

Union Township Trustees
Minutes of Regular Meeting
March 23, 2020

The Union Township Trustees held their regular meeting, March 23, 2020, at 7:00 pm with Trustee Prince opening the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call showed Trustees Charlie Prince, John Slater, Randy Weekly, and Fiscal Officer Jessica Slater. Road Supervisor Dave Cable and Township Administrator Paula Greene were also present. Guest: Martha Cable.

Bills

The Clerk certified that the money to pay the bills was in the treasury or is in the process of collection. There were no questions regarding the bills. Mr. Slater moved to approve the bills. Mr. Prince second. Motion carried.

Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting and the three map amendments hearings held before the meeting were read and approved, by a motion made by Mr. Slater and seconded by Mr. Weekly. Motion carried.

Road & Bridge

March 18-24 Storm Damage:

Hallie Lane – On March 20, Hallie Lane was closed due to the roadway washing out from the heavy rains, resulting in the loss of the embankment and partial undercutting of the roadway itself. Mr. Slater suggested filling the hole with clean concrete. Branches and tree trunks need to be removed from the waterway.

Hayes Road – The culvert near 3174 Hayes Road collapsed on one side, causing the embankment to slide away from the road. Assistance from the Licking County Engineer's Office and Highway Department will be required to repair as it is 12' from the pavement to the top of the culvert pipe. An Engineer's Request for this project was turned into the LC Engineer's Office earlier this year. Dave expects the estimate to be completed soon.

Swamp Road – The culvert collapsed north of 10553 Swamp Road. Dave reported the Engineer's Office had completed their Engineer's Request that the Township submitted earlier this year. This project requires new headwalls and culvert pipe. A discussion was held on purchasing items needed for the culvert replacement.

Canal & Swamp Road – Sections of berms were washed out on both roads.

Damage Report – A list of road damages along with employee hours worked, equipment used, and estimated repair cost was reported to EMA.

O'Neill Drive – Dave will be replacing a 12” culvert pipe on Tuesday. There were utility lines on top of the culvert. The phone company moved the lines on Saturday.

Enterprise Drive - The construction signs at the entrance of Enterprise Drive have been removed. It is unknown why. Mr. Slater thought the project was to start in April.

Gas Line Permit – Hebron Engineering submitted a permit to install a 2” gas line at 1500 Granview Road. Mr. Weekly moved to approve the permit as requested on Granview Road. Mr. Slater seconded. Motion Carried.

Berm Material - Mr. Weekly made a motion to approve the berm material estimates for Canal and Gale Road. Mr. Slater seconded. Motion carried.

Permanent Appropriations

The trustees reviewed the 2020 permanent appropriations. There being no questions, Mr. Slater moved to accept the appropriations. Mr. Weekly seconded. Roll Call: Mr. Slater – yes; Mr. Weekly – yes; Mr. Prince-yes

On-Site Fuel Station - Lakewood Schools, has offered all local agencies in the school district access to fuel stored at the Lakewood Bus Garage. Mr. Prince said Walnut Township has a similar fuel purchase program. It was decided the agreement would be beneficial on an emergency basis. Mr. Slater was concerned with logistical issues regarding the proposed plan, especially during snow events. Mr. Prince will obtain additional information.

Annexation Attorney – Mr. Slater felt it was time for the Township to secure an attorney to represent the Township in the event enough signatures are collected to place the boundary issue on the ballot.

Mr. Prince said Chief Mason has researched and recommended Columbus Attorney Peter Griggs to the Fire District Board. The Fire Board would like the Township to work with Attorney Griggs also and share the costs. Mr. Prince said both the Fire District and the Township would have a lot to lose if the boundary change was successful. Attorney Griggs does not ask for a retainer.

Mr. Slater has received several phone calls from people in the lower portion of the Township asking what their expense would be should the boundary change be approved. Mr. Slater said those collecting signatures have misinformed the residents. Mr. Prince agreed and felt the Granville School Board based their endorsement of the boundary change on wrong information.

Mr. Slater said the group is attempting to collect signatures in the southern portion of the Township, and that troubles him. Mr. Prince said the group needs the signatures. Mr. Slater feels the group is upsetting the residents and has heard the group's parting remarks to the resident to be “We need to send a message to Union Township.”

Mr. Prince said if the group obtains enough signatures, at that time, the attorney can represent the residents who no longer want their names on the petition.

Mr. Slater said Bill McWilliams signed the petition and told Mr. Slater that he wanted to show

concern for the resident's northern end of the Township and that he didn't think the group would gather enough signatures.

