



**GERMAN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD ON JULY 12, 2021**

The meeting was held at the German Township Hall located at 12102 St. Rt. 725 West, Germantown, OH 45327 and virtually using WebEx.

The meeting was called to order by Board President Tyler Rehmert at 7:00 pm. In attendance were:

President Tyler Rehmert

Fiscal Officer Mark Heistand

Police Chief Joe Andzik

Zoning Inspector Halie Sewell

Trustee Jacob Stubbs

Road Sup't Jeremy Holbrook

IN-PERSON ATTENDEES:

Name	Address	Name	Address
David Gehron	14239 Kiefer Road	Mark and Deb Cross	7444 S. Stivers Road
Steve Mersch	7347 Weaver Road	Mark Keener	7865 Jamaica Road
Karen Carmickle	364 E. Market St.	Jeff Dondero	6793 S. Diamond Mill
William D. Hardin	182 E. CR 214 Burnsville, MS 38833		

ONLINE ATTENDEES:

Name	Name	Name	Name
John M	Harold Holdren	Sam	Kurt Jacoby
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The Germantown Press was notified of the Regular Meeting on 7/7/21 at 3:37 pm.

Mr. Rehmert led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ZONING CASE #2021-54ZTC:

- Mr. Rehmert noted that Case #2021-54ZTC was a request by the Zoning Commission to revise certain sections of the Zoning Resolution. If adopted, the revisions would take effect in 30 days.
- He reviewed the process to be followed in the Public Hearing, noting that everyone who wishes to speak during the Public Hearing would be sworn in before testifying.
 - The Oath was as follows: Do you solemnly swear or affirm that any testimony you shall give before the Board of Trustees during the Public Hearing shall be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth? Is so, answer, "I do."

- Mr. Rehmert made a MOTION, seconded by Mr. Stubbs, to open the Public Hearing for Case #2021-54ZTC. The MOTION WAS APPROVED by a unanimous voice vote.
- Testimony by the Zoning Inspector:
 - After being sworn, Mrs. Sewell reviewed the packet of materials related to the case that she provided to the Trustees in advance of the meeting. The packet included: (A) Staff Report; (B) Zoning Change Application; (C) Copy of Resolution Amendments; (D) German Township Zoning Commission Recommendation; (E) Montgomery County Planning Commission Recommendation; and (F) Public Hearing Notices.
- Other Testimony:
 - **Mark Cross, 7444 Stiver Road:** After being sworn, Dr. Cross (an alternate member of the Zoning Commission) explained the Commission's goal with the proposed text changes. He noted that the Commission plans to recommend additional text changes in 2022.
- Mr. Rehmert made a MOTION, seconded by Mr. Stubbs, to close the Public Hearing for Case #2021-54ZTC. The MOTION WAS APPROVED by a unanimous voice vote.
- Mr. Rehmert introduced **RESOLUTION 2021-26**, seconded by Mr. Stubbs: **A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE GERMAN TOWNSHIP ZONING RESOLUTION AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GERMAN TOWNSHIP ZONING COMMISSION AND THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION IN CASE #2021-54ZTC.** The roll was taken and the adoption vote was as follows: Mr. Rehmert-Yes; Mr. Stubbs-Yes. **RESOLUTION 2021-26 WAS ADOPTED.**

VISTOR COMMENTS:

- **Steve Mersch, 7347 Weaver Road:** Mr. Mersch, a member of the Germantown Lions Club, reported that the 8th Annual Twisted Pretzel Bicycle Tour (TPT), sponsored by the Lions Club, will occur on 9/25/21 with an 8 am start. He requested the help from the Township police at various locations, including the intersection of Creek Road and State Route 725. He noted that the Creek Road hill at the Germantown Dam is in bad shape. This is a county-maintained road.
 - Mr. Heistand, a Lion and a TPT committee member, noted that the TPT has donated over \$60,000 to local food pantries and other local charities over the past seven years.
- **Jeff Dondero, 6793 S. Diamond Mill Road:** Mr. Dondero, a Lion, a TPT committee member and a member of Germantown Amateur Radio Society (GARS), commented on the assistance GARS provides to the TPT.
- **Mark Keener, 7865 Jamaica Road:** Mr. Keener asked how the TPT funds are distributed. Mr. Mersch responded that donations are given to the local food pantries and other local charities.

