Union Township Trustees July 15, 2024 Regular Trustee Meeting

The Union Township Trustees met on July 15, 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, Jennifer Kurkowski and Commissioner Rick Black.

Minutes -Mr. Slater motioned, and Mr. Sharps seconded to approve the July 1 minutes. Motion carried.

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

Public Comments - None

Fiscal Officer

Julian & Grube Accounting Services - Presented a contract to continue their accounting services.

Resolution 2024-32 Julian & Grube Accounting Services – Mr. Start motioned and Mr. Sharps seconded to accept the contract from Julian & Grube not to exceed \$10,000, to assist the Township with reconciling bank balances, Hinkle reports and meeting with the Trustees.

Roll Call:

Mr. Start-yes

Mr. Sharps-yes

Mr. Slater-yes

Road and Bridge - None

Administration

Hebron Reparations – Mr. Sharps gave an update on the outstanding Hebron fire reparations. Mr. Sharps will speak with Mayor Mockus again.

Reminder - State of the South Licking River Watershed Open House, on July 18, 2024, from 5:00 - 7:30 pm at Alexandria Church of Christ, 5380 Moots Run Rd, Alexandria.

Wind and Solar Public hearing - August 20 @6 pm at Licking County Transit

Public Hearing Jersey Heath Union JEDD No. 1 is scheduled for July 29, 2024 @7:00pm.

August 5 Regular Township meeting - Discussion held due to lack of a quorum.

Motion – Mr. Start motioned and Mr. Slater seconded to cancel the August 5

Regular trustee meeting due to the unavailability of trustees. Motion carried.

SR 161/I70 Connectors Meeting—Trustee Start and Paula attended meetings presented by ODOT and met separately with the project consultants to discuss traffic concerns. Trustee Start and the consultants viewed the areas of concern. Mr. Lozier asked if the Trustees had specific concerns regarding State Route 37; if so, he would convey to ODOT on the Township's behalf. Mr. Start said through the Stakeholders and consultant meeting issues were addressed. Mr. Start viewed the intersections in question with the consultants. In the spring Trustee Start, Paula and Dave met with ODOT regarding SR 37 and Beaver Run intersection concerns and that repairs to bridges and culverts in the Hayes and Union Station Road area in 2025.

Mr. Slater said he would like to see ODOT stay with the routes currently in use and not create a new route that would take land from property owners. Mr. Lozier believes State Route 37 is on the fast track for development and that it was too late to improve intersections along State Route 37. ODOT released a report earlier this year that reviewed options to improve the State Route 37 and Beaver Run intersection. Mr. Lozier asked if ODOT was installing turn lanes. Mr. Lozier said systemic funds were available and that ODOT plans to make improvements that would last through the next 10 years. Mr. Start asked who to contact regarding systemic funding. The Trustees discussed proposed Thornwood Drive improvements related to the Microsoft development.

Economic Development - No updates

<u>Public Comments</u> — Bill Lozier, spoke as a Union Township citizen and thanked Dave for trimming the tree at Bending Oak and Grandview as they were becoming a site distance issue. Mr. Lozier said he read the recent Advocate article regarding Southwest Licking Water and Sewer District reorganizing, which would include a Union Township Board seat, and requested an update on any agreements. Mr. Lozier is concerned about the rapid growth of the Water District, size of service area, lack of communication, and the lack of an updated masterplan. According to Mr. Lozier the Ohio Revised Code requires an updated Masterplan; Mr. Lozier said the master plan had not been updated.

Mr. Lozier is concerned that TIF revenue will not provide sufficient income to pay for improvements and TIF revenue has not been disclosed. Mr. Lozier feels the district will increase tap fees and encourage dense housing to pay for the services. Mr. Lozier questions why the district wants a Union Township Representative. According to Mr. Lozier the ORC 6119 gives the district the right to assess property owners with a waterline that runs past their house and which according to Mr. Lozier, the District did when a waterline was first installed, and the fees were to be higher than property taxes. Mr. Lozier wants the township to be very careful and feels the township is ripe for development and he would be closely monitoring the Township and the Water District. He knew the Township hired an attorney to review the district's new agreement.

Mr. Start said the Township has not received an agreement and that the Township's JEDD attorney was requested to submit a proposal in the event of a new agreement being submitted. Mr. Start said thanked Mr. Lozier for comments. Mr. Sharps shared Mr. Lozier's concerns and pointed out that the Township spent a substantial amount of money listening to residents. Mr. Lozier repeated his concerns about changing the current contract, adding a seat to the board and how a new contract would cancel the current contract's conditions. Mr. Lozier was again advised that no action was being taken at this time.

Trustees

Mr. Slater – Asked how the Township should move forward should the Village choose not to fulfill the reparations obligation. Mr. Sharps said he would be speaking with Mayor Mockus again and move forward from that point.

Mr. Start – Asked if the bed tax form he forwarded was helpful. Upon approving the Bed Tax, the current forms were approved by the board. The Prosecutor's Office advised if the Township had concerns vendors were not reporting their revenue correctly that the Township has the authority to review their books. Mr. Start said if the revenue is in line with the County's report all was good.

With there being no further business. Mr. Start moved to adjourn at 7:38 pm. Mr. Sharps seconded.

John

The next Union Township Trustees will be held Monday, August 19, 2024, at 7:00pm.

Roger Start

President

Trustee

Jeff Sharps

Vice President

en Nethers | Fiscal Officer