 6, 2012. We will have everything passed at the next Trustee meeting.**

Mr. Yapple explained there is a possibility that the Columbus Foundation has some grant funds that we are applying for Busey Road Park project. **Mr. Weltlich made a motion to adopt Resolution 2012-0705-02 – Authorize Director of Operations to Submit Grant Paperwork. Seconded by Mr. Myers. Discussion: Mr. Myers asked how big of a grant it was. Mr. Yapple reported it was a total of about \$47,000.00 and if we get \$10,000.00 or \$15,000.00 to go along with our grant it would help. We think we will get funding from ODNR but won't know for 30 days. Roll call vote: Mr. Weltlich, yes; Mr. Weltlich, yes; Mr. Myers, yes; Mr. Dunlap, yes. Resolution 2012-0705-02 passes 3-0.**

Mr. Weltlich made a motion to adopt Resolution 2012-0705-04 – A Resolution Declaring the Property Owned by Creekside Community Church and the Greater Ohio District of the Wesleyan Church, known as 9720 Blacklick Eastern Road in Violet Township, Fairfield County, Ohio, a Nuisance. Seconded by Mr. Myers. Roll call vote: Mr. Weltlich, yes; Mr. Myers, yes; Mr. Dunlap, yes. Resolution 2012-0705-04 passes 3-0.

Mr. Weltlich made a motion to adopt Resolution 2012-0705-05 – Ordering the Destruction of Noxious Weeds on 6370 Blacklick Eastern Road. Seconded by Mr. Dunlap. Roll call vote: Mr. Weltlich, yes; Mr. Dunlap, yes; Mr. Myers, yes. Resolution 2012-0705-05 passes 3-0.

Fiscal Officer

Mr. Smith asked the Trustees to present a motion to accept the tax budget. **Mr. Weltlich made a motion to accept the Tax Budget as presented by the Fiscal Officer. Seconded by Mr. Myers. Roll call vote: Mr. Weltlich, yes; Mr. Myers, yes; Mr. Dunlap, yes. Motion B0707-2012 passes 3-0.**

Mr. Smith reported our audit has begun. So far they have been impressed with the controls and checks and balances we have in place. They expect to be on the premise for two or three weeks. This is a new team of auditors.

Mr. Smith reported our annual tax budget hearing for the budget we just approved will be on August 6, 2012 in the Commissioners Hearing Room at the County Courthouse at 3:00 pm. Mr. Smith and Mr. Yapple will be there as well as Mr. Myers.

Mr. Smith and Chief Eisel will be meeting with the County on July 18th to 1) get a handle on what our TIF situation is and 2) we have adopted the tax budget two weeks earlier than the ORC calls for. This Mr. Smith follows up to see if there are any concerns that we can speak to them prior to August 6. Mr. Smith explained when he and Chief Eisel go down there on the 18th they will talk to them about TIFS and find out exactly what our revenue status is and see if there are any red flags.

Mr. Smith reported that we have to figure out ways to increase revenues for the Road and Bridge Fund. We have several different options. We have done a good job in bring

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in revenues with the CEDA. Mr. Smith recommended putting a portion of the funds back so we can be ahead of our aging infrastructure.

Mr. Smith brought up getting together for a planning meeting on a quarterly basis with the Fiscal Officer and the Trustees. Mr. Weltlich recommended we not do it like we do in March but develop alternate, outside the box, revenue generating concepts. One of those being we need to learn to lobby our new State Senator and our existing representatives to permit us the leverage to funds that are presently able to be leveraged so that we can bond things so that we can then take the free cash and apply it to our roads and bridges.

Mr. Smith recommended we get some dates established with a concise agenda so discussions can begin.

Trustee Reports:

Mr. Dunlap reported that during the storms episodes over the weekend they found some people in Busey Road Park littering by throwing brush in a hole we had cleaned out. We put some temporary closures up to keep people out. We have notified the Sheriff's department and they will put in the papers that Busey Road Park is no longer a dump and it could be \$500 or more fine for littering.

Mr. Dunlap asked if Pickerington had gotten back to us regarding bidding their trash hauling. Mr. Yapple said they had not gotten back to us. Mr. Dunlap said that once we get numbers from Pickerington we might want to consider seeing if our residents are willing to consider going to a one-hauler trash company.

Mr. Myers met with the Cemetery Board and they asked him if we would consider chip and seal at the Violet Cemetery again this year. Mr. Butcher said we could include this as a motion and consider it with our 2012 paving program. **Mr. Weltlich made a motion to increase the road and bridge budget not to exceed \$15,000.00 for chip and seal for the Violet Cemetery. Seconded by Mr. Myers. Roll call vote: Mr. Weltlich, yes; Mr. Myers, yes; Mr. Dunlap, yes. Motion C-0705-2012 passes 3-0.**

Trustees out of Office Meetings:

There will be one Trustee at the County Fiscal Officers and Trustees Meeting in July. There will be one Trustee at the Tax Budget Hearing on August 6th.

Old Business:

None

Tabled Business:

None

New Business:

The next regularly scheduled meeting is Wednesday, July 18, 2012 at 7:30 pm.

Pay Bills:

Mr. Dunlap made a motion to pay the bills. Mr. Weltlich seconded the motion. Discussion: Mr. Weltlich asked about Across the Street Productions. Chief Eisel said this was blue card training. Roll call vote: Mr. Dunlap, yes; Mr. Weltlich, yes; Mr. Myers, yes. Motion passes 3-0.

Adjourn:

Mr. Dunlap made a motion adjourn the regular meeting. Mr. Myers seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Dunlap, yes; Mr. Myers, yes; Mr. Weltlich, yes. Motion passes 3-0. The meeting stands adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

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Respectfully Submitted,

Christopher H. Smith, Fiscal Officer

Joniann Goldberg, Administrative
Assistant

Approved by:

Terry J. Dunlap, Sr., Trustee

Harry W. Myers, Jr., Trustee

Gary P. Weltlich, Trustee

Date: _____