

1

**Union Township Trustees**  
**March 20, 2024**  
**Regular Meeting**

The Union Township Trustees met on March 20, 2024, at 7:00 pm for a regular meeting. Fiscal Officer Jessica Slater's roll call showed the following trustees: Roger Start, Jeff Sharps and John Slater present. Paula Greene, Township Administrator, Dave Cable, Road Superintendent, and Karen Nethers Assistant Fiscal Officer were present. Trustee Start led the Pledge of Allegiance. Guests: Judd Templin and Paul Campbell.

Minutes – Mr. Slater moved, and Mr. Sharps seconded to approve the March 4 minutes. Motion carried.

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

Public Comments- Resident Judd Templin was present and discussed his concerns about solar projects moving into Union Township. The Trustees said they were aware of the complexities that come with solar projects and are working with Holly Mattie to develop zoning regulations for solar projects.

**Road and Bridge**

Senate Capital Improvements Grant – Dave and Trustee Slater discussed grant money (if awarded) to purchase gravel (\$20,000) to restore portions of the Canal Bank that has eroded. Dave will work with Paula in preparing the application.

Extended warranty on Tractor- An extended warranty would cost between \$1365 and \$2300 for seven years. Trustee Slater will contact the company to ensure that emissions systems were covered as this was an expensive part to replace and would be worth the investment.

Hayes Road – Trustee Start said development on Hayes Road has resulted in an excess of mud and dirt left behind by construction work on new homes. Dave said he would investigate it.

***Executive session*** – Mr. Start moved to enter Executive Session PURSUANT TO ORC 121.22 (G)(8) TO CONSIDER CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION RELATED TO THE MARKETING PLANS, SPECIFIC BUSINESS STRATEGY, PRODUCTION TECHNIQUES, TRADE SECRETS, PERSONAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF AN APPLICANT FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE THAT INVOLVES PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS OR THE EXTENSION OF UTILITY SERVICES THAT ARE DIRECTLY RELATED TO AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECT. Mr. Sharps seconded. Executive Session began at 7:16 pm with the Trustees, Fiscal Officer Slater, Assistant Nethers, Administrator Greene, Southwest Licking Water and Sewer Representatives Jim Roberts and Nick Eippert. At 7:45pm Trustee Start moved to return to regular session. Mr. Slater seconded. Motion carried.

**Administration**

BZA – The Board of Zoning Appeals met on March 7, 2024 and approved a conditional use request for the expansion of storage units, owned by BL Partners 2 at 1633 Thornwood Drive.

Farm rental agreement – A resolution was presented to farm 1639 Beaver Run Road (Cemetery).

**Resolution 2024-21 Farm ground rental**

**Mr. Slater moved, and Mr. Sharps seconded, to accept the contract submitted by Keller Enterprises who will farm 4.37 (+/-) acres at 1639 Beaver Run Road, owned by the Township.**

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

Electric Aggregation Letter – Joe Garrett of Trebbel Energy emailed a copy of opt out letters that are in the mail to Township Residents. A copy of the letter will be posted to the website.

**Fiscal Officer**

Permanent Appropriations – FO Slater presented the 2024 Permanent Appropriations for review and discussion; after which the following resolution was presented:

**Resolution 2024-23 Permanent Appropriations**

**Mr. Start moved, and Mr. Sharps seconded to approve the 2024 Permanent Appropriations.**

**Roll Call: Mr. Start-yes Mr. Sharps-yes Mr. Slater-yes**

**Economic Development**

CRA applicant – Mr. Start met with Keith Conrad of Covestro, Alexis Fitzsimmons and Hailey Feightner of Grow Licking County. Covestro will be expanding one of their facilities and request the expansion were to be awarded to the facility in Union Township, that the expansion be included in the Pre1994 CRA. The expansion would be a 70-million-dollar project bringing 24 full-time employees, 14 vendors and two million in payroll. After a discussion the following Resolution was presented:

**Resolution 2024-22 CRA AMENDMENT-Covestro**

**Mr. Slater moved, and Mr. Sharps seconded to accept Covestro LLC Application for inclusion of its expansion project in the Community Reinvestment Area Pre-1994 Tax Abatement program of CRA #089-78400-01.**

**Roll Call: Mr. Start-yes Mr. Sharps-yes Mr. Slater-yes**

**Executive session** Mr. Start moved, and Mr. Sharps second to enter Executive Session pursuant to R.C. 121.22(G)(1) at 8:14 pm To consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official, or the investigation of charges or complaints against a public employee, official, licensee, or regulated individual, unless the public employee, official, licensee, or regulated individual requests a public hearing.

Also attending the session: FO Slater, Assistant Nethers, Administrator Greene and Superintendent Cable. At 8:30 pm, Trustee Start motioned to return to regular session. Mr. Sharps seconded. Motion carried.

**Motions:**

**Cemetery Administrator – Mr. Sharps moved, and Mr. Start seconded to appoint Jessica Slater as Cemetery Administrator, beginning April 1, 2024, at a salary of \$150 per month. Motion carried.**

**Pay Increase – Mr. Slater motioned, and Mr. Sharps seconded, to increase the salaries/rate of pay by 3% retroactive to January 1, 2024. Motion carried. Mr. Sharps noted he would like pay increases to be discussed in November or December of each year.**

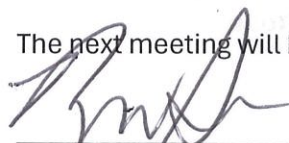
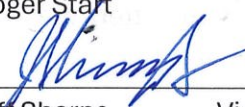
**Public/Trustee Comments**

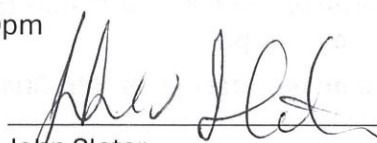
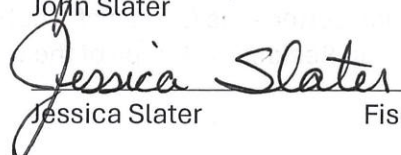
No additional public comments.

Trustee Slater – Mr. Slater thanked Jessica for her 12 years of service to the Township and giving back to the community. Mr. Start and Mr. Sharps agreed and wished her well, moving forward. Trustee Start & Trustee Sharps – Agreed with Mr. Slater’s comments.

With there being no further business. Mr. Slater moved to adjourn at 8:34pm. Mr. Sharps seconded.

The next meeting will be held on April 1, 2024, at 7:00pm

  
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Roger Start President  
  
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Jeff Sharps Vice President

  
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John Slater Trustee  
  
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Jessica Slater Fiscal Officer