

Williamsburg Township Board of Trustees Minutes

May 22, 2023

The Williamsburg Township Board of Trustees met on Monday, May 22, 2023 to transact business. Mr. Jordan called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., and all joined in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Guy Bainum and Gary Jordan answered the roll call, Bari Henning was on vacation. Also present were Fiscal Officer, Doug Lefferson, Maintenance Supervisor/Zoning Administrator Brian Tatman, Corporal Howard Glancy, Dylan Arnett, Bobby Feimster, Ted and Lisa Drake, Susan Cahall, Robert Cahall, Adam Rudy, and Ed Boll.

Mr. Bainum motioned to approve the minutes of the May 8, 2023 meeting. Mr. Jordan second. All yeas.

Mr. Lefferson presented a financial report, including a comprehensive account of expenditures and receipts and the Trustees accepted it.

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

Corporal Howard Glancy, Clermont County Sheriff's Office provided a report on activity in the Township. May to date there have been 14 incident reports, a decrease from 25 in April, and 24 offense reports, an increase of 10 from the prior month, for a total of 38 reports. There have been 10 adult arrests an increase of 7 from April, with zero juvenile arrests. Corporal Glancy stated this month's arrests were a wide variety of calls such as assaults, weapons while being intoxicated, domestic violence, and operating a motor vehicle under the influence. There were 3 criminal arrests for possession of drugs. One overdose in the Township for the month of May in the area of Alexander Lane and Cain Run. There were 3 calls this month for noise control in the area of Half Acre and Old State Route 32. One citation for noise control was issued.

Zoning Report

Mr. Tatman provided a report. The Zoning Commission will meet May 23rd at 6:00 p.m. at the Emergency Services Building to continue discussions on solar energy 50 megawatts and smaller. Mr. Tatman indicated several letters had been sent for tall grass and junk cars.

Cemetery and Maintenance Report

Mr. Tatman provided a report. He indicated mowing and weed eating will be completed by Memorial Day at the cemeteries. Flags will be placed at the Williamsburg Cemetery this Thursday and Mr. Tatman said he would check the other two cemeteries for flags. The speed sign has been placed on Boot Jack Road. Mr. Tatman stated that Dan Scott started today as seasonal help. We are now waiting on a July Meeting of the Clermont County Land Bank regarding our request for demolition funding for the old church property at the Concord Cemetery. Additionally, work with the architect continues in regard to a new maintenance building.

Brian Shrive, Clermont County Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, provided an update on litigation involving Clear Mountain Food Park. On the civil side, the discovery process continues. As was discussed earlier criminal charges started with the citation issued by the Sheriff's Office. Mr. and Mrs. Drake asked if there was anything they needed to do. Mr. Shrive indicated he would follow up with them. Mr. Cahall asked why music is going on during the week. Mr. Jordan said that the Township has no intentions of harming the business and hopes they are successful, but will continue to call for enforcement of the 100-foot noise rule to alleviate the noise levels for surrounding residents. He stated the Township has had zoning in place since 1966 and will deal with it. The Township has been working with the county prosecutors for two and a half years and are in litigation. The noise level resulted in a citation, but we want the issues resolved because the Sheriff has better things to do. Mr. Cahall said the noise issues are getting old after two and a half years. Mr. Jordan said the Trustees have done everything in their power and our doing our best to resolve it. Mr. Drake asked if there were certain days the Park could play music. Mr. Tatman said during the original zoning process they were given hours that were agreed upon. Mr. Jordan said those details will all come out as exhibits in litigation. Mr. Drake stated he had 92 recordings of the music available. Mr. Arnett asked if you wanted to see documentation for a zoning variance where would you go to see the details. Mr. Tatman said there are minutes from the zoning meetings, but they are not posted on the website and there are also recordings. The minutes can be obtained through a public records request through the Fiscal Officer. Mr. Cahall said that the fines for noise violations were small. Mr. Bainum agreed that it is frustrating, but the courts will resolve. He wants the owners to do what they said they would do. Mr. Boll offered suggestions such as another lot for the Food Park or an acoustical fence at the current site. Mr. Jordan stated that he gets that the music could be enjoyable, but it is different if it is across from your house. He also stated that it is not on the Trustees to fix the business issue. Mr. Rudy thought each fine could be up to \$1,000.00. Mr. Shrive said if there was a conviction the Judge would handle the fine amount and more than likely start low. Repeated offenses could lead to fines for the bands. Mr. Boll said this could drag on all summer with citations and court appearances. Mr. Jordan stated the Trustees were going to see it through and were dedicated to make it right.

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Emergency Services Report

Chief McCarthy was on vacation but provided a written report in advance. The generator on Engine 73 (2007 Sutphen) has been fixed.

Clermont County Economic Development assisted the Township in applying for project planners in relation to the Appalachian Grant. We applied for planners for three projects: utilities along sections of Old SR 32, access road or overpass at McKeever and State Route 32, and emergency services training. The planners are funded by the grant.

Mr. Bainum said there was good discussion at the Community Solar Meeting on May 10th. Mr. Bainum indicated there was a retirement gathering for Jayne Lawrence May 26th at 5:00 p.m. at the Emergency Services Building.

Mr. Bainum motioned to adjourn at approximately 7:39 p.m. Mr. Jordan second. All yeas.

Fiscal Officer

Chairperson