

WESTFIELD TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES

Regular Meeting
November 19, 2012
7:00 pm

Chairman Harris opened the meeting by asking those in attendance to stand and Pledge Allegiance to the Flag followed by roll call.

Trustees present: Ronald Oiler, Gary Harris, James Likley; as well as Martha Evans, Fiscal Officer and Road Maintenance Supervisor, Lee. Evans.

FIRE REPORT:

Chief Fletcher was not present – no report. Trustee Likley will get into fire business under new business. Trustee Harris thanked everyone who worked hard to get the fire levy passed and Martha sent a thank you note was in the paper. Trustees Oiler and Likley also expressed their thanks.

CEMETERY AND PARK:

Trustee Oiler did not have anything to report. Trustee Likley asked if the Village was aware of the postponement of the sidewalk project, Trustee Oiler answered, yes.

ROADS:

Lee Evans reporting:

- Nov. 20th Trustee Oiler and Lee will attend the “walk-through” at the CSX Mudlake Bridge. Lee saw a couple of things but will bring those up tomorrow. It looks good.
- Lee has called the County Engineer to get an early start on the 2013 road projects so they can get the measurements and a cost estimate, of course no firm price will be until spring due to the flexibility in the price of the oil so we can get this out to bid.
 - 1) Chip & Seal Mudlake – 9,900 feet
 - 2) Chip & Seal Daniels from Seville Road to Mudlake Road
 - 3) Chip & Seal Ballash Road from Kennard Road to township line
 - 4) Chip & Seal Ryan Road (Eastlake to Kennard)
- Ballash and Ryan had been asphalted but it would cost more to have the cracks sealed than to chip and seal. Last year we used blue rock limestone but if slag is available and can be brought to the yard at a reasonable price, Lee will have 350 ton hauled in over the winter if he can get a price break. The slag will be stored by the new wall. The slag is harder and will provide a better base. Lee will call Willowvale Trucking to get a price. There is possibly some slag available at an Elyria steel mill that is closed.
- 3 dead ash trees on Buffham Rd. and 4 dead ash trees on Ryan Rd. that were taken down to avoid being possibly out in the road during a storm at a cost of \$900. There are some trees leaning on Eastlake. Trustee Oiler asked about the ash trees on Mudlake. There is some trimming and trees to be removed on Mudlake Rd. due to the widening of the road for the construction of the new bridge once they are completed.

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ZONING:

Zoning Inspector, Matt Witmer was unable to attend.

Lee Evans reporting:

- ❖ The Smith Variance was denied with a vote of 3-2 because the applicant had other options as to the location of the building therefore there was no hardship. The applicant wasn't happy.
- ❖ Matt and Lee met with Morningstar Farms but still has not brought in conditional use application. The current conditional use will expire 12-31-2012
- ❖ There is an issue at the soccer field (trailer that is being used as a concession stand)
- ❖ Trustee Harris related that the Hughes is trying to co-operate. The judge stated the best thing they could do was to join the two (2) properties, apply for zoning permit, and go to county for building permit and inspection. Possibly the building is too close to the road because it was an ag building but it may an optical illusion. The second drive is grandfathered because if was a field drive prior to any of the zoning issues.
- ❖ Matt has called the county building department to look at the Riccardi Truck Wash building that seems to be in disrepair. Trustee Likley noted it was structural damage.
- ❖ Trustee Harris brought to the board's attention that when the Morningstar condition use is brought to the BZA for a hearing, there are 2 regular board members that will not be able to sit because they are contiguous property owners (Kathleen LeMar and Pat Kwas) that will leave 3 regular members and alternate Wayne Moore. **Trustee Oiler** suggested possibly hiring a temporary alternate. A discussion was held what to do to break a tie for the hearing. **Trustee Likley** suggested borrowing a BZA member from another township to make a full board because they would be trained and he would not support a temporary alternate because of the lack of training. If there are four people sitting possibly drawing straws as to who would not sit giving an uneven number. The down side of a temporary alternate is; they would not have any training. Lee stated there is extensive background information that anyone new would have to review. Fiscal Officer interjected that the ORC states a zoning board member must be a resident of the township. The discussion was tabled until legal counsel can be consulted as to the legality of the suggestions.

