

the regular session of the Washington Township Trustees

at the Township Hall, Lewistown, Monday, September 9, 2019 at 6:30 PM

The Washington Township Trustees met in regular session on Monday, September 9, 2019 at 6:30 PM at the Washington Township Park with Trustees Tucker Berg, Faulder, and Lewis present. Also present were: Fiscal Officer, Miller, Zoning Inspector Gary Bias, Road Supervisor John Newland and Police Chief Rick Core. Others in attendance: Connie Cathcart, Melissa Miller, Carlotta & Butch Jones, Pam Rogers, Sharon DeVault, Janet Timmons, Mike Blass, Dave Rogers, and Butch & Cheryl Dilbone.

**Waive the Reading of the Minutes** - Trustee Lewis made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 12, 2019 regular and accept them as written. Trustee Berg seconded the motion – all answered “Aye” motion passed 3-0.

**Financial Obligations** - Fiscal Officer Lisa Miller presented financial obligations to the trustees. Trustee Berg made a motion to pay all financial obligations as presented. Trustee Lewis seconded the motion – all answered “Aye” motion passed 3-0.

**Financial Reports** - The Fiscal Officer also presented the Trustees for the period of 8/1/2019 – 8/31/2019 a Fund Status Report, Receipt Register, Appropriation Status, Revenue Status, Payment Register, and Bank Reconciliation for their review and signatures. Trustee Lewis made a motion to approve the financial reports. Trustee Berg seconded the motion – all answered “Aye” motion passed 3-0.

### **Public Comments or Concerns**

- **Melissa Miller:** You are a property owner it is your responsibility; house at Five Parks - they knew it flooded when they bought it. Connie asked for nine years for help and hasn't gotten any. Trustee Faulder: We are required to take care of drainage on township property. If it's our responsibility, we should take care of it. If not, the owner is responsible to take care of the problem themselves. Melissa: I took care of my property. And you told them they had to take care of it. John: The issue I have with it is. From Indian Dr up there is no drainage on either side of the road. Melissa: There is a culvert. John: From Indian up there is no drainage on either side. At top of the hill there is drainage and it drains out but not to the red barn. Melissa: Clay drain tile that is busted. Mine and Connie's is busted. Trustee Lewis: There is nothing there - there never was. If we put it in and it busts then it's the owner's responsibility. We'll have to do this in phases so this will partially help her. John: You have to get it from there down to the base in front of the red barn.
- **Connie Cathcart:** 7159 Allen Drive - I brought the same issue to the township before. At the time, there were other properties there that are no longer there. New buildings were built on higher ground and now that water flows down into our sheds / garage. We tried to put in a driveway to try and divert the water but it's not working. I'm just saying there is a problem. Kidders are far worse than anyone else on our street as they have water flowing thru their house all the time. Melissa: Yes, but they knew it. They knew it years ahead of ever purchasing it. Connie: they were fixing tiles on 366 three to four years ago and down in the field. We have more water than we've ever had. It's far worse. I'm not sure what all has transpired. I just know every time someone moves in - they bring in dirt and build it up. We need something done. Trustee Faulder: I looked this up in ORC (Ohio Revised Code) this past week. It's our responsibility to put it in but if it breaks it's the owners responsibility. Melissa: My problem is it's who you know. Instead of taking care of Connie who has been complaining about this for years and then spending \$3,000+ for someone who purchased a house knowing it floods. Why does Kidders get special treatment over Connie? Discussion amongst multiple residents talking at the same time regarding where catch basins are located. John: We have to remember when we put catch basins in you have to keep in mind they are not capable of taking care of the amount of water when you have the flooding we had this year. There is nowhere for the water to go. Connie: I will pay for whatever I need to pay for. John: My original thought was get this in and if we need more on the other side of the road - run it 20-30' across and do the other side. If we go the other way, we are talking a lot more money. Trustee Faulder: I believe whole-heartedly that if it's our responsibility, we need to take care of it. I wasn't here then and I can't do anything about that. Trustee Berg: Like Don said, let's get this done now and then continue making improvements. John: I can't put that long of one in, I won't do it. It goes from the Red Barn west. Connie: If they just put one down at the corner that should help a lot. John: The guy that I had look at it, put them all in. Pam: There is only sewer in the middle of Indian Dr. John: I'm talking about the drain - it's not in the center of the road, it's in the ditch. Connie: Maybe a study should be done. Is it cost effective to wait and see. Trustee Faulder: It's either we do nothing and you deal with the problem but there is nothing there at all so our intent was to help improve the problem. If we can tie into a catch basin that would be great! Connie: What about from Midway to Allen? John: Not large enough to handle the water. Connie: Why doesn't the property owners take care of it? Trustee Faulder: If there is nothing there it's our responsibility to put it in. If the tiles break, it's the owners responsibility. All Trustees: Although it would be nice to do it all at once, we are going to do this in phases. The decision stands from the August 12, 2019 meeting to do Indian & Allen as proposed by Road Supervisor, John Newland, per the accepted quote from Hurley's Excavating at a cost of \$3080.00. Trustee Berg: John, can you get a quote to take it across and going up? John: Yes, I can.
- **Butch/Carlotta** - We just wanted to give this donation from the golf cart parade for Bruno's vest.
- **Janet Timmons** - I have a question about raccoons. Neighbor feeds feral cats and feral coons. He picks them up and pets them. Are there any laws around this? The officer that has Bruno came out a week or so ago. He shot them and they disposed of them. I caught one that same night. There are a mass amount of coons at this house in Waterbury at Linden/Maple. She literally goes out right before dark puts it in the feeder attached to a step so they don't have to come in. We all know how destructive they are. Trustee Faulder: I would encourage live trap and relocate. Trustee Berg: There is not much legal action to take.
- **Mike Blass** - Do you have the authority to create a policy against feral cats and feral animals. Chief Core: Twp can submit it > prosecutor > adopt > or not-adopt. He's looking for courts backing us. Mike: 3-4 houses past 3-4 years where raccoons have gotten into the sulfate and done a lot of damage. You have the issue of rabies, these raccoons are being tamed. Chief Core: I know their dog suffered a fatal illness due to their dog drinking from a contaminated water bowl. Trustee Berg: I think that would be good as it sounds like it's an issue. Cheryl: In this case, would you be willing to go to this lady's house and talk to her. Chief Core: Absolutely, give me the address after the meeting.

