



GERMAN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON JUNE 1, 2020

The SPECIAL MEETING was called to order by Board President Abra Reed at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was held at the German Township Hall located at 12102 St. Rt. 725 West, Germantown, OH 45327. The meeting was live streamed using WebEx. Attendees included:

President Abra Reed

Vice-President Jacob Stubbs

Fiscal Officer Mark Heistand

VISITORS PRESENT IN THE ROOM:

Name	Address	Name	Address
Lynn Cleveland	11858 Oxford Road	Mark & Deb Cross	7444 S. Stiver Road
David Gehron	14239 Kiefer Road	Lloyd Johnson	7404 Browns Run Road
Halie Sewell	8122 Lower Mbsg Rd	Steve Boeder	127 Lindell Drive
Sandi Branham	9909 Sugar Street	Kim Dupps	9790 G'town-Middletn
Mark Keener	7865 Jamaica Road	Kurt Jacoby	12955 Harris Road
Karen Carmickle	364 E. Market St.	Josh Nichols	7672 Preble Cty Line Rd

ONLINE IDENTIFIED VISITORS:

Name	Name	Name	Name
Jeremy Holbrook	John Smith	JTipton	Carrie Snelling
Beth	John	Dylan	

The Germantown Press was notified in advance of the Special Meeting.

The announced purpose of the Special Meeting was to discuss the vacant Trustee position that resulted from the resignation of Trustee Matthew Burns effective May 31, 2020.

Mrs. Reed led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Reed explained the process set forth in the Ohio Revised Code for appointing a new Trustee. The timeline and process for appointment is set forth in the Ohio Revised Code Section 503.24.

VISTOR COMMENTS:

- **Mark Cross:** Dr. Cross read a statement requesting to be appointed to the Trustee position.
- **Mark Keener:** Mr. Keener supported the appointment of Dr. Cross.
- **Josh Nichols:** Mr. Nichols, a German Township police officer, stated that his comments are his and do not represent the entire police force. He supported the appointment of Dr. Cross.
- **David Gehron:** Mr. Gehron supported the appointment of Dr. Cross.

- **Lloyd Johnson:** Mr. Johnson supported the appointment of Dr. Cross.
- **Kurt Jacoby:** Mr. Jacoby supported the appointment of Dr. Cross, noting that Dr. Cross has the unanimous support of the Township Zoning Board

DISCUSSION ON THE APPOINTMENT OF A TRUSTEE:

Mrs. Reed stated that she was not prepared to make a decision on a new Trustee at this meeting. She believes that the township residents should have a chance to speak up if they are interested in serving. She noted that two people have reached out to her with interest. She noted that the Trustees have 30 days to make a decision, so there is no urgency to have the new Trustee appointed at this meeting.

Mr. Stubbs agreed there is no rush to make an immediate appointment, but noted that Dr. Cross is an excellent choice. He reminded those present that Dr. Cross was the only person other than Mr. Burns who picked up a petition, filed the petition and ran in the November 2019 election,

- **Kim Dupps:** Mrs. Dupps stated that she has nothing against Dr. Cross, but feels there is a need to give everyone an opportunity. There have been past issues with Township government and we need a change. A lot of people have not been happy. New people are needed on the Board.
- **Lynn Cleveland:** Mr. Cleveland stated that he was one of those who reached out to Mrs. Reed with interest in serving. He asked the Trustees to let other people have an opportunity to express interest and suggested that the Trustees advertise the open position.

Mr. Stubbs introduced **RESOLUTION 2020-13: A RESOLUTION TO APPOINT DR. MARK CROSS TO THE GERMAN TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE POSITION VACATED BY MATTHEW BURNS ON MAY 31, 2020, EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2020, ACCORDING TO SECTION 503.24 OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE.** After requesting a second to Mr. Stubbs' motion and hearing none, Mr. Heistand declared that **RESOLUTION 2020-13 DIED.**

- **Sandi Branham:** Mrs. Branham stated that she agreed with Mrs. Dupps about the need to give everyone in the township a chance to express interest in the position.
- **Steve Boeder:** Mr. Boeder, Mayor of the City of Germantown, noted that he was not present to tell the Trustees how to run their business. He then described the process that City Council used when it recently appointed a replacement for the late Lynn Koogler's Council seat. He noted the division between the two Trustees, pointing out that this is an opportunity for them to work together as a team to select the new Trustee. He saw no reason to rush the process.

