

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS  
WINDHAM TOWNSHIP  
September 12, 2024

Windham Township Board of Trustees met for their regular session on September 12, 2024 at 6:00 PM, Trustees Dan Burns, Brian Miller and Fiscal Officer, Casey M Timmons were present. Rich Gano was absent. All board members received their monthly financial packets.

**2024-50**

Brian Miller moved to approve August minutes, Dan Burns seconded, all voting yes, motion carried.

**2024-51**

Brian Miller moved to approve August Expenditures, Dan Burns seconded, all voting yes, motion carried.

Guest:

Daniel Sherriff, reporter for the Weekly Villager  
Todd & Becky Phillips, residents  
Ryan Mclean, resident  
Trish Kendrick, resident  
John Kennedy-Portage County Treasurer  
Patricia Quick, resident  
Angel Burrus and family, new residents

Guest:

John Kennedy, Portage County Treasurer spoke about the hunger run, Loan program, Portage Grow link (Portage Community & Hometown Bank) Farm Bureau and the tax value increase. GrowLink program distributes loans to Portage County homeowners and small businesses for efficient improvements, job creation/retention and operating expenses at a low interest rate.

Mr. Kennedy said that one way to deal with the property tax increase was through the Homestead Exemption Act which helps reduce property taxes for lower income senior citizens which incomes lower than \$38,600. Social security income is exemption from the income requirement.

There was a lot of discussion about the recent tax letters that reappraised property. Mr Kennedy field questions about where the extra money would be used by the county and acknowledged he was unsure.

Angel Burrus a new township resident, asking about the old “drinking bridge” 4 corners Silica Sand/Shanks Down Road closure next to the public game land has question about the road right away and if she can put up No Trespassing signs up on the property. She is asking the township to not mow the road right away to help keep people out.

Brian Miller said the township has put up road closed signs and they keep getting stolen. Brian said to contact Braceville Township and they can respond to any of the issues.

Jack Sweet was not present but he sent an email that was read by Dan Burns:

It was brought to my attention by the zoning commission that there may have been permits issued that do not comply with the zoning resolution.

Upon investigation, there were 2 permits issued that DO NOT comply with our zoning resolutions.

#1: 8244 Gotham Road, a new home construction with an existing garage that will be located in the front lot. I issued this permit on July 1st, 2024. I spoke with the owner Tim Davis last night to see if he could move the house forward to comply with our resolutions. He denied my request (his right to do so since the 30-day objection window has passed), with reasoning being that there is a septic located in that area and his house obviously cannot sit on top of that. This permit should have been DENIED, and reapplied with a variance.

#2: 10261 Hopkins Rd, issued a permit for a garage on March 3rd, once again located in the front lot. This garage is already constructed, and once again past the 30-day objection period.

I have visited both owners, let them know that I am errant and their permits should not have been issued. Both owners were understandable. I let them know I am going to follow up with letters explaining what we went over in person.

Zoning code is in place for a reason, and I neglected to fulfil the duty you guys trusted me with. I take pride in my work and will not let this happen again. I take full responsibility for this, and when questions arise in the future, I will reach out to either the prosecutor or the trustees for guidance before granting permits that are in question.

Jake also said that he visited a resident on Wolf Road to investigate a complaint that a neighbor's fence was too close to his property. He also talked to a resident about a non working car that was parked and the resident moved it to the garage.

#### Roads:

1. Mowing and ditching on Frazier road
2. Culver of Frazier road at the Old Hopkins Farm,
3. Ditching request horn road for Dyan Vanstenburg
4. Geauga Highway contract is signed and they plan to start chip sealing Bryant Road.
5. The Road Signs came in from the state grant. The employees are working to inventory the signs.
6. Guard rail needs to be fixed.
7. Jeff Detrick, Freedom Township Trustee was in contact with Brian about the Hewins Road with public works. Depending on the matching costs. Brian stated that we need to stay under \$20,000.

#### Cemetery:

1. Cemetery looks great.
2. An unknown truck pulled down the electric wire that needs repaired.
3. Rich Gano email in his cemetery report that reads:

For starters if you'd rather me use the Township email, please advise I can do that, secondly, just a small report for the meeting and a reminder to bring up Jason Kline's bid for the cemetery work.

As we know, I checked with the land bank to see where we were and he was lacking those papers to which I believe now he has. Jeff Derthick reached out to the other trustees as well about us going in with the public works Grant to do our portion of Hewins Road at the same time. I'm not sure what the others told him. I believe he's getting a quote.

Due to some voices in the township, I reached out to the engineers office to find out when Parkman Road north of 82 was going to be slated for paving because I'm told traffic is starting to pick up on Hopkins to avoid the washboard effect of Parkman, they said it's definitely on the list to review if you want to pass that along.

#### Fire District:

1. The fire department received 487 calls to date which includes 58 EMS calls, five fire calls, 32 EMS runs into the Village, 20 EMS runs into the township, 1 EMS calls on the turnpike, 5 mutual aid.

#### New Business:

1. Generator was serviced.
2. Dan Burns discussed the Nopec grant is going to be used for updates for LED for more energy efficient and for security at the Town Hall. \$2097 must be spent by 11/30/2024 with a total of \$9462 available to spend on energy efficient updates.

There being no further business meeting was adjourned at 7:09 PM.

Next meeting is scheduled for October 3, 2024, at 7:03pm

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Dan Burns, Chairman

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Casey M Timmons, Fiscal Officer