FISCAL OFFICER:

- ✓ Bills were presented in the amount of \$7,508.00. **Trustee Likley moved to pay the bills, seconded by Trustee Oiler. Roll call: Likley, aye; Oiler, aye; Harris, aye**
- ✓ RESOLUTION 2012-21 A RESOLUTION NOT TO COLLECT THE 1997 1.5 MILL LEVY FOR FIRE/RESCUE SERVICES AND CERTIFYING TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR was presented. The trustees recognized with the passage of the 2.5 mill levy for the Westfield Fire & Rescue District there is not a present need for the 1997 1.5 mill fire levy and resolved not to collect the 1.5 mill levy. **Trustee Oiler moved to adopt Resolution 2012-21, seconded by Trustee Harris. Roll call: Harris, aye; Likley, aye; Oiler, aye.** The fiscal officer will sign and date the resolution and forward a certified copy to the county auditor.

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- ✓ Medical/Health Insurance for employees' renewal is January 1, 2013. The rate increase this year is 9.96%. The trustees reviewed the proposal and the rate increase. The fiscal officer related that since our employees have not had any major charges, the consortium is looking at the claims and we were given a good rating. **Trustee Likley made a motion to continue with the Ohio Plan Health Care realizing there will be a 9.96% increase for the year 2013, seconded by Trustee Oiler. Roll call: Oiler, aye; Harris, aye; Likley, aye.**
- ✓ Steps were taken to purchase a \$250,000 13 month CD at the Westfield Bank at the rate of .80% interest. The remainder of the money market was rolled into the checking account at a rate of .25% interest as the money market account was earning .10% interest.
- ✓ Fiscal officer had a letter dated Oct. 17, 2012 from Allan Michelson, law director for Village of Creston to Bill Thorne asking him his opinion on prorating the taxes and the road & bridge and fire taxes should be eliminated. This will be another question for Bill.

MINUTES of the November 5, 2012 regular meeting were reviewed and corrected.

Trustee Oiler made a motion to approve the November 5, 2012 minutes of the regular meeting as corrected, seconded by Trustee Harris. Roll call: Likley, aye; Oiler, aye; Harris, aye

Trustee Likley made mention the November 5, 2012 minutes for the Public Hearing for Small Wind Energy System had not been received at this time.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Trustee Likley asked if the fiscal officer had contacted the individual that had a fee from OPERS because of the fact that the earnings were on a quarterly basis and the report was filed after the quarter triggering a fee. Trustee Likley suggested the fiscal officer prepare a letter and send it to all zoning board members giving them an option to be paid monthly but they must have the funds direct deposited.

NEW BUSINESS:

- ✚ The need to have a special meeting with Bill Thorne was discussed. Trustee Likley recommended that it be advertised as special meeting – general business so the multiple issues can be discussed such as but not limited to: Gloria Glens fire contract; the Westfield Fire/Rescue District set up; letter from Allan Michelson concerning the Creston taxes recoup; BZA alternate. It was decided that the fiscal officer would contact Bill's office tomorrow and see if he is available Monday, Sept. 26th at 5:30 pm on his way home from work. Trustee Likley suggested everyone write their questions and send them to Bill so he can have answers for us when he gets here.
- ✚ Trustee Likley wants to get a fire department budget together as soon as we can so the village and the chief can get their budget together. Fiscal officer is waiting on the answer from Bill on how to handle the district.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS:

December 3, 2012 Trustees Regular Meeting at 7:00 pm
December 11, 2012 Zoning Commission Regular Meeting at 7:30 pm

No public comment

Trustee Harris made a motion to adjourn at 8:25 pm, seconded by Trustee Oiler. Unanimous

Approved December 3, 2012