

Williamsburg Township Board of Trustees Minutes

March 13, 2023

The Williamsburg Township Board of Trustees met on Monday, March 13, 2023 to transact business. Chairperson Henning called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., and all joined in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Guy Bainum, Bari Henning, and Gary Jordan answered the roll call. Also present were Fiscal Officer, Doug Lefferson, Maintenance Supervisor/Zoning Administrator Brian Tatman, Emergency Services Chief Jason McCarthy, and Ed Boll.

Mr. Jordan motioned to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2023 meeting. Mr. Bainum second. All yeas. Mr. Jordan motioned to approve the minutes of the February 27, 2023 meeting. Mr. Bainum second. All yeas.

Mr. Lefferson presented a financial report, including a comprehensive account of expenditures and receipts and the Trustees accepted it. Mr. Lefferson stated that the approximate \$50,000 annual payment on the Township's 2019 life squad had been made with two more payments remaining. As a reminder he indicated the other life squad was fully paid for. Fiscal Officer Lefferson also stated that the EMS group recently received a \$4,000 donation from Dualite. The Trustees and Fiscal Officer were grateful for this donation and would send a letter to Dualite acknowledging the gift.

Mr. Bainum motioned to pay the attached bills. Mr. Jordan second. All yeas.

Mr. Henning asked Chief McCarthy what the lead time was to get a new ambulance. Chief McCarthy indicated his latest information was 2.5 to 3 years. There has always been a significant lead time but this time had extended with the pandemic, continued supply chain issues, and high demand given the availability of Covid relief funds. Mr. Henning stated that the Township had experienced an average life of about 10 years on its life squads so we need to start thinking about timing of the next order. Chief McCarthy said he would research further.

Cemetery and Maintenance Report

Mr. Tatman provided a report. There have been two funerals in the first two weeks of March. Mr. Tatman requested the purchase of a Stihl mm56ce tiller to help with seeding and leveling of graves. Kuntz Equipment and Clermont Equipment had similar pricing of \$490. Mr. Tatman indicated they were out with the Fire Department during the wind storm/tornado damage. Hageman's Crossing was closed from Friday until late Saturday due to a tree being across the road and in the high-tension power lines. Duke finally got it cut out and then the property owner moved the rest of it themselves. Maintenance was out for several hours checking roads and clearing areas where possible. There was an issue with the key fobs not working late into the storm. The backup batteries died. We replaced all of them already and hope that the issue is fixed. Mr. Jordan complimented the team on their storm clean up efforts. Mr. Tatman also said he was looking into a software to track maintenance on all vehicles and equipment for both Maintenance and Emergency Services. Mr. Jordan asked how they till the grave sites currently. Mr. Tatman said they use a rake. Mr. Jordan motioned to spend \$490 for a new tiller. Mr. Bainum second. All yeas. Mr. Jordan inquired about a salt purchase as the salt bin appeared about half full. Mr. Tatman has plans to fill up. Mr. Henning asked about pricing. Mr. Tatman indicated we had a set price under a two-year bid through the SWOP4G (Southwest Ohio Purchasing For Government cooperative group).

Mr. Jordan inquired about seeing a draft letter to address tall grass proactively this spring. Mr. Tatman indicated he would send a draft letter to Mr. Jordan for review. Mr. Jordan followed up on a junk complaint on Dela Palma Road. Mr. Tatman indicated he had spoken with the landowner and they were cooperative and stated they would clean up. The property is for sale. Mr. Henning followed up on the 811 (Call Before You Dig) information presented at the February 13th meeting. Mr. Tatman said the 811 representative had not gotten back with him on the cost to cover just the areas needed. Mr. Tatman will follow up with him.

Zoning Report

Mr. Tatman provided a report. There was one zoning certificate issued so far in March. It was for a new home on State Route 133. There is a Zoning Commission Hearing on March 29, 2023 at 6:00 pm for the Old Schumacher Homes property. The property owner has surveyed 5 plus acres with the houses and is requesting a zone change for that portion, while leaving the rest of the property zoned as is. Mr. Tatman and Mr. Jordan met with Taylor Corbett from the County last week about assisting with an approach to solar farms. Mr. Corbett suggested that our Zoning Commission should be involved and meet at least monthly. Mr. Tatman reached out to our Zoning Commission members and they agreed to meet monthly. Mr. Corbett and Mr. Gafvert from the County are coming out to meet with them April 19, 2023 at 6:00 pm. They will meet at the Emergency Services Building so the members have a place to work on tables. A potential date of April 26th was suggested for Mr. Corbett to meet with the Trustees to have a workshop and answer questions and help guide them through the process. The focus of these additional meetings is on small solar facilities with a single connection and aggregate capacity of less than 50 megawatts.

