

Williamsburg Township Board of Trustees Minutes

June 12, 2023

The Williamsburg Township Board of Trustees met on Monday, June 12, 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, Charlie Maklem, Michael Madsen, and Ed Boll.

Mr. Jordan motioned to approve the minutes of the May 22, 2023 meeting. Mr. Bainum second. All yeas, Mr. Henning abstained.

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

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

Zoning Report

Mr. Tatman provided a report. The Zoning Commission will meet Wednesday, June 14th at 6 p.m. at the Emergency Services Building for a solar zoning workshop. Mr. Tatman stated one of the properties that was sent a courtesy letter about high grass has been mowed. This week violation letters will be sent for high grass where necessary. The property owner has finished the survey for the old Schumacher property and is going to have it recorded. Mr. Tatman indicated next week he should be able to have the zoning changed with the new parcel number. Mr. Jordan reiterated that we should consider outsourcing the mowing of high grass for violations and then charge appropriately, due to the limited staffing and high demands on the Maintenance team during mowing season.

Cemetery and Maintenance Report

Mr. Tatman provided a report. He stated the grass along all roads has been mowed and they will begin going back now and cutting back behind all bridges and guardrails. For Junk Days the Township utilized 18 dumpsters and one compactor truck. Mr. Tatman indicated he had received several positive comments about how the cemetery looked for Memorial Day. Mr. Henning said he was glad that Junk Days went well and he echoed the comments that the cemeteries looked good. Mr. Bainum expressed his appreciation for Joe Morgan stepping up to handle the cemetery work for a funeral on Sunday (Mr. Tatman had a prior commitment, and new hires within the department are learning the process). Mr. Jordan reminded Mr. Tatman to check the condition of signs when working on roads and bridges.

Emergency Services Report

Chief McCarthy provided a report. For the month of May there were 110 EMS calls and 47 fire calls. In regard to community involvement, team members participated in the Memorial Day Parade and the Bill Brewer 5K. The Chief stated that Tower 73 passed the annual ladder testing, but our service company is coming out to look into why the ladder is slow to retract. Chief McCarthy recommended we hire Christopher Glancy Firefighter II and EMT Basic to part-time, contingent on the results of his background check. Mr. Bainum motioned to hire Christopher Glancy Firefighter II and EMT Basic to part-time, contingent on the results of his background check. Mr. Jordan second. All yeas. The Chief stated he was working with the Fiscal Officer on a potential \$20,000 grant through the State of Ohio to provide some premium pay to members due to COVID. He indicated all 6 outdoor warning signs activated during the monthly test. The Chief provided a reminder that the real purpose of the sirens is to warn people who are outside, for indoors you should have something in the house like a weather radio to provide warnings. Mr. Henning commented on the improvement in emergency response times from January to now, with nights and weekend times going from an average of 9 minutes to 4 minutes. Mr. Jordan thanked the Chief for providing updates on our firefighter who became over heated battling a barn fire. Mr. Henning told the Chief we appreciate all your doing in establishing a new era for Emergency Services.

Mr. Henning introduced a resolution to adopt an alternative method of apportionment of the local government fund based on the Trustees and Fiscal Officer's review and agreement with the methodology. Mr. Henning motioned to adopt Resolution No. 2023-08 Authorizing adoption of alternative method of apportionment of the undivided local government fund for calendar years 2024 through 2025. Mr. Bainum second. All yeas.

Mr. Jordan and Mr. Lefferson provided an update on the Township's request for demolition funds from the Clermont County Land Bank to demolish the dilapidated church at the Concord Cemetery. The County recently indicated that rather than use local funds they had available, the state had indicated they can use some previously unused state funds. As a result, the Township must complete additional steps to involve the state. Mr. Jordan motioned to complete the application to apply for state funds to cover the cost to demolish the church building at Concord Cemetery. Mr. Bainum second. All yeas.

Williamsburg Township Board of Trustees Minutes

June 12, 2023

The Trustees discussed the latest version of the standard Emergency Medical Services contract with Jackson Township. Mr. Bainum motioned to approve the Emergency Medical Services contract with Jackson Township in which Williamsburg Township provides EMS services for Jackson Township. Mr. Jordan second. All yeas.

Mr. Jordan said that as previously discussed, he, Chief McCarthy, Mr. Tatman, and Fiscal Officer Lefferson met with Clermont County Development regarding the Appalachian Grant and submitted a request for a planner on 3 projects. Mr. Lefferson stated that on June 9th he was informed that the Township did not get approved for a planner on the utility or road projects. It was indicated that utilities were not going to be part of the grant unless part of a downtown renovation project and that all road projects have been denied. The Emergency Services project may possibly be included from a training perspective only with overall larger related projects with Clermont County. Mr. Boll stated he thought the Appalachian Grant was focused on larger items. Mr. Lefferson stated that was true, original parameters were for \$1 million plus projects, but more recent indications are that the focus is \$25 million or higher type projects.

Mr. Lefferson stated a special meeting of the Trustees has been set for June 21st at 2:00 p.m. at the Township Hall to open and read bids for the new maintenance building.

Mr. Madsen inquired about a crumbling portion of Ireton Road. Mr. Tatman said he would look into it.

Mr. Madsen voiced concern over a significant increase in real estate taxes driven by state review of valuations. Original estimates were as high as 46%, but Clermont County Auditor Linda Fraley had negotiated a 26 or 28% increase. He asked if the Trustees had any communication with the Auditor Fraley. Mr. Henning indicated they had not and it was not in the direct control of the Trustees but that individuals do have the right to appeal. Mr. Maklem stated he believed it was a 28% increase for Class 1 or residential tax payers but did not impact Class 2 commercial tax payers. Mr. Lefferson stated he would have some discussion with the Auditors Office to get a better understanding of the impact to both the Township's revenue and the residents.

Mr. Jordan asked Mr. Tatman to look at the drain on Musgrove Road for potential issues. Mr. Tatman indicated he would.

Mr. Boll asked about stalled progress at the Purina plant. Mr. Henning said the latest update he had about three weeks ago involved a changeover involving the contractor.

Mr. Jordan asked Mr. Boll if he was still considering a Joint Economic Development District for his property. Mr. Boll indicated there had not been recent discussions.

Mr. Lefferson stated the Township had opted out of the Village of Williamsburg's electric aggregation program that would apply to our Emergency Services building in the village. The program appeared to be more expensive than our current rates and the chosen aggregator had been involved in a large corruption scandal with the State of Ohio.

Mr. Lefferson reminded everyone of the solar and wind farm discussion at the June 21 Clermont County Commissioners Meeting.

Mr. Bainum motioned to adjourn at approximately 7:31 p.m. Mr. Jordan second. All yeas.

Fiscal Officer

Chairperson