Mrs. Reed noted that the second person who had reached out to her was not able to attend tonight's meeting. She stated again that she wants to give people time to think about if they are interested.

Mr. Stubbs reported how other jurisdictions in other states have handled appointments, specifically where the election runner-up was given the opportunity to be appointed for a vacated seat.

Mrs. Reed stated that the Resolution was made and didn't receive a second. She asked, what is our next step?

- **Lloyd Johnson:** Mr. Johnson noted that if someone other than Dr. Cross is appointed, the township would have two Trustees who have received less than 600 votes
- **Deb Cross:** Mrs. Cross announced that if the Trustees can't agree on an appointment that the decision could be made by the five people (the so-called Committee of Five) Mr. Burns named on his Nominating Petition and Statement of Candidacy to represent him. She noted that her

husband has worked harder for the township since he left office than Mr. Burns did while in office.

Mrs. Reed and Mr. Stubbs continued their discussion of the pros and cons of making an appointment at this meeting versus advertising for others with interest to step forward.

- **Mark Cross:** Dr. Cross stated that he isn't against opening up the process for others to express interest. He is concerned that someone with no prior experience might end up being appointed without doing any work to earn the position. He doesn't want this to be a political decision.

Mr. Stubbs indicated that he feels appointing Mr. Cleveland would result in a conflict of interest, since his daughter is employed by the Township. He also stated his belief that the person appointed to replace Mr. Burns should live in the unincorporated portion of the township. He again supported Dr. Cross for the position, but expressed willingness to advertise the opening in the Germantown Press for one week.

- **Halie Sewell:** Mrs. Sewell described the process and deadlines involved in advertising the open Trustee position in the Germantown Press.
- **David Gehron:** Mr. Gehron asked if either Trustee had made personal contact to anyone to solicit candidates.
- **Mark Heistand:** Speaking personally, not as Fiscal Officer, Mr. Heistand explained the process that the City of Germantown Council went through when he was appointed to Council in 2013. He suggested that the Trustees interview all candidates in an Executive Session.
- **Kurt Jacoby:** Mr. Jacoby suggested that the Trustees use a coin flip since they can seem to have reached an impasse.

A discussion followed about how to advertise the open position.

Mr. Stubbs questioned if Mr. Burns' Committee of Five is even valid given that the names are not listed on each page of his Nominating Petition and Statement of Candidacy. He also stated that he does not want a deliberation of candidates to occur in Executive Session, but wants everything done in front of the public. He once again stated that he wants to appoint Dr. Cross at this meeting so there will be a full Board of Trustees at the next Regular Meeting on 6/8/20. He does not want the process to go the entire 30 days nor go to the Committee of Five to appoint a new Trustee.

After further discussion, Mrs. Reed made a MOTION, seconded by Mr. Stubbs, to advertise the open Trustee position through a Public Notice in the Germantown Press. The Notice will be emailed to the Township police email list and also posted on various Facebook pages and websites. The MOTION passed. The Public Notice is as follows:


PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of a vacant German Township Trustee seat. If you are interested in filling the position you must be a qualified elector. Please send your resume to the German Township fiscal officer at GTWPFISCALOFFICER@woh.rr.com by FRIDAY, JUNE 12th, 2020.

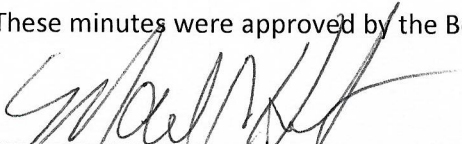
Please plan to attend the special meeting on WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17th, 2020 at 7:00 P.M. All candidates will be asked to make a public presentation not to exceed 5 minutes.

MEETING ADJOURNED:

With no further business, Mrs. Reed made a MOTION, seconded by Mr. Stubbs, to adjourn. The MOTION PASSED. The Meeting adjourned at 8:37 pm.

Signed: 
Abra Reed, President, Board of Trustees

Attest: These minutes were approved by the Board of Trustees at their meeting on July 13, 2020.

Signed: 
Mark A. Heistand, Fiscal Officer