

## WESTFIELD TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES

### Regular Meeting

July 7, 2008

7:00 pm

Chairperson, Ms. Sims called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm by asking those in attendance to stand and Pledge Allegiance to the Flag.

Trustees in attendance: Carolyn Sims, James Likley, and Timothy Kratzer

Fiscal Officer was present. An attendance sheet is attached to the minutes of other attendees.

#### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mark Goffinet from the Auditor's office reported the 2<sup>nd</sup> half tax bills are due and must be postmarked by July 11, 2008.

Karen Fisher, township resident – “My comments tonight are regarding the minutes of the Zoning Commission meeting held on January 8, 2008 which have not appeared yet on the Township web site. These minutes were approved on Feb. 19<sup>th</sup> and were prepared by Marlene Oiler who received an honorarium of \$50 to produce the 15 pages of documentation.

Near the end of this meeting, Chairperson Kemp made a motion to retain the services of Mrs. Oiler as Zoning Secretary for 2008. Ms. Kemp cited the recent changes in members on both boards with limited or no experience and explained that Mrs. Oiler's efforts and contributions would be an asset to the board. The motion to retain Mrs. Oiler carried with a vote of 3-1.

Marlene Oiler has been a legal secretary and paralegal for over 35 years and has worked for attorneys in Ohio as well as for trial court judges in New Jersey. She is a member and has served as president and other officer positions in the national association for Legal Professionals. She was highly qualified to continue her position as Zoning Secretary and had the support of the majority of commission and BZA members.

However, Trustee Sims & Likley decided that a change needed to be implemented. These two trustees had already set a salary for Marlene if this issue came up and it was set a ZERO. So if Marlene would want to stay on as Zoning Secretary for NO PAY she could.

Trustees Likley indicated that they had already spoken to Kim Ferencz and hired her to start on January 12, 2008 for at a salary of \$500 a month. This salary was pro-rated to begin January 13, 2008. Ms. Ferencz received a partial salary in January for work another person had completed. I asked Mrs. Evans to record what I've said in the minutes she prepares for this meeting. I also appeal to Trustees to NOT edit, change or alter my words.

I have just two (2) questions:

1. Do any of you three (3) trustees have any reason to withhold the minutes of the Jan. 8, 2008 Zoning Commission meeting from being posted on the Township website?
2. When will we see these minutes on the Township website?"

Mr. Likley replied – “All minutes that have been approved should be on web site. The trustees did not have any reason to withhold these minutes. During the change of secretaries it just didn't get done. I will see that these minutes will be posted within a week. He apologized for the delay.”

#### FISCAL OFFICER REPORT

The bills were presented in the amount of \$25,442.67 (copy is attached to minutes).

**Mr. Kratzer made a motion to pay the bills, seconded by Mr. Likley. Roll call: Kratzer, aye; Likley, aye; Sims, aye.**

Supplemental appropriation to natural gas in the amount of \$2,000 in R&B and \$1,000 Gen. Fund.

**Ms. Sims made a motion to approve the supplemental appropriations, seconded by Mr. Kratzer. Roll call: Kratzer, aye; Likley, aye; Sims, aye.**

The Budget Hearing will be July 11, 2008 at 10:00 am followed by general business.

List of correspondences:

- o Employee health insurance premium stayed @ 9% increase because the company gave us a below normal trend.
- o The insurance company gave several recommendations to assist in keeping the level of risk at a minimum.
- o Grassroots clippings
- o Letter from Ohio EPA – meeting July 2<sup>nd</sup> concerning certain Lake Erie watershed projects
- o IRS – letter from Albert Robbins appeals specialist is planning to deny the request for penalty relief and close the case.
- o Letter from Medina Co Transportation Improvement District soliciting input for possible road projects
- o Confirmation bulletin board has been ordered
- o Pay to play bill HB 694 – no longer need affidavit signed for amount expended over \$10,000
- o Medina Co. Commissioners resolution to replace bridge on Westfield Road by Mudlake
- o Lorain Co. Eng. Applications for funds on road projects
- o Cloverleaf needs participants for the strategic plan
- o County Prosecutor's Office has reviewed the Westfield Fire & Rescue Standard Operating Guidelines.

Jim relayed the message from the zoning boards requesting the fiscal officer include with their pay check a copy of the time sheet.

#### FIRE REPORT

Fire Chief, Jack Snoddy reported 34 runs for the month of June. Jack also participated in Safety City for the kindergarten children. The TG Fire/EMS Systems, Inc. has started the evaluation process by going through records at the fire house. They are also doing a quadrant analysis for station location.

New Westfield Center Water Lines was discussed. There will be a raw water hydrant by the well. Weather Warning Siren – cost approximately \$20,000. To install a siren on a pole would cost \$1,200 compared to \$4,000 on the cell tower. The location of the siren needs to be determined before going forward. Ms. Sims will incorporate the siren placement on the cell tower in the agreement.

#### ZONING

Gary- Cloverleaf Site Plan has been given to Kim. Soccer issue is being resolved with Mr. Hanna by replacing trees and putting up fence. Mr. Jake Bauman has been contacted. Kratzer map amendment reconsideration will go before the County Planning Commission July 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Tim – Why are we harassing Mr. Bauman on the storage units? Gary- the zoning commission would like to see landscape & fence up before opening for business. Trina Devaney from the prosecutor's office advised Gary to see what the zoning commissions' intent was and convey that to the Mr. Bauman. Tim- I have read some of the minutes and did not see anything that stipulated the landscape & fence had to up installed before opening.

