

BERKSHIRE TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING NOVEMBER 14, 2019

Bill Holtry called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Rod Myers, here; Bill Holtry, here and Mike Dattilo, here.

Mike made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of October 28, 2019. Second by Rod. Vote: Unanimous.

Public Participation:

Stephanie Allen – Falling Meadows Dr.

Matt Ulrey – Kerfield Dr.

Ellen Ebe- Holley Woods Dr.

Emma Spate – St Rt. 61

New Business:

Julie – from Brosius and Johnson discussed appointing member to the JEDD2 Board. One to represent the Township and one to represent the Employees. Bill Holtry ask her about bumping the deadline back to Jan 15 or so. Julie will check on this. Rod ask how important is this Board Member. 4 Year term JEDD – Joint Economic Development District – Levies and income tax on Employees.

Mike made a motion to move the JEDD2 deadline back to after January 1, 2019. Second by Rod. Vote: Unanimous.

Julie also advised since the Park Levies were defeated in the Election she would be terminating the Purchase Agreement for the Park properties with the owner and her attorney.

Bill Holtry read the Resignation Letter of Jeff George as Zoning Inspector and Township Administrator effective 11-14-2019

Bill made a motion to approve this resignation as of 11-14-2019. Second by Mike. Vote: Unanimous
Rod asks about the position created for Beth Hugh for Park Grant applications. The Trustees discussed this and not action was taken on her position. Discussion of acting as Temporary Administrator until the end of year but no action was taken on this.

Mike explained the serious situation of the Joe Walker Road Culvert.

Shawna explained about the Learning Trail Sign. She explained it will go over the entrance of the Park. The Trustees agreed to this purchase in the amount of \$150.00.

Shawna asks the Trustees about headstone rules for the Cemetery and about if people want to install something other than a headstone of granite, marble etc. The Trustees advised Shawna to make some calls to neighboring townships to see how they handle this situation.

Mike explained what Roads the township will be resurfacing next year.

Doug Reidel will be here at the next meeting to explain the Joe Walker situation.

The Trustees agreed to a meeting change from December 23, 2019 to December 30, 2019 to be the end of year meeting to sign checks.

Bill made a motion to authorize the fiscal officer to draw upon the funds to pay the bills. Second by Mike. Vote: Unanimous

Bill made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. Second by Rod. Vote: Unanimous

Mr. Jeff George
2200 Blayney Road
Sunbury, Ohio 43074

November 14, 2019

Trustee William Holtry Chairman
Trustee Mike Datillo Vice Chairman
1454 Rome Corners Road
Galena, Ohio 43021

Dear Trustees:

It is with great sadness that effective November 14, 2019 at 5:00 p.m., I am resigning from my position as Berkshire Township Zoning Inspector and Berkshire Township Administrator.

Over 11 years ago I began working for Berkshire Township. All employees were part-time and development was slow. The office had an old desktop, slow internet and an analog copier that could only copy.

There was limited communication with the residents, occasional news letters and a static website. Through many conversations with Trustee Holtry and with approval of all trustees, office equipment was updated, the website became a tool to communicate with residents, and monthly e-mail news letters sent. A new Berkshire Township foundation had begun to be built, but there was more to do.

With the team work of Trustee Holtry and I, we started working on the financial foundation for the future of Berkshire Township. Financial tools were implemented to aid in building infrastructure and tax revenue generated from commercial development so as to minimize residents real estate tax burdens as the township grew. In addition, we worked closely with the zoning board, land owners and private stakeholders to create greater opportunity for commercial and residential development in areas directly around I-71 and 36/37. These zoning plans are known as Articles 16 and 17 of the Zoning Resolution. This area will be allowed to have greater densities, but areas outside Article 16 and 17 must meet much lower density requirements.

The foundation created with the financial tools and zoning will generate income for the township for the next 90+ years without a single real-estate tax dollar coming from Berkshire Residents. There is more work to be done. I am proud of our work and hope the next trustees will take the time to understand what has been accomplished.

Along the way there have been some bumps. Hundreds of acres in the township have been annexed in to the village of Sunbury and Galena and, because of an inept trustee, an outlet mall was almost lost to the villages too.

So why am I resigning? Because of the creation of an intolerable, threatening, belittling, and abusive work environment created by Trustee Rod Myers. Below are word for word voice mails left for me on the township cell phone. The voice mails are still on the township cell phone for confirmation.

Friday September 6, 2019 5:57 p.m.: (In an angry tone of voice) "Did the trustees get an invitation to the opening of the TSC on 36/37. Because if you got called, which I know you did, you didn't call me to tell me we were invited." Rod was correct, I did not call any of the trustees rather at the previous trustee meeting, each trustee was given an invite to the opening. In addition, after receiving a call from the TSC manager, I e-mailed the trustees a second invite in a group e-mail.

Friday October 11, 2019 4:04 p.m.: (In an angry tone of voice) "Jeff I've had two people tell me about your insubordination last night (October 10th trustee meeting) I tell ya, I'm not putting up with it. I told you once I've told you twice, I'm your boss, your gonna treat me like I'm your boss and if your disrespectful to me, I tell ya Jeff, I'll make the whole next 2-3 months miserable and if Josh doesn't get elected it will be the next two years, but I'm not putting up with your crap. Thank you Rod Myers."

Friday October 25, 2019 4:42 p.m.: (In an angry tone of voice) "Hey Jeff I want to know what the Northstar discussion is before I go to the meeting Monday night. So whether if its you or Beth that calls me, I want to know what its about, because I know you're such a wimp you won't call me. So have Beth call me and let me know what it's all about".

I would also like the attached memorandums dated, July 30, 2019, August 13, 2019 and September 16, 2019 and sent to the Trustee Chairman read into the record, placed in my employee file, and if there is no file, a file created and placed in the new file.

It has been a pleasure working with the late Mr. Bob Carpenter, Trustee Bill Holtry and Trustee Mike Datillo. Each of these Trustees had an eye on the future of the township, created a positive work environment through team building and constructive dialogue. I will miss working with them. The team created with Shawna, Beth, Dan and Justin have been instrumental in creating the new foundation of the township. Their creativity, knowledge, dedication, and team work have made Berkshire Township a better place to live and work.

Thank you

Jeff George