

Violet Township Board of Trustees

May 15, 2019

Regular Meeting

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

Mr. Sauer called the roll: Mr. Darrin Monhollen, Mrs. Melissa Wilde and Mr. Terry Dunlap, Sr. were present. Other Township Personnel present were: Director of Operations, John Eisel; Director of Development, Holly Mattei; Chief, Mike Little; Assistant Chief, Jim Paxton; Engineer, Greg Butcher and Josh Horacek, Law Director.

Mr. Monhollen asked the audience to join him in the pledge of allegiance followed by a moment of silence honoring those who have given us all our freedom here at home and abroad.

Mr. Dunlap made a motion to accept as submitted by the Fiscal Office without public reading, the minutes of 5-1-2019 Regular meeting without public reading as submitted by the Fiscal Office. Seconded by Mrs. Wilde. Roll call vote: Mr. Dunlap, yes; Mrs. Wilde, yes; Mr. Monhollen, yes; Motion carries 3-0.

Public Comment:

Bob Ligner of 9491 Circle Dr., Pickerington was present. He spoke about the increasing traffic problem in Mingo Estates. He had a picture he shared with the members. He said this has been a problem since Diley Road went in and the speed and the volume has gotten worse. He said last year Mr. Butcher contacted the Sheriff's Department and they came for about a week in the mornings and it goes on all day long. He would like to see something drastic done. Mr. Monhollen pointed out the picture reflects the 25 MPH speed limit and someone going through at 50 MPH.

Lou Ann Bepler-Todd of 6727 Busey Road, Pickerington was present with Gary Van Almsick of 431 Hereford Drive in Pickerington. Ms. Todd is a business owner and parent of a student athlete and parent of varsity coach. She was joined by Mr. Van Almsick and resident of Violet Township. They were there on behalf of the Pickerington Community Turf Project seeking an endorsement from the Trustees in support of their grassroots fundraising efforts to raise 2.25 million dollars to fund a turf, maintenance and equipment for the Tiger and Panther stadium. They have had to cancel events because of poor conditions and have had several injuries due to poor conditions.

Peggy Portier of 9841 Refugee Rd., Pickerington was present on behalf of Mingo Estates Civic Association. One of their residents was concerned about the 15' setback that is required if you want to put a shed in the backyard. She wanted to know if that can be changed. She wanted to bring this to the Trustees attention.

Cathy Jensen of 10010 Oxford Dr. Pickerington was present. She had notes for the record and had (3) issues. They were Wigwam, resident input and communications. She read her exhibit to the Trustees. Mr. Dunlap asked if she had any suggestions on how to communicate to the residents other than the newspaper, Pickerington Magazine or Website and Facebook. Ms. Jensen said she would suggest an email newsletter.

3 Issues: Wigwam - Resident Input - Communications

Many people in the community and on social media recognize what a treasure the Wigwam property is. Most people were surprised but also pleased to hear about the Wigwam purchase.

The Wolfe family/business sold it to us for a good price because they thought we would keep it more intact than if it were sold to a developer. In regard to the future use of the Wigwam, I'd like to suggest that we pause for a moment.....to step back and do some brainstorming.....on how to best maximize the Wigwam for the use of the residents, using the full property - intact, all 63 acres. Respectfully meant, please don't respond by simply saying that's not feasible". Please take sometime to seriously consider this possibility.

And I'd like suggest that it would be good to get resident input. I believe there are many residents who would love to give input and to work with the trustees on this issue.....because the Wigwam is so special to this community. It could be as simple as setting up an special email address or email inbox labeled 'Wigwam Community Input'.....or holding a town hall.

Most importantly, I'd like us to consider keeping the entire Wigwam property and if that's not possible, then please explain why it's not possible, prior to any other major renovation, expense, or prior to splitting up the property and putting it up for sale.

Communications with Residents - Thousands off residents, including me, were surprised to learn about the Community Center levy only a couple months before the election, and not sooner. Residents were also surprised to learn about a \$1 million dollar Wigwam renovation on top of the initial \$2.7 million dollar purchase. On such a large expense, residents want to be kept in the loop.

