

the regular session of the Washington Township Trustees

at the Township Hall, Lewistown, Monday, October 9, 2023 at 6:30 PM

The Washington Township Trustees met in regular session on Monday, October 9, 2023 at 6:30 PM at the Washington Township Hall.

The meeting was opened by Trustee Berg with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag and Fiscal Officer Miller read roll call. Present were: Trustee Berg, Trustee Lewis, Trustee Faulder, Chief Thompson, Gary Bias, John Newland, and Lisa Miller.

**Financial Obligations** - Fiscal Officer Miller presented financial obligations to the trustees. Trustee Lewis made a motion to pay all financial obligations. Trustee Faulder seconded the motion and all answered "Aye" – motion passed 3-0.

**Financial Reports** - Fiscal Officer Miller presented to the Trustees for the period of 9/1/2023 – 9/30/2023 a Bank Reconciliation, Fund Status Report, Fund Summary Report, Receipt Register, Revenue Status, Appropriation Status and Payment Register for their review, approval and signatures. Trustee Faulder made a motion to approve the financial reports and Trustee Lewis seconded the motion. All answered Aye – motion passed 3-0.

#### **Fiscal Officer Business – Lisa Miller**

**Financial Report - Starting fund balance on September 1, 2023 was \$2,120,574.30** Total revenue deposited in September, 2023 was \$22,468.61. The year to date revenue received is \$1,204,393.13. Our monthly expenses in September were \$267,424.09 and our year to date expenditures are \$807,319.80. Leaving a **month ending balance on September 30, 2023 of \$1,875,618.82**

**Logan County Auditor** – Dropped of the Resolution accepting the amounts & rates for property taxes in 2024 to Jack on 9/26/23. Also, gave him signed copies of the 2023 property tax settlement sheets and a letter certifying all lighting districts will spend 100% of monies collected for the lighting.

#### **Police Department – Chief Michael Thompson**

- 389 calls for service in September. Drug Seizures – This past month we've had three large Methamphetamine seizures. Great job to Sgt. Wisener on these seizures!
- OCJS Grant – Applied for this grant for the purchase of a new cruiser. It is currently at the Executive Director for review and hopefully acceptance. No timeline on when we will hear on acceptance.
- OPERS – Tom Watson request. See attached. I highly recommend we do this for him as it will be at no cost to the township as he's agreed to pay all costs. D.A.R.E. Training – SRO Miller completed the training. Will teach 4<sup>th</sup> grade IL students in the spring.
- Vehicle Sale – 2004 Chevrolet Colorado, 2003 Hyundai Santa Fe, 2003 Buick Regal, 2002 Chevrolet Silverado, 2001 Dodge Durango, 1999 Honda Accord, 2007 GMC 7500 and backhoe bucket. October 13-23. Sent Lisa an email asking her to run the ad in the per.
- K9 Program – Have letters drafted to businesses asking for donations for the purchase of our next K9.
- Donation – received a \$500 donation in the mail. Would like Lisa to put it aside for our K9 fund.
- Body Armor – Received. Sent Lisa the paperwork to fill out for reimbursement.
- Firearms Training – November 11<sup>th</sup> at 1100. Will post on Facebook before we start as well.

#### **PD Requests**

- Cruisers – in need of two cruisers. Current cruisers have become money pits with repairs and miles and idle hours are extremely high. Would be ideal if we purchased one now and then got awarded grant monies to purchase a second. Meeting with Lisa on Wednesday.

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

- Been cutting brush around signs.
- 1 Burial
- 2 Headstone footers
- Upper building painted – backs still need done and front tops will finish this week.
- Put big mower in storage
- Area that signs are kept in organized and cleaned up so we know what we have.
- Started cleaning and organizing the upper shop
- Put chopper on the tractor and will start out on south end cutting all the brush along roads.
- Had 2 cruiser repairs
- 550 blew a main hydraulic line on the cylinder lift. Beginning to be very costly. John will get a quote on a Dodge from State Bid.