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### **Fiscal Officer Report, Lisa Miller**

- **Mail Received:** ILDC Day Invite – Friday, September 13, 2019 @ 11:30 at IL State Park
- **Financial Report:**
  - Funds:** Fund Summary Balance is \$1,219,779.01 with \$748,996.40 (61.54%) of that in special funds for roads (MV License Tax, Gas Tax, and Road and Bridge). **Revenue:** Received Semi-Annual Apportionment of Tax Distribution in the amount of \$166,791 less charges of \$26,520.62 for the Auditor's Tax Collection Fees. Police Department received \$472.14 for Bruno and Zoning Fees deposited were \$979. Also received \$17,264.32 for Rollback Property Taxes and Manufacturing Home Reimbursements from the State of Ohio. **Expenditures:** in August our expenditures were \$169,551.93 and ending Fund Balance as of 8/31/19 was \$1,217,018.97.
- **Hensley's** – At the August meeting I brought to the Trustees attention the fact that Hensley's had overbilled us \$3,179.55 on the chip/seal work they did so I couldn't pay it. Greta did send me a revised invoice minus the additional unapproved work at Franklin/Hardin, however, she used \$2,334.95 originally quoted for Mingo Way to pay for most of the additional, unapproved work only the difference of \$844.60 that Hensley's had overbilled was not paid by Washington Township. This most likely will come up in an audit where the Road Supervisor and Trustees may be answering questions should the auditors have any about this project.
- **Bobcat MultiWorks** - Steve Moody dropped off a bill to me for work done at College and Shelby (\$1,205). I have nothing to pay it with as no approval at a public meeting for the work to be done and no PO requested. In fact, Steve advised me it was not Washington Township's responsibility; it was Russell's Point Water & Soil. They came out and did a repair on a valve assembly but did it wrong which caused the issue. Steve called Russell's Point Water and Soil to advise them they needed to pay for having it fixed since they broke it, but Washington Township told him to go ahead and fix it so he billed us. For future reference – without proper approval at a public meeting where Trustees are presented with the scope of the work needing done and a purchase order# is requested from the Fiscal Officer, no authorization should come from any elected official or dept. head for work to be completed. This was not Washington Township's emergency to repair, it solely belonged to Russell's Point Water & Soil who I do feel would pay for it since per Steve they did call back to ask the state of the issue. Trustee Faulder: We shouldn't pay it or have done the work. John, can you contact RP Water & Soil and ask that they take care of this invoice? John: Yes, I'll give them a call. **IMPORTANT:** Purchase Orders must be given to a vendor prior to the purchase being made. If you don't see a purchase order in the Purchase Order Listing that I gave each Dept. Head tonight (and there is one in my desk drawer) or you see a PO for the vendor but it isn't enough for the purchase you need to make, please call me first so that I can confirm funds are available and create a PO for you before you make a purchase.
- **Special Meeting** – on Monday, September 16, 2019 at 3:00 PM to discuss needs of road dept. and open bids for roads in need of repair.
- **Request Change to October Regular Meeting Date** – If at all possible can we change the October meeting date to Monday, October 7, 2019 at 6:30 PM instead of October 14<sup>th</sup>? I would need all payroll turned in by October 4<sup>th</sup>.
- **Bruno** – I updated Washington Township's Website with a page for Bruno - click on K9 and it takes you there. There is also a link on the front of the page with a picture of Bruno, click on Bruno and it takes you to his page.

