

# Williamsburg Township Board of Trustees Minutes

## September 25, 2023

The Williamsburg Township Board of Trustees met on Monday, September 25, 2023 to transact business. Mr. Henning called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., and all joined in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Bari Henning, Gary Jordan, and Guy Bainum answered the roll call. Also present were Fiscal Officer, Doug Lefferson, Maintenance Supervisor/Zoning Administrator Brian Tatman, Emergency Services Chief Jason McCarthy, Dylan Arnett, Charlie Maklem, and Ed Boll.

Mr. Bainum motioned to approve the minutes of the September 11, 2023 meeting. Mr. Henning second. All yeas, with Mr. Jordan abstaining.

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.

Mr. Arnett commented on the great people at the fire house given a recent interaction he had. Mr. Boll asked if the Trustees had received a recent letter with information on the Clear Mountain Energy Center solar farm. Mr. Boll had received the letter being an adjacent property owner. Mr. Henning indicated he had the letter in front of him tonight but had not read it yet. Mr. Boll asked about the Trustees thoughts on the solar farm in particular was the land in Williamsburg Township grandfathered into the project prior to new solar farm state regulations. Mr. Jordan said that issue was a legal question and may involve litigation. Mr. Henning stated that from talking to county officials he believed that the State of Ohio viewed this specific project as grandfathered prior to the new state legislation based on when the project was established, and that it was the project not specific land within the project that mattered. Therefore, the Trustees believed this particular solar farm project would move forward including the parcels in Williamsburg Township.

### Zoning Report

Mr. Tatman provided a report. In regard to the solar farm project discussed above, he reminded everyone that there was a public information meeting at the Fairgrounds October 11<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. Mr. Tatman stated he had received two zoning applications and issued two zoning certificates over the last couple of weeks (one barn, one front porch). He indicated he was expecting a Zoning Board of Appeals application soon for a height variance. Mr. Tatman said that Purina is working on combining all the property they purchased this year (four parcels) into one parcel and that he spoke to them about the process last week.

### Cemetery and Maintenance Report

Mr. Tatman provided a report. The paving and curb work at the Commons of East Fork is complete. The Township will install the new road and street signs at this subdivision over the next week and clean existing signs that have graffiti. Mr. Tatman asked the Trustees if they still wanted to place the radar sign there given repeated vandalism to the existing signs. Mr. Jordan said we should put it up, as we said we would after hearing of speed concerns from the residents. The other Trustees agreed. Mr. Tatman informed the Trustees that he sent a letter to the Clermont County Engineer's Office for next year's paving. This is a standard practice where we indicate that we want included in the County's bid process, who our contacts are, and a budget amount. Mr. Tatman said given previous feedback from The Trustees and in working with the Fiscal Officer a budget amount of \$100,000.00 was provided. Next year's paving project is expected to be Hennings Mill Road, but that final information is not due to the County yet. Mr. Tatman informed the Trustees that the electric at the old Concord Church building has been disconnected in preparation for demolition. Mr. Jordan stated that the report on the building came back with no asbestos and asked Mr. Tatman to arrange getting keys to the demolition group. Mr. Henning said the water meter has been pulled. Mr. Tatman said that in preparation for a new maintenance building sometime in the future, they have started taking the gravel bins out at the cemetery. He said at some point they would need to order a dumpster to get rid of that debris and some old pipes that are behind the old building. The Trustees agreed with the need for a dumpster. Mr. Bainum told Mr. Tatman that he took some garbage that was outside the recycle bins to the Maintenance dumpster in case he noticed items he was not expecting. Mr. Henning said he saw some sealing work being done on Hennings Mill Road. Mr. Tatman said they were also working on Ashton and Cain Run Roads. Mr. Bainum said he was still working on a potential demolition site for next year. Mr. Jordan asked Mr. Tatman about the potential for no parking signs in the cul-de-sacs at The Commons of East Fork given he had some concern about emergency vehicle access. Mr. Tatman suggested that using stencils to paint it on the curbs may be a better option and that he would look into it. Mr. Jordan said we need to weed eat the other cemeteries one more time.

### Emergency Services Report

Chief McCarthy provided a report. Department members presented the American Flag for Military Appreciation Night at the football game. The Chief gave a vehicle update. The 2020 ambulance is at Beechmont Ford with an exhaust leak into the

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cab and patient compartment. Chief McCarthy provided the Trustees a detailed proposal from Horton Emergency Vehicles for a new ambulance. This is not related to recent ambulance repairs but as part of the Township's normal planning process. The proposed cost for a new ambulance is \$340,878.00. The Chief provided some background on the proposal and the Trustees asked several questions. The proposal calls for a Ford chassis and gas engine. There was discussion about gas versus diesel. There have been more departments switching to gas in recent years due to cost and other issues. The Chief stated another option was a Dodge chassis but indications are that is a four year build out. Significant due diligence has been performed by the Chief and he and the Fiscal Officer physically visited the Horton plant earlier in the year. The Chief stated he was not requesting approval at this meeting but wanted to get the information to the Trustees for review. Fiscal Officer Lefferson said he also wanted more time to obtain financing options. Chief McCarthy said he would like to renew the contract with Waltz Business Solutions for the copier/printer at the Emergency Services Building. The new contract would provide a new copier/printer for the Department. The Chief stated that there is a minimal increase in monthly payment with this new contract. Fiscal Officer Lefferson said the current five-year contract ended last year so the copier and printer has been in service for over six years, he indicated he reviewed the contract and fees, and other options and agrees with the Chief's recommendation. Mr. Henning motioned to enter a new five-year contract with Waltz Business Solutions for a copier/printer at the Emergency Services Building. Mr. Bainum second. All yeas. Chief McCarthy said that the Department had an in-service training for the new heart monitors and participated in building tours of Design Within Reach. He stated that Emergency Services had 13 Contained Breathing Apparatus and 26 masks that had been stored in the garage since 2016. The Chief stated that these are of no use to the Department and are currently being used by students at Grant for a fire class. He recommends we donate these to the Grant school. Mr. Jordan motioned to donate 13 Contained Breathing Apparatus and 26 masks to the Grant Career Center. Mr. Henning second. All yeas. Chief McCarthy discussed the continued exploration of a partnership with Purina on emergency and safety needs. The Chief and other Department members regularly meet with Purina officials on safety planning. Chief McCarthy sent a letter and proposal to Purina recently outlining needs and asks. He shared this information with the Trustees and discussed some of the needs outlined in the proposal including rope rescue and specialized equipment and training, a new ladder truck, a new fire engine, and potentially a training facility. The Chief indicated that the goal was to seek Purina's support and/or collaboration on these items. With the cost of a ladder truck approaching \$2 million and an engine \$1 million, there are significant needs. Purina indicated they would follow up in the coming weeks. Fiscal Officer Lefferson added that this is not a wish list but based on real needs over time. He added understanding Purina's commitment is important as we plan for grants and seek other donations. Mr. Jordan complimented the Chief on a well thought out and well written document. Mr. Jordan also stated he appreciated Chief McCarthy's leadership and vision and that the Department had a lot to show over the last year with improved run times and community relationships. Mr. Jordan also complimented Brian Tatman on the Commons of East Fork Project and Fiscal Officer Lefferson for his funding efforts on the project.

Mr. Maklem asked about the metal plate on Hagemans Crossing Road. Mr. Tatman said they did a repair but are waiting on outside contracted blacktopping.

Mr. Bainum motioned to adjourn at approximately 7:43 p.m. Mr. Jordan second. All yeas.

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Fiscal Officer

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Chairperson