

Union Township Trustees
August 19, 2024
Regular Trustee Meeting

The Union Township Trustees met on August 19, 2024, at 7:00 pm for a regular meeting. Fiscal Officer Karen Nethers roll call showed the following trustees: Roger Start, Jeff Sharps and John Slater. Paula Greene, Township Administrator, and Dave Cable, Road Superintendent, were present. Trustee Start led the Pledge of Allegiance. Guests - Bill Lozier, Attorney Pete Griggs and Commissioner Rick Black.

Minutes –Mr. Slater motioned, and Mr. Sharps seconded to approve the July 15 and Special July 29 minutes. Motion carried.

Bills – Mr. Sharps motioned, and Mr. Slater seconded to approve the bills. Motion carried.

Public Comments – No comments

Fiscal Officer – No comments

Economic Development –

The following resolutions were presented:

Resolution 2024-34 To Rescind Resolution 2024-33

Mr. Slater moved, and Mr. Sharps seconded to rescind Resolution 2024-33.

No discussion.

Roll call: Mr. Start – yes Mr. Sharps – yes Mr. Slater - yes

Resolution 2024-35 Adopt Jersey Heath, Union JEDD Contract

Mr. Slater moved, and Mr. Sharps seconded to adopt the Jersey, Heath, and Union JEDD Contract. No discussion.

Roll call: Mr. Start – yes Mr. Sharps – yes Mr. Slater - yes

Road and Bridge -

Blacks Road Project – Paving to begin this week.

Bill Lozier, representing Licking County TID discussed comments from the Stakeholders Study Discussion and Intersection Improvement sessions. Mr. Lozier is seeking input from the Trustees for traffic management on State Route 37. Mr. Lozier reviewed the study, including travel routes and times. Truck traffic has increased on State Route 37 to 161.

Mr. Lozier recommends roundabouts for the intersections along State Route 37 in Union Township; roundabouts would be the most efficient at calming traffic. Mr. Lozier said township residents (including himself) need to cross SR 37 frequently and roundabouts at SR 37 intersections would make roads safer. Etna Township and Pataskala are making similar improvements. Large farm equipment and semis can pass through roundabouts. Mr. Lozier provided a link to a video regarding this issue. Mr. Lozier felt installing turn lanes would make crossing SR 37 more difficult.

A roundabout at James Road on the border of the Township was discussed as the intersection is congested with morning and afternoon work traffic. Deeds Road intersection was listed as a concern.

Union Station and Hayes Road were discussed. It was felt this area would be a good location for a roundabout (peanut) as the roads are not aligned and are difficult to enter and exit. ODOT will be replacing the bridge in 2025.

Grandpoint Drive was discussed. Mr. Lozier said Granville Schools would need to give input for bus routes and the possibility of a new school being constructed nearby in the future. Mr. Start asked should a housing development materialize on the farm behind Grandpoint who would be financially responsible for upgrading the intersection. Mr. Lozier said Licking County has stringent development requirements and the developer would be responsible for any improvements. A Roundabout could cost up to four million.

Mr. Start asked if public input was a good tool for support, adding the Trustees should provide a recommendation to ODOT. Mr. Lozier felt public input had to be managed. Mr. Lozier encouraged the board to speak with residents and would like the board to issue a letter or resolution of their support in a month's time.

Mr. Slater said State Route 37 is a major avenue for farmers to deliver grain to Croton, which is now their closest location to sell grain. The local and Columbus granaries no longer accept grain. State Route 37 was intended to be a throughfare for commerce and roundabouts will force traffic, especially truck traffic onto other roads such as (township) Gale Road. Mr. Slater favors turn lanes to help alleviate the issues. Roundabouts can be difficult for farm equipment and semis to travel through if not constructed correctly. Straight lanes are best, in his opinion.

Mr. Sharps said roundabouts have been constructed in the Reynoldsburg/Turo Township area. In the beginning, drivers were confused, but learned to travel through them. Fire equipment need to slow down to travel through the roundabouts. Mr. Sharps feels roundabout have decreased major injury accidents.

Mr. Black asked Mr. Slater his opinion of the travel speed for a semi through a roundabout. Mr. Slater said if you are familiar with the area 20-25; if not familiar 10-15 mph. Mr. Black said he originally avoided the roundabouts in downtown Newark, but now has gotten used to them. Mr. Black said traffic on is bad on SR 37 and increasing; he's not in favor of traffic lights, but feels roundabouts are okay. Mr. Start said if truck traffic goes another way, then it has accomplished its goal.

Paula shared concerns for the out of town, young and older drivers especially at night as the roundabouts are out in the country. Mr. Lozier assured us the roundabouts would be well lit. Mr. Start said roundabouts are common now there's not a problem. Granville doesn't want any more trucks through the interchange.

At this time the discussion was table to next meeting, giving the Trustees time to gather input from residents.

Administration

Hebron Reparations – Mr. Sharps spoke with Mayor Mockus who advised the Village would

like to work out an agreement regarding the reparations. The Trustees said Hebron needs to come up with an offer. It was agreed that the Township has been very patient with the Village on the matter. Discussion was held on how to proceed if an agreement cannot be reached. Mr. Sharps said he will schedule a meeting.

Granville Twp. Fire Contract Revision - Chief Curtis has provided a draft Amendment to the Fire Contract which simplifies the calculation method of the revenue due for service. The Amendment will formally be presented to the Trustees once Attorney Carnes has reviewed the document.

Map Amendment – A map amendment was submitted and will be heard by the Zoning Commission on August 27 @ 6pm. The property is owned by Alexander Medvec requests his 12-acre parcel be rezoned from AG to RR4 on Hayes Road.

Wind and Solar Public hearing – The Trustees asked Paula to represent the Board at the August 20 hearing.

Special Meeting – a Special Meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 21, 2024 @2:30 pm to discuss economic development proposals and related agreements. The Board will enter executive session upon calling the meeting to order per ORC 121.22(G)(8).

Trustees

Mr. Start, Mr. Sharps and Mr. Slater had no further comments.

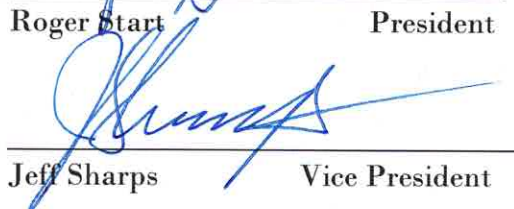
With there being no further business. Mr. Start moved to adjourn at 7:38 pm. Mr. Sharps seconded. The next Union Township Trustees will be held Tuesday, September 3, 2024, at 7:56 pm.



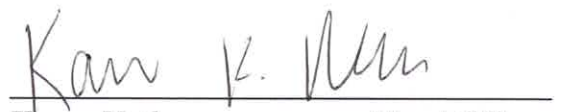
Roger Start President



John Slater Trustee



Jeff Sharps Vice President



Karen Nethers Fiscal Officer

