

Edinburg Township Trustees – Regular Trustee Meeting

At Edinburg Town Hall

November 9th, 2017

Pledge allegiance was called by Jeffrey Bixler after opening this meeting at 7:30 pm.

Row call shows Trustees: Jeffrey Bixler: Present, Mr. John Hayes: present Ms. Austin : present Fiscal Officer Mr. McCluskey: present. Mr. Biltz road department: present Fire department Mr. Pittinger: Present, Ms. Templeton zoning: Absent.

Guests: Rob Swauger Fire department, David Starcher, Resident, Mary Hellen Smith, Portage county Health District, Ryan Shackelford, Portage County EMA, Mike and Lisa Morehead, resident, Tim Pfile, resident.

- I. Mr Bixler made a **motion to approve the minutes of the 26th of October**. Mr. Hayes seconded, Mr. Bixler then tabled the roll until some corrections would be made.
- II. Guest Speaker: Mary Helen Smith from the Portage County Health District and Ryan Shackelford of EMA, we're introduced and proceeded to give synopsis of the well and gas issue at Rock Spring and Booth Road.

Mary Helen passed out some information from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and general information from the health department, Ohio EPA, and updated reports from ODNR.

General discussion summarized the impact of a smell of gas in a private well and an investigation that followed regarding the well water in the area as well as the private gas company services and Wells. She reported the fire department did evaluate the situation and registered methane on the gas meter. That was clearly high readings considering the percent of LEL of 5% and 5% to 15% of methane in a well can be explosive.

They called the gas company and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. The well cap had been removed to vent the well. The gas company had come in and stopped producing at the well and eventually excavated around the well and injected into the stone and a direct line. She complimented the fire department on obtaining the well logs and looked to neighboring wells that fell within the same water source and tested for methane. Mary Helen reported that once the gas company had taken action to mitigate the incident the readings in the private water well had gone down. Initially the people in the affected houses were asked to leave due to potential of an explosion as has it occurred on record in Ohio from old well. She reported a few other incidences in Bainbridge, Cuyahoga County and in Ashtabula. Mary Helen reported that methane is a natural gas that is odorless and colorless. She says what you smell from natural gas is the organic components not the gas itself. She reported the odor of refined gas is injected with a product Captan to give it an odor. Mary Helen summarize the majority of those parties involved believe the methane came from a gathering line not a production line.

She presented a report generated from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources who had repeated the testing on Monday following the incident which support supported the fire departments evaluation that the house was no longer at risk that the cause had been mitigated. They had suggested the residents could move back into their home with 2 recommendations; 1. that they work with a private water system contractor to have a venting cap put on the well; And secondly, that they would get a combined carbon monoxide and methane detector.

Mary Helen stated they had emailed ODNR for further information at the

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recommendation of the Ohio Department of Health. She reported they have responded to her today and this report says basically that they still believe that the incident is below any Threat Level and they are undertaking an investigation that is 1.8 mile radius around that area and the well that is adjacent to it and at this time there are no apparent threats.

Mary Helen stated that those investigating at the time had felt that there was some cause and effect as the high levels dissipated once they had excavated around the gas well. However, the Health Department's conjecture isn't something they can necessarily prove and it is ODNR's responsibility to investigate. She said ODNR stated they would present her with the final report once their investigation was complete.

She handed out further information, describing the difference between methane in a well casing and methane dissolved in the water that can enter a house and volatilize out of the tap. That water would effervesce. She reported that methane is not the only gas people will find in their wells, but there are other gases, such as a smell of rotten eggs caused by hydrogen sulfide, that is not explosive; however is corrosive to plumbing. She also provided a list of available at the health department for well contractors and their requirements as well as descriptions of how to vent a well. She reported that anyone that is interested in more information can contact her at the health department.

John Hayes reported that he took a drive up booth and right at that area, in line with the home over on 14, and he smelled gas. Mary Helen responded there are different types of smells relating to gas whether it was captans put in the produced gas or a naturally occurring gas. The smells from a natural well are non methane organic compounds. She said they're concerned with the well is if the methane is dissolved in the water and it is brought into the house and create an environment between 5 and 15% LEL; it is then at that specific level in a closed space, then that it is volatile.

