

Williamsburg Township Board of Trustees Minutes

July 9, 2007

The Williamsburg Township Board of Trustees met on Monday July 9, 2007 to transact business. Chairman Taylor called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM, and all joined in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. James Danbury, Bari Henning and Jim Taylor answered the roll call. Also present were Fiscal Officer, Gregory W. Carson, Adam Balls, Earl Whiteman, Jeff Markovic, David Durham, Yvonne Malott and John Walker.

Mr. Henning motioned to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Mr. Taylor second. Mr. Henning and Mr. Taylor-yea. Mr. Danbury-abstain. Mr. Carson presented a financial report, including a comprehensive account of expenditures and receipts and the trustees accepted it.

Mr. Taylor motioned to pay the attached bills. Mr. Danbury second. All yeas.

John Walker said that he had a conversation with his neighbor, Joe Berger, about his junk pile. He said that Mr. Berger said that it isn't a junk pile, because it's stuff for his business. Mr. Walker said that he asked him why he didn't have this stuff at his business in Newtown. He said that Mr. Berger said that his business is at his residence on Hageman's Crossing. He said that he asked Mr. Berger if he had applied for permits for a business and he said that Mr. Berger said no, because he lives on Prime Industrial Land. He said that he had applied a few years ago to get his land converted back to agricultural. He said that he is reporting that Mr. Berger declared that his residence is his business and that there are mowers scattered all over his property. Mr. Henning said that the process is under way to get the property cleaned up through the courts, but the process is very slow. Mrs. Malott said that there will be a court date eventually, because the paperwork is filed, but the courts haven't sent a date yet. Mrs. Malott said that she has tried to send stuff to Mr. Berger via certified mail, but it keeps being returned, because Mr. Berger isn't picking up his mail. Mr. Taylor said that this doesn't matter, because the law says that he was notified, because certified letters were mailed and even though Mr. Berger refused to pick up the mail, he was still notified via the law. Mr. Taylor said that Mr. Berger's business is a separate issue than the junk on his property. Mr. Walker said that he doesn't want to see anything bad happen to Mr. Berger, however he just wants him to clean up his property. Mr. Durham said that he had explained several things to Mr. Berger in the zoning manual, but Mr. Berger wouldn't believe him. He asked if there is any way for the township to go onto the property, clean it up and put a lien on the property for our costs. Mrs. Malott said that there are some ways to do that in court. Mr. Danbury said that he thinks that the Board of Health is talking about doing something like that also. Mr. Durham said that we should think about some alternative solutions to resolving these issues, because these issues are going to keep coming up around the township. Mrs. Malott said that there was a very similar case to the Berger case that ended up in the property owner going to jail and that process took almost a year.

Adam Balls said that he wanted to talk to us about property and casualty insurance and see if we had any needs. He said that last year was a timing issue on changing insurance. He said that last year, he handled about 50 townships and have added about 15 more since last year. He said that he has some in all of the southwest Ohio counties. He said that he feels that we missed a huge opportunity last year. He said that he has never lost an account. He said that last year, we were eligible for about a \$12,000 refund and our premiums would have decreased. Mr. Taylor said that we'd be glad to talk to him when the renewal is due. Mr. Balls said that he reviewed the minutes from last year where OTARMA described the difference between the two companies and he pointed out several discrepancies in what the OTARMA representative had told us last year and was very disappointed that he wasn't here at that meeting to point out the correct stuff that OTARMA misrepresented about his company. He pointed out that the State Auditor's audit of Williamsburg Township shows that we are sharing risk with other townships and our portion of these unpaid liabilities is approximately \$48,000. Mr. Henning said that we need to notify OTARMA 60 days in advance and we're within that window since the renewal is September 1. Mr. Balls said that he has a letter prepared that is dated June 30 that we can sign. The trustees said that they don't feel comfortable signing a pre-dated letter. Mr. Balls said that he tried to contact Mr. Taylor 4 months from the renewal date, but Mr. Taylor didn't return his calls. Mr. Balls said that he can't understand why the trustees wouldn't want to do this and save the township money.

Cemetery & Maintenance Report

Mr. Whiteman said that he was approached at Earl Ausman's funeral about placing a 3 ton boulder on his grave, but he told them no. He said that there is a dead tree in the Clover Cemetery and they need to hire a tree company to get the tree down to the ground and his crew will take care of it from there. He said that we've been using Lacy Tree recently, because they do a good job and they have been the cheapest in the past. He said that they have been doing some ditch work on Hibbs Road to take care of some water problems. Mr. Danbury said that we received a letter from the County Engineer saying that ODOT has turned over 0.21 miles to us of Old State Route 133 across from North Ellis Road. He said that ODOT is going to pave it next year, but we will have to maintain it, because it is now a township road. Mr. Henning said that he had talked to someone in the Wass family about the possible dispute over the remaining grave spaces available in this family. Mr. Henning said that he hoped that the family would work out the problem, but the township would legally do what it needed to resolve the issue if needed.

Zoning Report

Mrs. Malott presented a zoning report. She gave a copy of the letter from the Clermont County General Health District telling us what can be done with cutting high weeds on vacant properties. She said that she called the county prosecutor about the Rice case and the court date hasn't been set. She said that she is on vacation between July 30 and August 10. She said that she had to send the Johnson family another zoning letter.

Mr. Taylor said that he will be out of town from July 15 to July 22. Mr. Henning said that he will be gone from July 22 to July 29.

Jeff Markovic gave the trustees some proposals for health insurance that could potentially save the township thousands of dollars and not reduce the benefits for the employees.

Mr. Carson said that he found out the HB694 has been revised to increase the minimum amount spent with a vendor from \$500 to \$10,000. He said that should keep most of our vendors off of the list of vendors that need fill out the affidavit for ORC3517.13.

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Mr. Taylor said that our prosecutor prepared the deed for the transfer to the Mary F. McDonald and the trustees have signed it and will give it to Mrs. McDonald to file with the county.

Mr. Henning motioned to approve the latest local government revenue assistance funds proposal by the county at 66% as Resolution 1-07. Mr. Taylor second. All yeas.

Mr. Taylor motioned to adjourn at approximately 10:10 p.m. Mr. Henning second. All yeas.

Fiscal Officer

Chairman