

# Williamsburg Township Board of Trustees Minutes

## June 24, 2024

The Williamsburg Township Board of Trustees met on Monday, June 24, 2024 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. Gary Jordan, Guy Bainum and Bari Henning answered the roll call. Also present were Fiscal Officer Doug Lefferson, Maintenance Supervisor/Zoning Administrator Brian Tatman, Emergency Services Chief Jason McCarthy, Corporal Adam Bailey, Jody Wilson, Mike Ashcraft, Brian Bielfelt, and Ed Boll.

Mr. Henning motioned to approve the minutes of the May 28, 2024 regular meeting. Mr. Bainum second. All yeas. Mr. Bainum motioned to approve the minutes of the June 10, 2024 regular meeting. Mr. Henning second. All yeas, with Mr. Jordan abstaining.

Mr. Lefferson presented a financial report, including a comprehensive account of expenditures and receipts, an appropriation status report indicating year-to-date expenditures by account, and a revenue status report comparing budgeted revenue to actual received, and the Trustees accepted it.

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

Corporal Adam Bailey of the Clermont County Sheriff's Office introduced himself and indicated he would be covering the Township. Corporal Bailey discussed his background and experience which includes growing up in Williamsburg, attending Williamsburg High School, joining the Sheriff's Office in 1998, 16 years as a dog handler, 5 years on the narcotics task force, 5 years on the Special Response Team, a total of 26 years experience, and currently a supervisor on the night shift. He indicated he is working on a new report format for the meetings. Corporal Bailey said he expects to attend the Township meetings once a month on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday. The Trustees welcomed Corporal Bailey and thanked him for his service.

Mr. Ashcraft asked about the exact location of the Clear Mountain solar project and if he could get an official map. He said he spoke with someone at the neighboring Fischer Homes development and they were not aware of the proposed solar project. Mr. Tatman and others said maps were available including on the solar project's website [clearmountainenergycenter.com](http://clearmountainenergycenter.com). Mr. Lefferson said there was a local hearing on the solar project in August as reported previously. Mr. Ashcraft asked the Trustees their position on solar projects. Mr. Jordan said the Trustees had made their position clear. They are opposed to large solar projects for various reasons including land serving the community better through economic development. Mr. Jordan indicated a letter stating the Township's position was sent to the Clermont County Commissioners. Mr. Henning said going back a few years there was no legislation addressing solar farms and the Clear Mountain Energy project application was initiated before the State of Ohio passed legislation. This means the Township cannot directly prohibit this project. Going forward a prohibition on large solar projects is in place for the Township in conjunction with the Clermont County Commissioners. Mr. Henning said the Township is working on zoning regulations for solar projects under 50 mega watts now. Mr. Henning reiterated the Board is not in favor of solar projects. The Clear Mountain Energy solar project is going through the Ohio Power Siting Board's approval process. This board is in Columbus but there is a local public hearing scheduled. Mr. Bielfelt said he believed the best approach to address the Clear Mountain Energy solar project was at the meeting with the Ohio Power Siting Board in Columbus versus the local hearing. (The local public hearing is August 1, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. at the Williamsburg High School. An evidentiary hearing will be held September 10, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. at the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio Offices in Columbus, Ohio.) Mr. Bielfelt said he sent an email to the Trustees requesting information regarding the tax implications of land used for a solar farm versus residential or commercial development, or agriculture in order to build a case with the Ohio Power Siting Board if a solar farm provided less revenue. He said the Siting Board may have ways to offset some lost revenue. Mr. Lefferson said he was aware of the email request and that such an analysis would involve estimates, but he would work on putting it together. Mr. Ashcraft asked about the tax base of the solar project. Mr. Henning said use as a solar farm is not likely to offset other uses with the exception of agriculture.

### **Cemetery and Maintenance Report**

Mr. Tatman provided a report. The new garage doors have been installed on the old maintenance building. The sewer line for the new building has been installed and hooked up. He stated the next steps were to work on permits for electric, plumbing, and HVAC. Mr. Tatman said Hennings Mill Road should have full depth repair work done today with paving to follow this week or next. He indicated they still have a few roads to finish up mowing along this week. At the cemetery they will be starting foundations and trimming in the next couple of weeks. In regard to the open full-time maintenance position, Mr. Tatman said he has it narrowed down to two people. Mr. Tatman provided pricing for new warning lights for the Dodge pick up truck. He recommended Sound Off Signal NROADS 48" Fleet series LED amber lightbar with takedowns, alley lights and rear work lights with headache rack mount kit at a price of \$1,241.96. Mr. Tatman said the order would be through Mullen Safety Supply and take four weeks to build. Mr. Henning asked if they would install or we would. Mr. Tatman said

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he would install. Mr. Henning motioned to approve the purchase of Sound Off Signal NROADS 48" Fleet series LED amber lightbar with takedowns, alley lights and rear work lights with headache rack mount kit at a price of \$1,241.96 from Mullen Safety Supply. Mr. Bainum second. All yeas. Mr. Bainum thanked Mr. Tatman for taking care of the gravel on Hennings Mill Road. Mr. Jordan asked Mr. Tatman to continue work on Musgrove Road. Mr. Jordan asked Mr. Tatman to expedite the payments to Zoning Commission Board members.

### Zoning Report

Mr. Tatman provided a report. The Zoning Commission met on June 19<sup>th</sup> to go over the solar resolution. They are half way through it and will meet again on July 18<sup>th</sup>. The expectation is that it will be finished on July 18<sup>th</sup> and then sent to the Prosecutor's Office for review. Mr. Tatman estimated it would be finalized by October or November. Mr. Tatman said the high grass nuisance notice for the property at 4017 Alexander Lane has been posted and letters sent via mail to the property owners and mortgage holders. He indicated it took some research to find the owner information. Mr. Tatman said the property should be mowed by the Township by Friday. He indicated that other properties that received letters have been mowed by the owners.

### Emergency Services Report

Chief McCarthy provided a report. The Emergency Services team participated in the June in Olde Williamsburgh Parade and was on-site for the fireworks display. Chief McCarthy said the ambulance at Horton is in body fabrication and should be heading to paint next week. He indicated we should get a better completion date in the upcoming weeks. Chief McCarthy recommended hiring Georgiana Miller, Firefighter, part-time. The Chief said Bob Oetzel, Auto and Truck of Williamsburg donated 25 bags of floor dry to Emergency Services. Chief McCarthy and the Trustees were grateful for this donation. Mr. Bainum motioned to hire Georgiana Miller, Firefighter, part-time. Mr. Jordan second. All yeas.

Mr. Bainum said Julia Carney of the Prosecutor's Office had indicated the Quit Claim Deed for Clover Cemetery was progressing.

There being no further business, Mr. Bainum motioned to adjourn at approximately 7:37 p.m. Mr. Henning second. All yeas.

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Fiscal Officer

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Chairperson