Last reported there is a Dominion line which is perpendicular and only buried 4 feet deep where there is a pull off where people go hunting. He stated he did not know if there is a check valve or something along that line that may be causing that smell. Mary Helen reported to that the gas well that they were looking at that was involved was related to a gathering line and the company said it is not their responsibility. So Dominion's position was that it wasn't their gathering lines because this appeared in a Shale aquifer. Those speakers in attendance complimented each other on the superior work and handling this incident.

Jeffrey Bixler asked for further clarification of the percentage report by Scott King. This was clarified by Mary Helen and Ryan. Jeffrey Bixler thanked the fire department, the health department, the EMA, and John Hayes for their work on this incident. A general discussion continued regarding the urgency and reaction level with the resident notification and displacement and that all agreed it would be better to air on the side of overreacting then under reacting and having an incident.

- III. Jeffrey Bixler asked for a **motion to approve the agenda of November 9th.** Motion was made by John Hayes and seconded by Diane Austin will call Bixler yes Austin yes Hayes yes.
- IV. Jeffrey Bixler opened the floor to others in attendance. No one in the audience had any response at this time.
- V. Correspondence.

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1. Jeffrey Bixler read information regarding a Hazmat response to a diesel spill on Riddle Road Creek in Ravenna in February of 2013. He handed the letter over to Mike Pittinger to follow up on action plan.
2. Bill had submitted a warrant to the trustees that he had received, however, had no knowledge of what the payment was for. He was hoping the trustees or those present could explain. Mike said he would review his records but believed it was related to a call.

VI. Old business.

No reports were presented.

VII. New business.

1. Jeffrey Bixler presented a letter of resignation from Sandy Templeton as zoning inspector as of November 19th.

Jeffrey Bixler moved to accept the resignation of Sandi Templeton as zoning inspector. John Hayes seconded. Vote: Bixler, Yes Hayes: yes Austin: abstained.

VIII. Trustee reports

1. John Hayes said he had nothing to offer in regards to report however would like to thank the residents of Edinburg Township for allowing him to serve as their trustee for the almost 4 years, And he would like to congratulate the new trustees that were voted into office and which them luck.
2. Jeffrey Bixler reported he would like to discuss issues relating to the fire departments EMS for example, 4155 State Route 14, the Kevin Coleman Home for repeated alarm call drops. Averaging 2 times a month and another yesterday, and he thought at one point in time that if there were repeated alarm drops the township would respond. He asked Diane if she remembered anything relating to this. Diane jokingly mentioned it was when you (Jeffrey Bixler) were fire chief. She said it seemed to her that they were given so many times and that if it continued on then it was a faulty alarm system; or someone is messing with it at the facility. Mike Swauger interjected.....or a missed placed alarm. (Located in an inappropriate spot). Diane said then they need to get the company to move it. Jeffrey stated he believed the charge for these excessive calls was supposed to be \$500.00 dollars. Because it costs the department several hundred dollars to put the fire department out the door. He asked about potential for a resolution. Diane asked if the Sheriff's department has a policy. General discussion about area agencies and possible charging discussed amongst fire chief and trustees. Trustees asked Mike Pittinger if he could get copies of those policies that he is aware of. Jeffrey said he would also discuss this with Chris Meduri.

John asked if the home was not monitored. Jeffrey said there was 24 hour on duty staff coverage. Diane said it is also rotated in and out. John asked if when the department responds to calls, is staff present? Mike Pittinger and Rob Swauger both said usually the residents answer the door, and that only sometimes is staff there. Diane said in their conditional use permit, it states there is to be 24 hour staff, and if they are violating that Kevin Coleman needs to be brought into the board of zoning appeals. Rob Swauger said he has never seen a manager there at night, just during the day. John said he was on the BZA at that time and he agrees, although he could not quote the stipulations. He stated if there is not staff and it is

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becoming an expense to the fire department it needs to be addressed. Bill mentioned there is also a dispatch charge with every call as well. General exploratory discussion continued amongst trustees, fiscal officer and Fire department relating to role of zoning, group home licensure, non staffed facility, and excessive calls.