Trustee Berg asked: In the meantime, will you replace hoses? – John: Yes, we will need to use it.

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### Zoning – Gary Bias, Zoning Inspector

- I handled approximately 100 calls last month.
- Issued (2) zoning permits for:
  - Covered deck permit # 1616 for house at 9086 Sycamore St
  - Breezeway & garage permit # 1621 at 9099 Sycamore St
  - Accessory building permit #1622 at TR 247
  - New pole barn/house permit #1618 at 3903 TR 215
  - New covered deck permit #1619 at 8990 Court St.
- The Zoning Commission Board met on September 25 at 6:00 in a special/public meeting to review the zoning text amendment to add “ Service Business” as a **conditional use** for the M-2 District for the parcel on World Class Drive. I have forwarded their decision to the Aaron Smith at the LUC to review in their LUC executive session on October 12, 2023. The LUC will send their recommendation back to ZCB, who are planning on meeting on October 23, 2023. They will discuss & decide on what recommendation they will send to the trustees for their regular township meeting on November 13, 2023. The trustees will need to run a public notice concerning this vote at least 10 days before that meeting.
- I drove by the Francis parcel yesterday to check the cleanup status. Motorhome & a camper are now in the back yard. May want to have the police department check if the tags are current and if they are disabled. There are still piles of debris that need removed and a few tarps are still there and I’m not sure what they are covering. I haven’t heard from her in weeks but need to check the court to see if they gave her an extension.
- I’ve had some of the parcel owners that turned in the LC Land Bank voluntary demolition forms ask me when the Land Bank expects to have funding. They do not expect funding for these demolitions until fall of 2024.
  - The one 7625 Mound Ave in Moundwood was signed and turned in to the Land Bank
  - The one 7412 West St. behind Woodys was signed and turned in to the Land Bank
  - The one 7621 SR 366 was signed and turned in to the Land Bank
- I emailed Lisa and John the estimate for the work we have done to date to prepare for demolition of the Anita Park parcel on SR 366. We will put the demolition of these structures on hold until we hear back from the Land Bank. Which will not be until the fall of 2024. I think Lisa can get all these charges off that estimate. But she will need to verify John & Jeff Hours to date so she can add them to their taxes.
- I issued courtesy violation letters as shown below and asked them to contact me by October 9, 2023, on how they plan to resolve these issues. Here’s some responses for those warning letters.
  - Owner called about Motorhome being used without a permit at 8840 Maple. It just be stored there while they work on it. It was sold last week.
  - Construction work being done without a permit at 1798 CR 24, no response from Amish.
  - Nuisance for the disabled tractor on Maple St, will be hauled away this week.
  - Nuisance for the yard at 8946 Maple St. was mowed.
  - Nuisance for the yard and camper without a permit at 2639 TR 247. Camper removed & yard cleaned up.
  - Nuisance for the back yard at 8968 Maple St.
- I have written 4 courtesy warnings for the police department that were complaints from residents on disabled or junk vehicles and copied the trustee on them.
  - 1st one is Clavon & Chris Mees located at 2983 SR 235. They have cleaned up some but not enough.
  - 2nd one is Dan B. Frail located at 8951 Maple St. Can the police department have a boat towed & impound it?
  - 3rd one is M.E. LLC, has a red barn on it located at the corner of Williams St. & CR 54 in Lewistown,
  - 4th is Stephanie Gammel’s lots located on Williams St. in Five Parks, have not hear back the results of these 2 courtesy warnings.
- Sent a courtesy warning to these owners and have followed up with certified warning letters for those shown below.
  - 8951 Auditorium – Distelhort, cleaned up front & rest needs cleaned.
  - 8989 Walnut – Szerscen debris all over, some areas were mowed. **Didn’t issue this one as it has no forwarded mail address.**
  - 8223 Midway – Rogers, called me but still has cleaned up parcel.
  - 8897 College has a junk camper & debris but have not received a response yet.
- Sent a courtesy warning to these owners this week and they have until Oct. 20 to respond:
  - 7703 TR 207 construction without a permit or Agricultural Declaration
  - 7823 Maple -Huhn vacant lot need cleaned up.
- I have been processing a few Declarations of Use for Agricultural Purpose forms that I will keep on file.
- My plan is to move all the zoning records out of my office into the area in the storage barn next door in the up-coming weeks. I have set up one set of shelves and hope to get another set up by the time I’m finished.
- I have not had a chance to try the drop box on our website that Lisa set up but hope too soon.