The Community Center tax levy garnered the attention of many residents, even in a low turnout, odd year May election. Because of the Community Center, many residents currently have a heightened sense of Violet Township awareness and even involvement, in some resident cases. Residents want more communications and although much of the info is available on the Township website, we're often too busy to stop and take the time to go online. I'd like to ask the trustees to consider new ways to communicate with the residents. I think the residents AND the trustees would benefit, with fewer surprises for both groups. Heck I could even afford \$1 more a month in my property taxes in order to get timely and regular communications about what is going on, especially BEFORE it goes on.

Norm Hopkins of 11300 Milnor Rd., Pickerington was present. Mr. Hopkins asked about the Community Center issue that was defeated and if Mr. Dunlap and Mr. Monhollen would support in the November election. He said he wanted to find out if this election was the most negative one since 1863. Mrs. Wilde wanted to clarify she will always be in support of a Community Center but she did not say putting it back on the ballot. Mr. Hopkins also talked about the rezoning for the Wigwam and asked about the park and a joint venture and Mr. Dunlap said it was in 'discussion' and they are just talking about the possibilities and what they can do for us. and what we can do for them and how we can share it and no cost to the Trustees. Mr. Dunlap also said in answer to whether Mr. Dunlap would support the Community Center again to read Nate Ellis' article. Mr. Hopkins is saying not to put this on the levy again at the same millage.

Dan Baird at 11783 Covington Court in Pickerington was present. Mr. Baird said Violet Township is a great place to live. He didn't think the Township was doing a great job in communication things to the residents. He was extremely annoyed and he did get a

phone call 6 days after the election that failed wanting to know if he wanted to meet and answer the 20 questions that they did not get to answer at the last meeting. He said no as it was too late. The worst thing was the limit of 5 minutes to talk 6 days before the election. He suggested hiring someone to work on public relations.

Tammy Miller of 8960 Hill Road south, Pickerington was present. She thanked the Road Department for the mowing they have done. She also referred to the resolution Mr. Butcher had on the agenda regarding the support of TRAC application for US33 Pickerington Road Interchange. She asked that the Trustees comment on why they support this resolution versus the Allen Road or the Carroll Northern Road location.

County Authorities

Josh Horecek our Law Director was present.

Departmental Reports:

Fire Chief: Mike Little

Chief Little reported Lt. Belleau has put together an Explorer recognition banquet on May 18 at 6pm. at station 2.

There is combined training this year at OFA with Truro and West Licking from May 22 – 24.

Chief Little will be on vacation starting Saturday through Tuesday May 28th.

As for the monthly report everything is pretty steady and close to last year. J.D., our Community Medic had 130 visits last month. We are ahead on runs and EMS receipts. We are about steady on patient transports.

The first resolution is to approve an annual maintenance agreement with Otis Elevator Co. for the elevator at Station 591. The monthly cost is \$300.00 with an annual payment of \$3,600.00. **Mr. Dunlap made a motion to adopt Resolution 2019-0515-01 – Approve Otis Elevator Maintenance Contract. Seconded by Mrs. Wilde. Roll call vote: Mr. Dunlap, yes; Mrs. Wilde, yes; Mr. Monhollen, yes. Resolution carries 3-0.**

The second resolution was to accept the resignation of Cody Howard with an effective date of May 1, 2019. **Mrs. Wilde made a motion to adopt Resolution 2019-0515-02 Resignation of Part-Time Level 1 Firefighter. Seconded by Mr. Dunlap. Roll call vote: Mrs. Wilde, yes; Mr. Dunlap, yes; Mr. Monhollen, yes. Resolution carries, 3-0.**

The last resolution was the resignation of Tim Smith with an effective date of May 5, 2019. **Mr. Dunlap made a motion to adopt with regrets Resolution 2019-0515-04 – Resignation of Part-Time Level 2 Firefighter.. Seconded by Mrs. Wilde. Roll call vote: Mr. Dunlap, yes; Mrs. Wilde, yes; Mr. Monhollen, yes. Resolution carries 3-0.**

Chief Little added he serves on the committee with Luann and Gary and hopes the Trustees will provide their endorsement for this.