The Eastlake variance was addressed in the special meeting prior to this meeting – see July 7, 2008 Special Meeting Minutes for details.

Zuber violation: Gary reported that as of last week a time limit of 45 days to finalize an agreement for Zuber zoning violation. If this does not happen, then it goes to court.

Swimming pool definition to zoning commission for consideration.

Both zoning boards have alternate positions open – executive session later

Re-advertise in Trading Post and Gazette

No update on the planning grant.

PARK & CEMETERY (Trustee Kratzer reporting)

No park committee meeting. Ash tree is dying and needs to come down. The wood cannot leave the county. The mowing at the cemetery is fine. In the upper level there are 3 tombstones that are encompassed with a huge bush. The family of those relatives will be coming sometime in August and would like the bush to be cut down or back. There are several stones that need glued.

ROADS (Lee Evans reporting)

Kokosing has finished White Road.

An 18” culvert on Westfield Landing Road has been replaced and a 24” culvert on Westfield Landing Road has been added. The county has been notified that the culverts are installed. The wall in the ditch on Buffham Road will get done before school starts. Mr. Clutter has not responded to the estimate. Westfield Landing upgrade – nothing. Saturday and Sunday I mowed and the southern area is about done.

**Mr. Kratzer moved to purchase a laser (single grade with receiver) from GeoShack in the amount of \$3,790 for the road department, seconded by Jim.**

Discussion: Sims wants to rent the equipment and save for mower. Lee – When I need to use that piece of equipment I would have to go to the other side of Medina. It may be raining then the rental cost is wasted. It is a competitive price and they will fix it. The business is located in Twinsburg.

**Roll call: Kratzer, aye; Sims, nay; Likley, aye.**

Cell Tower – see July 7, 2008 special meeting minutes

Kratzer public hearing July 8, 2008 @ 7:30 pm

Trustees budget hearing meeting & Gen. Bus. July 11, 2008 @ 10:00 am

Trustee’s special meeting (Policy & Procedure & Gen. Bus.) July 18, 2008 @ 10:00 am

Trustee’s regular meeting July 21, 2008 @ 7:00 pm (Oxbow Planner as speaker)

Fiscal officer asked if the trustees would approve a bond for an assistant fiscal officer to learn the fiscal officer position. Fiscal officer explained she wanted to work with an individual for several months or even years to be sure they understand the fiscal officer position because she is not going to run for election again. Ms. Sims did not want to talk about this now because it is not necessary. When the trustees hire their secretary, it would be duplication of a duties. The other two trustees did not have anything to say.

**Ms. Sims moved to go into executive session for the purpose employment(hiring, discipline and/or dismissal) seconded by Mr. Likley. Roll call: Kratzer, NO; Sims, Yes; Likley, Yes.**

**Ms. Sims moved to return to open meeting @ 9:25 pm, seconded by Mr. Likley. Roll call: Kratzer, aye; Sims, aye; Likley, aye.**

**Ms. Sims made a motion to dismiss zoning inspector, Gary Harris, regarding his performance as zoning inspector, seconded by Mr. Likley. Discussion: Sims - He has caused**

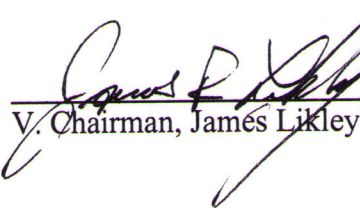
residents undue hardship and cost. There has been a second variance this year that was not needed. We even hired him an assistant and it still hasn't helped. Likley – Some of the actions and job performance has been lacking. By putting Lee Evans over seeing site plans and the task of this board to raise the bar should help. Serious over sites should warrant our concern. But I am not ready to replace him. I personally will try to work with Gary and Lee. Sims – He is causing us a liability. Kratzer – Not ready to get rid of Mr. Harris, he was docked \$200/month when a new position was created. More funding should have created, not take away from his salary. Sims – May did not need a zoning certificate, Zuber violation is lack of follow up and follow through. Cloverleaf issue is unacceptable. Likley – I want to raise the bar of expectations for the zoning inspector and work with him.

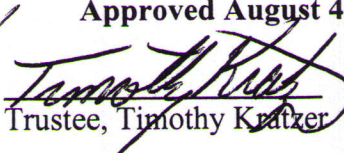
**Roll call: Kratzer, No; Sims, Yes; Likley, No.**

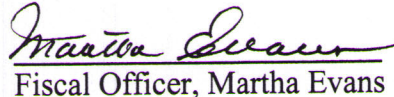
**Likley made a motion to offer the present alternates the vacant seat on the Zoning Commission and the BZA; Susan Brewer- Zoning Commission and Tom Micklas- BZA. Mr. Kratzer seconded the motion.** Discussion – Sims asked if there were any more applications. Answer was No. **Roll call: Kratzer, aye; Sims, aye; Likley, aye.**

**Kratzer moved to adjourn at 9:43 pm, seconded by Likley. Unanimous**

Approved August 4, 2008

  
V. Chairman, James Likley

  
Trustee, Timothy Kratzer

  
Fiscal Officer, Martha Evans