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Mr. Tatman stated he attended classes on zoning that Assistant Prosecutor Julia Carney had recommended. There was a lot of information covered and discussed. One big thing was updating the resolution book for anything you think may come into your township, digital billboards as an example. It was also suggested to update the Zoning Resolution book this year with items that we have come across over the last couple of years and have items taken out or added as needed. Mr. Jordan reiterated that he and Mr. Tatman had a good meeting with Mr. Corbett. He indicated there needed to be one to three meetings with Trustees and Mr. Corbett and potentially one with the community as a whole. We may also use an on-line survey to gather feedback. Mr. Jordan indicated Mr. Speeg of Jackson Township knows of someone who could assist with the survey if needed. Mr. Jordan said the Township needs to produce an evidence based document to support the Trustees approach to solar farms and send it to the Clermont County Commissioners. He stated the April 26th workshop will be moved to May 1st. Mr. Jordan discussed a potential early May community meeting and possibly mentioning in the next newsletter. Mr. Henning stated he did not believe that solar farms presented the best economic use of land along the 32 corridor. The Trustees discussed a potential timeframe of providing the Commissioners a document by the third week of May. Mr. Henning questioned the timing of discussing any potential community meeting in the newsletter given the turnaround time needed. He thought that we should be able to communicate any such session through the website and newspaper effectively.

The Trustees indicated they would attend a Solar Energy Briefing hosted by the Farm Bureau March 15th at 10:00 am at the Fairgrounds. Mr. Boll asked about the potential to grandfather adjacent property in regard to the Clear Mountain solar project. Mr. Jordan's understanding was that adjacent property could not be grandfathered into the current project. Mr. Henning stated he did not believe we had a definitive answer yet. Mr. Jordan said that Mr. Speeg was working with the prosecuting attorney to get their opinion. Mr. Boll inquired about the County monitoring of the CECOs dump. Mr. Bainum indicated he knew about past monitoring.

Emergency Services Report

Chief McCarthy provided a report. For the month of February there were 34 fire calls and 92 EMS calls. Chief McCarthy indicated the storm siren on Moore Street was not working. Clayton Werden has been contacted to assess and fix the issue. In regard to the new Emergency Services staffing model, a hiring flyer has been prepared and pending final approval will be posted Wednesday, March 15 regarding the application process for hiring 3 full-time Fire/EMS personnel. Mr. Bainum asked about what emergency services equipment we need to replace next. Chief McCarthy stated 2 to 3 new heart monitors. The estimated cost of two new heart monitors is \$84,000. Mr. Lefferson stated that one of his goals is to work With Chief McCarthy and Mr. Tatman to prepare a 3-to-5 year budget on equipment, building, and vehicle needs. Mr. Henning questioned the response times on the reports. Chief McCarthy said they were aware of some recording and system issues and would confirm that these were resolved. The issues had to do with reporting wrong when there was a call for backup and working through a new software program.

Mr. Jordan encouraged both Chief McCarthy and Mr. Tatman to take classes on such topics as time management or anything that would help them grow as leaders and the Trustees will support them.

Mr. Boll stated he had heard that Mike McNamara was leaving his position in Clermont County Economic Development. Mr. Henning said that was accurate and Greg Bickford would be stepping in for the interim.

Mr. Jordan initiated a discussion on the replacement of culvert pipes in the Township. Mr. Tatman indicated we replace culvert pipes on Township roads when appropriate to keep roads safe not to assist particular individuals. The Township cannot replace culverts on County or State roads. Mr. Henning stated that Ohio Revised Code will not allow us to fix culverts on County or State roads. The Trustees reiterated that culverts on Township roads will continue to be replaced as a matter of road safety.

Mr. Jordan discussed the possible donation of the old roll top desk and safe previously used by the cemetery office. Given the condition of the items and the fact they have not been used in a number of years and serve no useful purpose to the Township, a donation is deemed appropriate. Since Harmony Hill is a Williamsburg historical association and they have expressed interest, they are a logical choice. Mr. Jordan motioned to donate the roll top desk and safe previously used by the cemetery to the Williamsburg Harmony Hill Association, Inc. Mr. Henning second. All yeas.

Mr. Jordan said he had resolved a request in regard to Rumpke garbage pick up times related to Hageman's Crossing Road. The Rumpke contract is up next year. The Township can extend for two years. The Trustees will follow up on the contract.

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Mr. Jordan provided an update on Clear Mountain Food Park issues. He spoke with Assistant Prosecutor Brian Shrive who indicated there would be an update Friday with the judge in regard to the civil suit and that we should have an answer on the liquor license hearing results next week.

The Trustees stated they would like to set a Special Meeting Wednesday, March 22nd at 4:00 pm for the purpose to consider employment and compensation of public employees. The Trustees will go into executive session to discuss employment and compensation.

Mr. Lefferson stated that the Clermont County Commissioners voted at their last meeting to extend the Community Development Block Grant process to October. Projects were originally scheduled to be approved in April. The Township had applied for electrical, heating & air conditioning, and kitchen upgrades at the Emergency Services Building. Mr. Lefferson stated he has a call into Desmond Maaytah, Clermont County Community Development Administrator for additional information.

Mr. Bainum motioned to adjourn at approximately 8:13 p.m. Mr. Jordan second. All yeas.

Fiscal Officer

Chairperson