Township Engineer, Greg Butcher

Mr. Butcher reported bids for the Township's Street Maintenance Project were opened May 7. The results of the bids are as follows: Decker Construction Co. \$804,475.90; The Shelly Co. \$807,976.25; Columbus Asphalt \$839,262.50. The engineer's estimate was \$806,850.00. Bids are being reviewed for responsiveness.

Salt delivery is finished for the 2018-19 contract. Mr. Butcher gave a 'shout out' to the City of Pickerington for taking a truckload of salt that we could not fit in our barn.

Mowing of road right of ways will continue. He pointed out that 17 of the last 22 days it has rained. A lot of our activity is outside and it has been severely impacted from a schedule standpoint. When it comes to drainage concerns, mowing of right of ways,

backfilling of curbs and mowing of parks and drainage concerns are the highest number he has seen is the worst he has ever seen. Some we can solve most we can't. The rain has really impacted us for the last 22 months.

Robust discussion continues relating to a potential reduction of the 5-year Maintenance Bond period defined within the Fairfield County Subdivision Regulations. The formal process of revising the subdivision regulations to consider this change has begun. He said Fairfield County is outside of what most counties are within the State of Ohio on the duration of a maintenance bond. There has been discussion and movement to formally revise that period and the formal process has just begun.

Wet weather continues to delay scheduled activities that involve mowing or any kind of dirt work.

Mr. Butcher explained that at least for 10 to 15 years ODOT has initiated safety discussions related to US33 and Pickerington Road. Violet Township or Fairfield County has not lobbied for changes to this corridor, however supports the Governor's safety initiatives. We participate as stakeholders but ultimately the State makes the decision on what they spend their money on. As discussed at the May 1, 2019 Board meeting, the future state gasoline tax increase will make available significant revenue compared to previous years. Part of the Governor's emphasis is on safety. The dollar amount is \$50 million dollars per year. As part of that effort the department has looked at safety projects throughout the state. Pickerington Road and US33 has resulted in the state being able to begin the advancement of projects that have been idle for several years. One of those projects is the US 33 and Pickerington Rd. interchange. ODOT will be initiating Preliminary Engineering consisting of a Feasibility Study and potential Alternatives Evaluation Report relating to a new interchange. No funding other than Preliminary Engineering has been approved. There is a resolution (2019-0515-06) for consideration by the Board of Trustees for Violet Township in support of a Transportation Review Advisory Council (TRAC) application submitted by ODOT District 5 for funding of right of way acquisition for the project. ODOT's preliminary project schedule indicates construction in 2024 if funding of the various phases can be secured. In response to Ms. Millers question the state is the sponsor and they won't tell us every detail. If we get questions they should refer questions to District 5 to Ty Thompson.

Mr. Eisel added some things that Mr. Butcher repeated for the audience. Fire and EMS serve the entire township which as Mr. Eisel indicated is south of 33 so it is critical to have access to 33 to the south. Conversations about closing intersections got our attention 8 years ago. Any future improvement would consider those details of scenarios because there has to be access across 33.

