

# **RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**

## **HOCKING TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

### **REGULAR SESSION**

Held: October 22, 2024, 7:00 PM

Location: 1175 Cincinnati Zanesville Road SW, Lancaster, Ohio 43130.

Chairperson Gail Ellinger called the meeting to order with the Pledge to the flag. The following members and visitors were present:

Mrs. Gail Ellinger Present

Mr. Charles Ressler Present

Mr. Steve Wolfe – Present

Mr. Wes Hurley – Absent

### **VISITORS:**

See Sign in Sheet with a total of 7 visitors present.

### **STATEMENT FROM THE BOARD:**

Trustee Ellinger stated public participation is a privilege given for the public to speak to the Board of Hocking Township Trustees and to the public who is attending the monthly meeting. The board does not have to let anyone speak if it so wishes. The board can ask anyone to leave during our public meeting who is found to be disrespectful and disruptive toward our board and those attending. The board also appreciates those who attend and truly wants to hear how our constituents feel about township matters when approached with respect and honesty.

When public participation turns into nothing but a bashing of our board and is leading to nothing productive, we are no longer going to permit accusatory comments and destructive behavior to be part of our meeting. This decision comes after putting up with this month after month from certain residents.

And as a matter of record, the road improvements on Stepath Mound Lane are done and the board is satisfied with the result of the road improvements. The road surface now is 100% better than it was when most of the houses were built on the road. We wish to be able to continue on our mission to keep all of our roads in good condition for our residents.

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As far as accusations and questions concerning our practice of funding projects and budgeting items, we have had squeaky clean audits with no findings for several years now, when the state audits our books. So, to put these accusations to rest, it is happening here and now. We will no longer permit rude comments, accusatory remarks and name calling over and over directed to our board from here on out. This has happened month after month and it needs to stop and it will.

When you are talking about our board and slandering our name, we are taking this very seriously and we will not let this happen during our meetings. We have worked hard and have tried to be good stewards to our township. We are proud of where we have come and will continue to try to the same good job as our residents have enjoyed for several years now. No, we are not perfect but we try our best and appreciate the words of encouragement that we receive from our residents.

Thank you to those who support us. We are truly grateful for all of you. We did seek the advice of our Fairfield County Prosecutors Office about these matters and we are within the scope of our duties and responsibilities.

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

Paula Snoke asked what a quote means and where the board posts bids at. Trustee Ellinger stopped Paula Snoke and stated the board has answered these questions in previous meetings. Rocky Johnson was trying to speak to the board, Paula Snoke made a comment and interrupted Rocky Johnson when speaking. Trustee Ellinger then asked Paula Snoke to leave if she couldn't be quiet while other were speaking. Paula Snoke then asked if Rocky Johnson was signed up to speak. Paula Snoke then left the meeting.

### **REGIONAL PLANNING REPORT:**

No Hocking Township issues.

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### **ZONING:**

Zoning Inspector Rich Hogle reported a total of 5 permits for the month. Hollie Arledge for a new build at 3517 Stoney Hill Road, Tim Bush for an addition at 4769 Northview Court, Kelby Conkle for a pole barn at 3170 Meister Road, Tim Roehrenbeck for a new build and pole building at 3511 Stoney Hill Road.

### **CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE FISCAL OFFICER:**

Minutes from the September Meeting being read prior by the Board were approved as read, so moved by Trustee Wolfe and seconded by Trustee Ellinger. All were in favor with 2 ayes and no negative votes, motion passed. OTA conference is scheduled for January 29, 2025 – January 31, 2025 at the convention center.

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT:**

Assistant Fire Chief Kilbarger reported monthly runs so far have been 27 fire and 35 EMS for a total of 933 runs YTD. Mutual aid was provided to Amanda, Berne, Clearcreek, Lancaster, and Greenfield townships. There were several major incidents dispatched from auto accidents, overdose, fire structure, several grass fires, cardiac arrests, chest pains, and service/fire alarm calls. The fire department received quotes for the bed replacement of the grass truck and the skid unit. Trustee Wolfe motioned to approved the purchase of the bed not to exceed \$5,000 and for the purchase of the skid unit at a cost of \$21,750.00. Trustee Ellinger seconded the motion. Roll call vote Ellinger – Yes, Wolfe -Yes. Motion approved.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

1. The fire levy is on the ballot for November.
2. The next county OTA meeting will be December 30, 2024 at 6:00pm at the Ricketts Hall Ed Sands Building inside the fairgrounds.
3. Exterior Improvements started on the roof and found that there were some other underline issues with water leaks and the cost would be much more due to more repairs. Trustee Wolfe motioned to table the roof repair until another contractor can give an

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opinion and quote. Trustee Ellinger seconded the motion. Roll call vote Ellinger – Yes, Wolfe -Yes. Motion approved. Trustee Ellinger stated that we contacted several contractors to quote on this project, but only one has responded.

4. Trustee Wolfe motioned to move forward with a speed study on Country Club Road North. Trustee Ellinger seconded the motion. Roll call vote Ellinger – Yes, Wolfe -Yes. Motion approved.

### NEW BUSINESS:

1. AEP West Lancaster Transmission Project will not be traveling on any of the Hocking Townships Roads.
2. Trustee Wolfe contacted ODOT about the flashers at the stop signs at the intersection of State Route 188 and Becks Knob Road. ODOT pulled data and stated there have not been enough fatal accidents at that intersection and does not justify the need for those to be installed. They recommended 48” signs to be installed, but this could be an issue with large trucks turning and possible blind spots.
3. Trustee Wolfe motioned to submit a letter to the Ohio Siting Board stating Hocking Township Boards position on the Eastern Cottontail Solar and asking to deny the application.

Trustee Wolfe moved to pay the warrants for the month seconded by Trustee Ellinger. Roll call vote Ellinger – Yes, Wolfe -Yes. Motion approved.

There being no further business to discuss Trustee Wolfe motioned to adjourn and Trustee Ellinger seconded the motion.

  
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Mrs. Gail V. Ellinger

  
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Mr. Steve Wolfe

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Mr. Charles Ressler

All formal actions of the Board of Hocking Township concerning and relating to the adoption of resolutions and/or motions passed at this meeting were adopted in a meeting open to the public, in compliance with the law, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code