Jeffrey said he would like to see the following: At next call, he wants documentation of the managing staff and attached phone number. If there are no staff, the fire department is to report this back to the trustees. Diane stated the contract for conditional used would have been about 24 to 26 years ago.

3. Secondly, Jeffrey would like to make sure the fire department is keeping a good log of our fire department calls to other townships, since we are staffing 24/7, to assure we are not being used as the area fire department, rather than just for mutual aid. He said he sees, that our township is being called for patient assist, like for a fall recently, in Paris. He asked to review the mutual aid agreement that was originally completed by Mr. Bixler. He will follow up with Mike to get copies of the original files to review. Bill said he did not find any in to Township office.

General discussion of Fire district copies, Jeffrey gave example read of a contract from Ravenna City in 1999. Mike agreed that Edinburg resources are not reimbursed for such calls. Jeffrey stated we (Trustees and Fire department) have asked for levies for our township fire department, for our township, and he does not want to get into a position where the township residents feel we are abusing that.

IX. Department reports.

1. Road Cemetery parks.

Kevin reported he talk to ODOT in regards to sign at Carlisle way, stating no jake brake and another at end of cable Line Road, that will say end Jake brake.

He reported he talked to First Energy about the street lights which included two different divisions 1 for the Bingham place and another that is out of Kent. The gentleman in charge of the Bingham Place area returned a call to Mike and stated to install the light at Bingham is about \$1,500. It will cost the township approximately \$4.33 a month for electricity. He stated he would guess that one at Carlisle way and the highlands would be approximately, \$1800.00 as well.

John stated it was the people at the Highlands that requested this, and there is a pole already there. Kevin said regardless of the pole in place, the cost is the same. Diane and Jeffrey have a side bars, not discernible. John continued he had discussed with Jeffrey that the price seems awful steep and he thought he had lights put up and thought they would do this just to make money off the electric. Jeffrey stated Diane brought up a good point, that this was a discussion many years ago; that the township would have agreed to pay for the electric, however, the association should have paid for the light. But there is no association. Diane stated previously the trustees had spoke with Mr. Rediger (sp) from the Highlands regarding this agreement to cover only the electric cost, not the installation.

John said he did not believe the owners of the development were ever able to get an association. Trustees all agreed that this is still the side they take.

Kevin continued to discuss general property maintenance completed at the cemetery and park, as well as some dead trees that need removed, and need to rent a chipper.

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2. Fire department.

Mike Pittinger stated 19 total calls 6 oil well incidences turn it training to the gas while incident two alarms one at Coleman, 10 EMS 1 Mutual Aid. He talked with Grant services for a grant that is supposed to open the week of Thanksgiving. They reported they would send a copy of the grant before it is sent so they (Trustees) can read through it for approval.

3. Zoning.

Diane stated Sandy stated she had 25 phone calls and 3 building permits and as to the gentleman that asked about the golf cart incident; Mr. O'Shields had informed her that that the cart on top of the van had been impounded or you can have the gentleman call her and she would explain it to him. Bill said the gentlemen's name is in the copy of the 10/29/2017 minutes the trustees had. It was clarified as Russ Williams. Bill said the trustees said they would notify him.

Guest Asked to Speak:

Mike Morehead introduced himself and asked the trustees that since Mike had given report on the response to the well issues; Mr. Morehead wondered at what point does.... (Obviously, at least with the drilling, we know the ODNR is very friendly with the oil industry) ...so my question would be at what point are we going to get a close out report on what they determined caused this well to have a gas problem. And 2, what's the recourse for all the expenses incurred for having these guys run around all weekend long chasing these problems and through the week. And worrying about a lift assist in Paris?..... What..... these guys have what a week and a half in this? And all I can tell you is some facts may or may not be known, but they were in the property just north of that duplex for 2 months this past spring working on that particular well. And I didn't hear anyone mention what the active status of the well is. Are the currently pumping? Did they shut it down for a week til everybody calms down about the situation? That is a supply well that runs up to the commercial lines that are on Booth, so it makes sense the problem would come in that direction. Because the first road that you're talking about, there's probably 3 collection tanks back there for oil and another 2 or 3 wells back there..... they may or may not have informed you..... are run in the state hunting grounds and as you go down Booth there's another 3 or 4 more wells that are all on hunting property going down through there and they are all connected to the commercial. But that first driveway seems to be the collection point to hit the commercial line. So I'm wondering what's our recourse and do we even have an idea of how many man hours were spent on that well issue? If they were to determine that the new line that was installed in the spring is the problem, what our recourse for recapturing that, one, and two, I do personally know someone that lived in that duplex for 5 years and it is not a normal situation for that well to have gas in it ever, Bill Buchanan. And it makes sense with the topography that is up there, it drops pretty quickly from that property heading north, so I'm wondering how upfront they are gonna be with the reporting back to the chief about what caused it? Mike interjected, Can I interrupt?..Jeffrey asked if Mr. Morehead was done...yes...Okay Mike.

Mike reported Mary Helen is on their shirrtails, and it is public record, that when my assistant chief called Enervest, who owns that well, they said we are not coming out. Mr. Morehead said another thing to mention is that all those wells, in the last two years...it is a new company; it a new tender; all the guys maintaining the wells are all brand new, within the last 2 years.

Mike continued, Scott King with the ODNR and Mary, is working with him because

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we all want to know is this something that came from the well or is it a natural occurrence? And by doing the testing they are doing, it takes time, because they have to get the chemical compositions out of the well and out of the earth around it to see the levels are; because natural occurrence has different chemical compositions than the actual well itself. So that needs to be determined, there is also other testing they are looking into, an echo testing. Rob Swauger said, the Echo testing...I contacted Tom Hill, he is the supervisor from ODNR, and questioned him about what kind of tests can be ongoing to determine if it is a natural event or if it were the actual level. I questioned about an echo test and he said yes they would do that to test the level of running water in the basin, so I don't know that has been done yet at the gas well. Mike responded as far as the man hours he tracks those down to the seconds, and there are very close records. And if at that point if it ends up falling that it is a problem with the well, then Enervest would have to take care of the financial end as well. We had other resources as well like hazmat. Right now there is no charge, but if it is Enervest problem, they will go back and charge. If it is a natural occurrence, it is public service at that point. Jeffrey confirmed Mikes statements that if Enervest was negligent they we will bill through EMA and EMA through the prosecutor and he will go after the money. This is not a process that is uncommon, like a fuel spill, hazmat in nature. Mike said they are still on top of this. Mr. Moreland discussed his familiarity with the area for over 25 years of his history, it has never occurred, but he knows Enervest is extremely difficult to deal with, relating personal experience. General discussion of the poor response from Enervest.

3. Fiscal officer.

Bill shared a statement from Liferforce management requesting a reimbursement to a EMS recipient who paid her bill twice. Account NORMAR.

Motion made by Diane Austin to reimburse NORMAR for overpayment,
seconded by Jeffrey Bixler, roll, Bixler yes, Austin, yes, Hayes, yes

Bill also asked for clarification of items in regard to equipment inventory for Insurance, clarification obtained: Only one lawn mower, a zero turn mower, was to be removed from inventory. Kevin said they only have 3 not 4. Diane questioned that inventory was turned in, as well as, Jeffrey. Bill agreed they were turned in, but these particular items were either not circled or left blank.

Bill presented contract for Medicare reimbursement for signatures, Mike said Andrea at Life force said generally it is the board that signs it. Bill said it asks for one signatory, and he would complete the account information section.

Motion to pay the bills warrants 40395 through 40423, was made by John Hayes,
seconded by Ms. Austin.

Roll call, Hayes, yes, Austin Yes, Bixler, yes.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 made by Diane, Seconded by Hayes. Roll:
Austin yes, Hayes Yes, Bixler, yes.

Jeffrey Bixler, Chairman

John Hayes, Vice Chairman

Diane Hargett Austin, Trustee

William McCluskey, Fiscal Officer