Mr. Baird asked if there was any future plan for an interchange at Toll Gate. Mr. Butcher said there was nothing in the forecast. Mr. Butcher stated when we speak about a conceptual 33 to 70 connector, we are generally speaking of the eastern portion of Violet Township and the western portion of Liberty Township. Unfortunately, up to the township line of Etna in Licking County, a lot of that vacant ground is Licking County. It is not in Violet. However, there is truck traffic on Allen Road, Saylor Road, Stemen Road, Pickerington Road going to Amazon or some other logistics facility. Whether it is workforce development, economic development, reduction or congestion on 33; these are all discussion items and bullet points for a possible conceptual corridor from 33 to 70 and then you could continue that to the north to New Albany and perhaps even to 71 and the Polaris area. On the south you could get to Rickenbacker. The portion within Violet would be 33 to 70 and would probably bleed over into east of our boundaries. Mr. Dunlap added that ODOT is focusing just on safety; focused on what to do with Pickerington Rd. and 33. There is a group with MORPC, Licking County, Fairfield County, and ODOT talking about that concept of a connector. The only place in the corridor that there is any connection at all stops is Pickerington Road and the other interchange would have to build a new road to the south. We are supporting this. Mr. Dunlap wants to see this open so that there is connection to the south so we can get to the residents that we serve in Lockville and Waterloo Eastern Road and some other areas through there.

Mrs. Miller said she had heard this was the start of the connector. Mr. Dunlap said no this was not ODOT's connection. He said at the meeting he attended they said if the safety got bad they would have to do something there if they got the money and if another group wanted to form a conceptual group to look at the possibility of an interchange serving the connector it would be someplace else. Mr. Butcher said 33 and Pickerington Road has been an identified safety issue long before any concept of a northern connection to Interstate 70. There have been fatalities at that intersection and multiple severe injury crashes and the state has talked about possibly closing the intersection. While there is discussion, reporting and meetings about other future potential projects; the Pickerington Road US 33 interchange is specific to a safety concern and that is the pot of money that is being used to start the engineering.

Mr. Butcher mentioned the 'why' and the 'when' for this resolution. He said when the state met with us last week and asked for this support; they have until the end of May to submit their application. We don't have a meeting until the first Wednesday in June. That is why the resolution is on the agenda tonight. For the interest and support of the community **Mr. Dunlap will support and made a motion to adopt Resolution 2019-0515-06 – Support of TRAC Application for the US33 Pickerington Road Interchange. Seconded by Mrs. Wilde. Roll call vote: Mr. Dunlap, yes; Mrs. Wilde, yes; Mr. Monhollen, yes. Resolution carries 3-0.**

Mr. Dunlap mentioned to the audience that Friday, May 20th is the day we move our Administrative offices to the Wigwam.

Director of Operations – John Eisel

Wigwam Update:

- Site work for the courtyard continues
- We received the quotes for the front and the Taylor Road exit gates
- Lighting in the Trustee meeting room is completed
- The mounts have been ordered
- Door handles have been replaced to meet standards
- Final punch list items from FD and Building Departments has been completed
- FD and Building Departments conducted a final walk through on May 10
- Alarm panel was installed in the main entrance lobby
- Motion sensors have been installed in the office area
- Quotes for signs around the complex are being received and reviewed
- Office move is planned for May 17

John and Holly have met and toured the old building with the appraiser and we are awaiting the results.

Resolution 03 – House Bill 500 allowed for the threshold for spending to be raised to \$10,000.

The second resolution in regards to receiving a proposed amendment for Case No. 02-ZC-2019 and to establish a public hearing date at the first meeting in July for a property located at 10190 Blacklick Eastern Road.

Consideration of moving the July is the 3rd so maybe move to Tuesday July 2nd.

Mrs. Wilde made a motion to adopt Resolution 2019-0515-03 – to Establish Spending Authority up to \$10,000 for the Director of Operations, Engineer and Fire Chief. Seconded by Mr. Dunlap. Discussion: Mr. Butcher said what this does do is allow department heads to operate more efficiently and not wait until the next Trustee meeting to pass a resolution for the expenditure. **Roll call vote: Mrs. Wilde, yes; Mr. Dunlap, yes; Mr. Monhollen, yes. Resolution carries 3-0.**

Resolution 05 is to receive proposed amendment for Case No. 02-ZC-2019 and to establish a public hearing date of June 5, 2019. **Mr. Dunlap made a motion to adopt**

Resolution 2019-0515-05 – To Receive Proposed Amendment (Case No, 02-ZC-2019) to the Violet Township Zoning Resolution to Establish Public Hearing Date of June 5, 2019 (which will be held at the new Administrative offices located at 10190 Blacklick Eastern Road at 8:00 p.m. Seconded by Mrs. Wilde. Roll call vote: Mr. Dunlap, yes; Mrs. Wilde, yes; Mr. Monhollen, yes. Resolution carries 3-0.