Follow up to Curtis Martin parcel in regards to Brownfields – Brianne said it can not be used to acquire property. Only option would be to go after the delinquency for the back taxes. The process would be to do a title examination and designate it a nuisance property. After that the county could foreclose on it and go thru the sheriff sale after 2 of those, then they could use their fund to pay the back taxes. At that point we could push it on to the voluntary demo. Procedure would be to report it, take a picture, send a courtesy letter, then the trustees would declare it a nuisance, send a certified letter then it can go to court. This one is messed up because there are 3 owners. The auditor can not collect taxes? Anything over \$ 5000.00 gets priority and it is short. Kim Woods made contact with the auditor on July 20 which restarted the 30 day clock, so Oct 20 could go back to delinquent status. Owner said working on selling it.

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**Zoning – Gary Bias Zoning Inspector (Cont).**

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**LUC Board – Trustee Berg**

Nothing

**EMS Board – Trustee Lewis**

- CD \$ 1,579,213.00 checking \$ 49,634.00
- 149 runs
- Received a grant for \$ 174,742.00 for a power cot, 3 monitors, and helmets and googles.
- Justin Taylor went from full time to part time
- Looking into switching insurance

**Fire Board – Trustee Faulder**

- No water usage
- Balance in checking and CD \$ 608,000.00
- Fire department preparing for the total eclipse next year. They are expecting a large crowd.
- Looking at buying a blow up house to do fire safety training for children. Would cost around \$ 10,000.00 but have not made a decision yet.

**Old Business – Trustees**

- Josh from Aspen Energy reached out, sent over a couple of templates regards to Aggregation. If township wants to pass it, we would need to have it on the March ballot. If we want it to get it on the March ballot township would have to pass a resolution. Maybe at next meeting we can make a resolution.
- Trustee Lewis are we painting fence? Having trouble finding paint. Could order off Amazon for \$ 300.00 a 5 gallon bucket probably would need 3 of them. Still have time to get it painted. Can spend a \$ 1000.00 on paint. Chief Thompson will price it.
- No more mowing, he came on Friday and trimmed. Lisa said the bill showed 5 mowings and one was 2 days apart. May need to talk to them about some concerns prior to approving the contract next year.

**New Business – Trustees**

None

**Public Comments**

- Chris – Three questions any plots at Plum open? John has not looked yet but will. Did Townhall solar people hear anything? No Trustee Faulder said they have not heard from them. Asked a question previously about if the township had looked at the benefits for the community for tax incentives? Trustee Faulder: That was done behind closed doors.
- Steve Rogers – Conversation what we are having right now about solar panels, tearing down 150 acres woods for environmentally safe stuff. How does this help the community, it is not going to. We are going to have people coming in temporarily, more trouble than we need. Decrease home value, etc. Who do we need to talk to...Ohio Powers Siting Board?
- Kris Crockett, is this a done deal with the solar? Yes and no? How can we stop it as a township? We need a townhall meeting with this company, can we push that? Trustee Berg will contact them. How do we make it not successful? Our community needs to voice their opinions to the Ohio Power Siting Board.

With no further business to come before the group, Trustee Lewis make a motion to adjourn at 7:36 PM. Trustee Faulder seconded. All answered “Aye”. Motion carried 3-0

The next regular board meeting is scheduled for Monday November 13, 2023 at 6:30 PM at the Township Hall.

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Lisa Miller, Fiscal Officer

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Tucker Berg, Chairman of the Board of Trustees

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Don Lewis, Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees

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Jason Faulder, Member of the Board of Trustees