

Union Township Trustees

June 6, 2022

The Union Township Trustees met in regular session at 7:00 pm on June 6, 2022. Fiscal Officer Jessica Slater's roll call showed the following trustees: John Slater, Roger Start, and Jeff Sharps. Paula Greene, Township Administrator, and Dave Cable, Road Supervisor, were also present. Trustee Slater led the Pledge of Allegiance. Guests: Bill McWilliams, Martha Cable, George James, and Chris Clancy.

Minutes

Mr. Sharps moved, and Mr. Start seconded to approve the May 16 minutes. Motion carried.

Mr. Start moved, and Mr. Sharps seconded to approve the May 31 Special Meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Bills

The clerk certified the money to pay the bills in the treasury or is in the collection process. Mr. Slater said a check was issued to Slater Brother Farms for tile purchased from ADS pipe for a culvert project near 3265 Refugee Road. The ADS invoice has been included. The Township does not have an account with ADS pipe. Mr. Start motioned and Mr. Sharps seconded to pay the bills. Motion carried.

Public Comments

Ditch issue – George James said no one inspected the drainage issue on Squire Lane, as indicated at the last township meeting. Mr. Slater assured Mr. James that the drainage issue would be addressed.

Road and Bridge

Activity – Crews are cleaning ditches.

Right of Way Permit Approval- The Zayo Group submitted a Work in Right of Way Application for the north side of Refugee Road. Baseline Communications will be installing the fiberoptics. Mr. Slater and Dave reviewed the plans and found no issues. The Board discussed the project.

Motion – Mr. Sharps moved, and Mr. Start seconded to approve the Zayo Group ROW application. Motion carried.

Mowing – Mr. Start said a Granview Road landowner approached him as the Township mower had trimmed the hedge too close. Dave agreed and said a bus driver had asked that the hedge be trimmed to clear the line of sight, but the mower operator had trimmed too much. Dave has discussed the issue with the operator. A discussion was held on mowing, noting that the operator is new.

Fire/EMS

Fire District – Mr. Sharps, Attorney Carnes, Attorney Untied, and Mayor Layton met to discuss dissolving the District. The attorneys will work on a resolution to dissolve the District and consult the County Auditor. It's unknown how long the process of dissolving the District will take.

Contracting – A discussion was held on contracting with Granville Township Fire (GTF) and West Licking Fire District (WLFD). Both Chiefs are working on contract proposals. Mr. Start requested budgets from WLFD for service with and without Hebron. Millage, dissolving the District, runs, service area, and contract language were discussed. Mr. Start asked for run totals. Mr. Sharps will provide 2021 run numbers. Once the Trustees received contract proposals, it was felt that a Special Meeting should be held to inform the public.

Chris Clancy asked if both entities agreed, would the District be dissolved at that time. Mr. Sharps said the steps to dissolve a Fire District are outlined in the ORC, which the attorneys are currently reviewing. The process will be more straightforward as the District is not self-funded.

Economic Development

Montrose Group – Mr. Start said he had put together a focus group consisting of Beth Black, Brent McDonald, Jack Justice, Jennifer Kurkowski, and Bill Lozier. Mr. Start and Paula will also participate. The first meeting will be held on June 14.

Administration

Annexation – Notification was received that Evan Barton and Mike Brenaman filed a petition to annex 72 acres (south of US 40 and east of the Kroger's) into Hebron.

Annexation – The Lees 200-acre farm on Thornwood Drive will be annexed into Heath.

Elections – Elections will be held on August 2. Equipment will be delivered on August 1.

Owens Drive – The new portion of Owens Drive was turned over to the Township on May 5.

Zoning – A complaint was filed regarding the condition of the Baker property on Sycamore Road.

There are lawn furniture and grill items in the front yard and several vehicles; two may be considered "junk vehicles." The grass has been maintained. Paula is working with the Prosecutor on the matter.

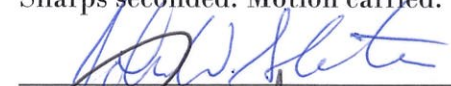
Angles – Robert and Patricia Angle of Beaver Run Road filed a variance request for a reduction in road frontage. The Angles are reconfiguring the four lots; two landlocked parcels will be eliminated. The variance will be heard on June 14, 2022, at 6:00 pm.

Cemetery – Mrs. Slater received a complaint from Martin and Alice Hayes' daughter that perennials planted at the headstone always die, and there is dead grass around the headstone. A discussion was held on herbicide use and if the operator was licensed. Mr. McWilliams said several cemeteries use herbicide as it is costly to weed eat around headstones. In addition, the cemetery rules state that flowers could be planted within six inches of the front of the headstone. Mrs. Slater would like to see that removed from the rules. Paula said several plots have the grave outlined in bricks and stone, making it difficult to maintain. The Trustees will review the current regulations and discuss the matter at the next meeting.

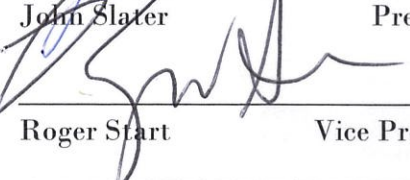
National Trail Raceway – Mr. Start asked why the races ran into the early morning of June 4. Paula spoke with owner Jay Livingston, who said due to the morning rain, more contestants than expected, and issues with the time the race ran to approximately 3 am. Paula advised him that was unacceptable and the matter would be brought to the Trustees' and the Prosecutor's attention. Paula advised Mr. Livingston that under no circumstances were they to hold races that late at night, and they needed to make different arrangements, so this does not happen again. A discussion was held on the history of the track operations. Paula will forward the original contract to the Trustees.

Bed Tax – Mr. Start asked Paula to report on the implementation of the bed tax. The hotel owners will be contacted and advised of the proposed bed tax. The Trustees must pass a resolution to establish a 3% (the highest percentage) bed tax. The bed tax could be collected monthly, quarterly, or semi-annually.

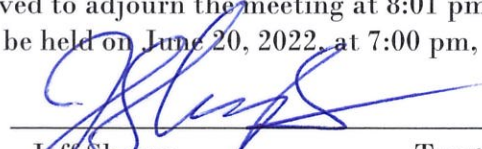
As the Trustees had no further comments, Mr. Start moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 pm. Mr. Sharps seconded. Motion carried. The next meeting will be held on June 20, 2022, at 7:00 pm,



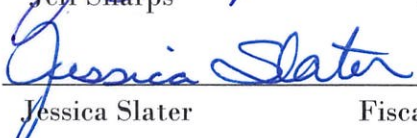
John Slater President



Roger Start Vice President



Jeff Sharps Trustee



Jessica Slater Fiscal Officer