John and Holly attended the Ohio Economic Development Association 360 event which is their annual meeting and Lt. Governor Jon Husted was the guest speaker. There are a lot of good things on the horizon for the State.

Fiscal Officer – Brian Sauer:

Mr. Sauer reported he had no report.

Mr. Dunlap made a motion to endorse the Turf Committee's efforts to raise the funds for turf for Pickerington North and Pickerington Central for the ball fields as this is a safety issue. Mrs. Wilde seconded the motion. Mr. Monhollen abstained from the vote as he is part of the committee. Motion 2019-0515-A to Support the Effort to Raise Funds for turf at the two local stadiums. Roll call vote: Mrs. Dunlap, yes; Mrs. Wilde, yes; Mr. Monhollen, abstained. Resolution carries 2-0 with 1 abstention.

Mr. Dunlap moved that Violet Township take the position in regards to Fairfield County Regional Planning that we support and want them to continue the 5 year maintenance for the subdivisions in all projects and developments. Mr. Dunlap said the developer wanted to make it 2 years. Mrs. Wilde seconded the motion.

Discussion: Mrs. Mattei wanted to clarify that it is maintenance of defects to the products; it is not routine road maintenance. Mr. Dunlap asked what the maintenance period on the roads was. Mrs. Mattei said defects to the product is currently 5 years. Mr. Dunlap said that is where he wants to keep it. Mr. Monhollen asked Mr. Butcher to explain the different things they are doing better now in regards to these defects not showing up. He said there are some different standards now that are moving other communities to mostly 1 and 2 years.

Mr. Butcher said since the 5 year maintenance bond was enacted in the early 2000's: 1) pavement design has changed and in effect the pavement section has thickened 2) we have better inspection with respect to erosion control practices which is mandated through our NPDES designation. It is a federal government EPA rule. We have taken the inspection in-house to the county level from contracting it with firm or firms which has reflected in better quality, better quality control and quality assurance. He said the norm appears to be something less than 2 years. Based on the discussions leading up to this formal process that is about to start, a 1 year or 2 year maintenance bond period is a non starter and is never going to happen. 3 years and up is where it is likely going to land. This planning commission is a cross section of the entire county. If we do not have that ability to do that then there will be cases of products that are failing and not fixed and are not going to be back on to the Township's back to fix in the future. Mrs. Mattei said the five year maintenance bond is something to protect the public good of the community. We did this back in 2002 for those reasons and she does not understand why developers cannot get 5 year bonds now. Her recommendation at the stakeholder meeting was if we do anything other than 5 years she could not support less than 3 years..

Mr. Monhollen asked Regional Planning to quantify how many times that there was any type of maintenance that needed to be done outside a 5 year period, outside a 4 year period, and a 3 year period. His initial feeling was we needed at least 3 years and he thought we had a better warranty that way. There are better standards in place and we have some good quality developers that are also very conscientious so in regards to a developer like the Donley family this is an opportunity for them, prior to the end of the 5 year period to be able to take some of that and invest in the back of their community. He also clarified that right outside the 5 year period he had something fail at his house and they had to dig down in several areas of his house. Mr. Dunlap said his point is there is a lot of land to the west and the south still in Violet Township. Yes the standards have

been increased. He thinks we need to take a position to say we want the 5-year and we can always change that and they can show us the information that has been asked for to quantify that stuff. The county is the one that ends up accepting all the roads and the first thing they do is turn them over to the townships.