### **Police Department – Chief Rick Core**

- **CFS** - 278 CFS in August; nothing stands out as being different than in other months.
- **New Baby** - Most important announcement is Lieutenant Thompson and Taylor had a baby girl - they have two other little ones and Paisley apparently doesn't sleep.
- **School is Back in Session** - Doing traffic control to help people get back in mode of school business. We give a lot of warnings and want people to slow down.
- **Public News** – You may have read in the paper - we had an officer involved in altercation with a person from Springfield. It is always our intention to ask for reimbursement for damaged equipment. That comes out of my budget so I am motivated to get that money back in my budget. Person causing the damage pays for it. Melissa: A passerby helped him, right? Chief: He had him under control and on the ground so that person stopped and helped with that. I've already thanked him.
- **Vape Warning** - Everyone is aware of e-cigarettes and vape devices. I'm no expert on the topic. We've had two different calls from teenagers vaping (don't think they know what they are vaping) and she had to be hospitalized. So, if you have anyone from your family with concerns- everyone thinks it's safe, but it's not. I've been doing research. There is two deaths as the result of teenagers who were vaping. It's a trend and there will have to be intervention. State doesn't even know if it's illegal or not to possess one. Laws in books haven't caught up to what we deal with every day. They are not in line with the crimes taking place. A lot of work needs to be done on the legislature side of it. Pam: Dr's promote the vaping to quit smoking. Chief: Just so everyone know it's going to be an epidemic amongst teens.

### **Zoning – Gary Bias, Zoning Inspector**

- Handled 75 calls last month; issued two (2) zoning permits
- ZAB meeting for house on Foster St
- Don & I met recently regarding nuisance properties. If no budget - then we can't do it. Trustee Faulder: It has to go through the General Fund, which is extremely tight. Gary: It doesn't give us a lot of teeth. I'll still meet with prosecutor to make them responsible. Cheryl: I thought that was the purpose of the land bank? Trustee Faulder: Judge Beck doesn't let us prosecute people with nuisance properties. Chief Core: 20 people in the room and Judge said "not a criminal case - it's a civil issue".
- Mike: what needs to happen is to entertain some changes in ORC. Trustee Faulder: Laws are there now but no one backs them...courts, health dept..so hard pressed to get even one property per year torn down. Mike: if I could get my hands on the right properties I would buy them and build something nice on them. City of Lima have 1200 tax delinquent 18 million dollars. It's not an insignificant problem. All local governments are strapped for cash. In reality we could stop paying taxes .

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**Zoning – Gary Bias, Zoning Inspector – Cont’d:**

Mike (cont’d): You have Township Trustees, County Commissioners. Chief Core: It took four years to get Janice Rogers place down. Mike: I will tell you that there is a mechanism where a private citizen can file a civil suit - as private individuals we can file suits that townships/villages can't. Trustee Faulder: When our municipal court used to hold people accountable for nuisance properties, it was pretty good and we were pro-active b/c we had the courts backing us. Trustees: Gary, let's table this for now.

**Road Department – John Newland, Road Superintendent**

- Two more roads to mow and I'll be done; probably won't need to do it again
- Once more at the park – I got a different spray today, used it on the back field
- I know Jason was here when I turned in the application for Jeff. Well, I had him fill out another one. You guys can talk to him. I'm thinking just as a call in. Trustee Faulder: What about Rick? John: I believe he will come in the fall. I look at Jeff as a backup. He's done everything that we do. Trustee Faulder: This would be seasonal 500 hours or less at \$12.00/hour and he's ok with that? John: Yes
- Trustee Faulder - Winter is coming, how is the equipment? Do we need a salt bin? John: I don't think so. It was going to be a lot of money to haul the salt in.
- Brush chopper – quotes
  - Advantage Equipment - \$15,908 could use to chop the brush and push back on it to mow steep banks. Will chop up to a 4" diameter limb. Trustee Berg: We're getting to the point where we're going to have to do something, right? John: Got tagged on that today, why someone is driving a box truck down a one-way road is beyond me. I'll take the bucket truck and cut it. This is a 3-point hitch with a boom on the back. This one has a double purpose - mowing and brushing. Table for special meeting on 9/16/19.

**LUC Board – Trustee Lewis**

- Minutes are here
- Questions from Brad regarding autonomous cars, etc.. They want to extend the wi-fi all the way to Anna and if they lose satellite, they need the WiFi.

**EMS Board – Trustee Berg**

- 27th have the new wheels there ready to go
- Sept 7th open house for employees only
- Oct. 12<sup>th</sup> it is open for the public (will bring to the Oct 7th meeting)

**Fire Board – Trustee Faulder**

- No runs in August
- Two boat rescues
- Grain bin rescue training
- Jim Reed stepping down from the at-large seat (doesn't have a date but by end of year)

**Old Business – Trustees**

- Slow down on the roofing – door was part of it and no good weather as well.

**New Business – Trustees**

- Trustee Faulder: Do one of you gentleman want to meet with me and this gentleman? Trustee Lewis agreed to meet.

With no further business to come before the group, Trustee Berg made a motion to adjourn at 8:04 PM. Trustee Lewis seconded. All answered “Aye”. Motion carried 3-0. The next regular board meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 7, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. at the township hall.

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Lisa A. Miller, Fiscal Officer

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Jason Faulder, Chairman

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Tucker Berg, Vice Chairman

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Don Lewis, Member