Paula said Bill Gulick signed the petition because he didn't agree with the purchase of the satellite station. Paula informed him that was not the point of the petition. The trustees discussed that everyone's taxes would increase if the boundaries would change.

Paula was contacted by a U.S. Route 40 resident who had been approached at her home to sign the petition. The resident was led to believe the petition was to combine all of Union Township into Granville Township. The resident said the group had been to her door several times.

Residents have complained that petition workers are repeatedly coming to their doors to attempt to gain signatures. Paula advised Leslie Herro and Russ Ginise that after one visit, their people should not return as there are residents who will not answer their door. Paula received an email today advising the group would not be collecting signatures during the State of Ohio mandated "Stay at Home" order.

Mr. Weekly said the Township's residents are upset with the Trustees because Granville Township Trustees would not sign a contract with the District. Mr. Prince said the District's last offer to Granville included the 4.8 mills previously paid with a reduced service area.

Mr. Slater said he was concerned about incurring massive attorney fees. Paula said any contract would require a spending limit. Townships cannot enter into an open-ended contract with the chosen attorney. If additional funds to pay the attorney were needed, a new contract would be required. This would control the attorney costs.

Mr. Prince said the Satellite Station has received a temporary occupancy permit and should be issued a final occupancy permit this week. The pharmacy license was issued on the 20th. The satellite station was being operated as an outpost until the pharmacy license was issued.

Mr. Prince said the Phase Two bid had been posted, and he has received three requests for the bid package.

Paula said a contract is needed between the Township and District for the temporary structure and the building. The Township also requires the utilities placed in the Fire District's name. Mr. Prince said he needs to review the Resolution. Mr. Prince will speak with the District's fiscal officer. Mr. Prince said he did not believe a contract was required. Mrs. Slater said the Resolution reads the District would be responsible for the utilities.

Administration

Fence Dispute -- Christan Carr notified Paula that she wants the Trustees to hear her fence dispute complaint. Paula is working with Matt Steward, Asst. Prosecutor, Licking County Prosecutor's Office on the hearing procedure. Mr. Weekly felt this was a civil matter. The ORC gives them the right to go in front of the trustees.

Williams - Judge Branstool found Randy Williams in contempt of the Township's complaint. The Judge ordered Mr. Williams not to stay overnight on the property until he received the proper permits. Mrs. Williams has an apartment in Newark. Mr. Williams contacted Ptl. Lucas

and advising the family is now living in Newark.

COVID 19 Policy - Paula created a policy for the COVID 19 ~ Stay at Home Orders. The trustees reviewed the draft policy. Paula said most townships are canceling their meetings. Mr. Prince said the Township had several issues on the schedule. Paula feels the virus is a serious issue and that Hebron Street Department Supervisor is working and employees are at home and called in when needed, and receive their regular pay while at home. The State's return to work after illness policy was reviewed. Mr. Prince asked Dave if more than one person was in a township vehicle at a time. Dave said there are two employees in a truck at times, but they are trying to observe the six feet standard.

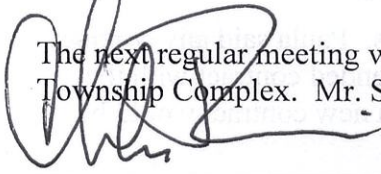
Mr. Prince said he would like to stream the township meetings as they are doing with the Fire District. Paula said a policy for streaming would need to be in place.

Mr. Slater moved to adopt the COVID 19 policy. Mr. Weekly seconded. Motion carried.

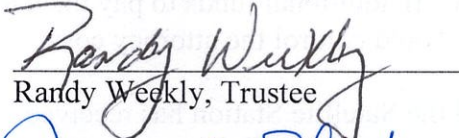
Bid Opening – A special meeting will be held Monday, March 20, at 9:00 am to open Phase two bids and potentially award a bid. Paula will post an ad in the Newark Advocate.

Letter- A letter from Patty Costello was discussed.

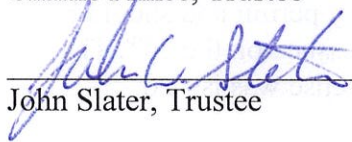
The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, April 6, 2020, at 7:00 pm at the Union Township Complex. Mr. Slater moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 pm.



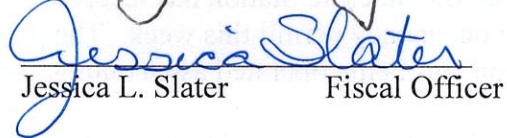
Charlie Prince, Trustee



Randy Weekly, Trustee



John Slater, Trustee



Jessica L. Slater Fiscal Officer