Mrs. Mattei commented there are times under the 5 year maintenance period where we granted what is called "Conditional Acceptance" which is where the county accepts the road and turns it over to the township and starts the 5 year maintenance period. We granted Conditional Acceptance sometimes not having all the i's dotted and t's crossed by the developer because we knew we had that 5 year maintenance period to work with them. So it helps expedite that development process for the developer. If we would go anything less than 5 years we would have to make sure that the county inspectors are dotting all i's and crossing all t's and that everything is in place before its turned over to the township.

Mr. Dunlap said we still need to have that guarantee that we are protected so we have something to cover ourselves.

Mr. Butcher said Holly hit the nail on the head when she identified a lack of public good in changing the maintenance bond period and we have asked in several different ways in two different meetings some very pointed questions on the topic. In a different context he has a 100,000 warranty on and his car and the manufacturer is changing that to 60,000 miles because they want to. To him that is a problem. Anything that we can do professionally within Violet Township and within our subdivisions, we need seats at the table and they have offered that and there will be multiple formal process involvement before it gets to the planning commission. Mrs. Mattei also pointed out that the July 2nd RPC meeting they are going to vote on this subject and if we change our township meeting to July 2nd that means there are some Trustee's that sit on Regional Planning that would not be there to vote.

Mr. Butcher asked our Law Director if the County Commissioners can overturn a Regional Planning decision. Mr. Horacek said they can enact whatever they want. It is not binding until it is enacted so when it comes before the County Commissioners and they can strike what they don't like, add things etc. Mrs. Mattei said she still feels it is important that if our Trustees have an opinion on it that they are voicing it at the Regional Planning Commission. **Motion 2019-0515-B – Support Continuance of the 5 year Maintenance Bond of subdivisions or defects of roads by developers. Roll call vote: Mr. Dunlap, yes; Mrs. Wilde, yes; Mr. Monhollen, no. Motion carries 2-1.**

Trustee Reports:

Meetings where there may be more than one (1) Trustee present:

Lt. Dave Belcher's Open House is May 3 at 1pm at Station 592 and his retirement party is at the Wigwam on May 11 at 6:00 p.m.

Tyler's Light 5k is Saturday May 14 at Toll Gate. Toll Gate Road will be closed to traffic from 9:45 until 11:00 a.m.

Meetings where they may be more than 1 Trustee: Mr. Eisel said there may be more than 1 Trustee between the old office and the Wigwam as far as the move. We will do a press release.

Old Business:

Tabled Business: None

New Business:

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Violet Township Board of Trustees will be on Wednesday, May 15, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. at the new Violet Township Administrative offices located at 10190 Blacklick Eastern Road.

Pay Bills:

Mr. Dunlap made a motion to pay the bills. Mrs. Wilde seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Dunlap, yes; Mrs. Wilde, yes; Mr. Monhollen; yes. Motion carries 3-0.

Mr. Dunlap made a motion to take a 5 minute recess at 9:17 p.m. and then go into Executive Session per the Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22(G)(2) – to consider the sale of property at the competitive bidding, or the sale of unneeded property in accordance with *section* 505.10 of the Revised Code, if premature disclosure of information would give an unfair competitive or bargaining advantage to a person whose personal, private interest is adverse to the general public interest. To include the 3 Trustees, Mr. Eisel, Mrs. Mattei, Mr. Horacek. Seconded by Mr. Monhollen. Roll call vote: Mr. Dunlap, yes; Mr. Monhollen, yes; Mrs. Wilde, yes. Motion carries 3-0.

Mr. Dunlap made a motion to come out of the Executive Session at 9:28 p.m. Seconded by Mrs. Wilde. Roll call vote: Mr. Dunlap, yes; Mrs. Wilde, yes; Mr. Monhollen, yes. Motion carries.

Mrs. Wilde made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:29 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Dunlap. Roll call vote: Mrs. Wilde, yes; Mr. Dunlap, yes; Mr. Monhollen, yes. Motion carries 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Sauer, Fiscal Officer

Joniann Goldberg,
Administrative Assistant

Approved by:

Terry J. Dunlap, Sr., Trustee

Darrin Monhollen, Trustee

Melissa Wilde., Trustee

Date: _____