FISCAL OFFICER'S REPORT

- Mr. Heistand submitted minutes for the 6/14/21 Regular Meeting and the 6/17/21 Special Meeting. There were no corrections. Mr. Rehmert made a MOTION, seconded by Mr. Stubbs, to approve the minutes of both meetings as submitted. The MOTION WAS APPROVED by a unanimous voice vote.
- Mr. Heistand presented the June Financial Reports: (1) 6/30/21 Fund Status; (2) Year-to-Date 6/30/21 Cash Summary by Fund; (3) June 2021 Receipt Listing; and (4) June 2021 Payment Listing. Mr. Rehmert made a MOTION, seconded by Mr. Stubbs, to approve the June financial reports and authorize the payment of June bills (warrants 50489-50503 and vouchers 387-502 for payroll direct deposit, payroll tax withholdings and other electronic payments). The MOTION WAS APPROVED by a unanimous voice vote.

- Mr. Heistand presented an Appropriation Status report as of 6/30/21. He stated that the report detailed (1) the Final Appropriations approved by the Trustees at the 1/4/21 Organizational Meeting, (2) year-to-date Expenditures, and (3) the unspent portion of the Final Appropriations. Mr. Rehmert thanked Mr. Heistand for the report, noting that he also received a report from Mr. Holbrook analyzing Road Department spending as of mid-year.
- Mr. Heistand reported that in late June the Ohio Legislature passed, and the Governor signed, HB 168 which included language designating townships as units of local government eligible to receive funds from the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP). German Township will receive \$303,149.57, half this year and the other half in 2022. The Township will have until 12/31/24 to obligate the funds and all money must be spent by 12/31/26. He will be attending a webinar on 7/28 that will discuss use of the ARP funds. There are five eligible categories:
 - **Support public health expenditures:** Funding COVID-19 mitigation efforts, medical expenses, behavioral healthcare, and certain public health and safety staff.
 - **Address negative economic impacts caused by the public health emergency:** These include economic harms to workers, households, small businesses, impacted industries, and the public sector.
 - **Replace lost public sector revenue:** Using funding to provide government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue experienced due to the pandemic.
 - **Provide premium pay for essential workers:** Offering additional support to those who have and will bear the greatest health risks because of their service in critical infrastructure sectors.
 - **Invest in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure:** Making necessary investments to improve access to clean drinking water, support vital wastewater and stormwater infrastructure, and to expand access to broadband internet.
- Mr. Stubbs noted that broadband is an issue in the Township. He would like to see what can be done to improve internet service. Addressing lost revenue, Mr. Holbrook reported that the gas tax loss in Ohio has been less than in other states due to Ohio's recent gas tax rate increase.
- Mr. Heistand stated that the County Board of Elections website reported that the .5 mill Parks Levy had been approved for the 11/2/21 ballot. The issue number had not yet been assigned.
- He sent to the Ohio Department of Public Safety the Resolution to add the additional \$5 motor vehicle permissive tax that the Trustees approved in June. The State responded that the tax will be collected on vehicle registrations in the unincorporated area of the Township starting 1/1/22.
- He reported that on 6/17/21 both President Biden and Governor DeWine declared June 19, known as Juneteenth, a federal and state holiday. The Juneteenth holiday officially enshrines June 19 as the national day to acknowledge the freedom, history, and culture that June 19, 1865, the day on which the last slaves in the United States were set free in Texas, has come to symbolize. He noted that the Ohio Revised Code specifies paid holidays for full-time Township employees, which now includes the Juneteenth holiday. He stated that the Township did not provide a day off for this year's holiday, nor did the Township pay holiday wages. He reached out to the Prosecutor's office to discuss this issue. They recommend that the Township pay employees for the 6/19/21 holiday or provide a floating holiday to be used before the end of the year.
 - Chief Andzik recommended that the Trustees pay employees instead of providing a floating holiday.
 - **Visitor Comment: Mark Keener:** Mr. Keener noted that Township salaried employees aren't paid for holidays. Mr. Heistand responded that the Township can provide eight hours of comp time for salaried employees.

- Mr. Rehmert introduced **RESOLUTION 2021-27**, seconded by Mr. Stubbs: **A RESOLUTION APPROVING PAYMENT TO TOWNSHIP EMPLOYEES FOR THE 6/19/21 JUNETEENTH HOLIDAY AS FOLLOWS: EIGHT HOURS CASH PAYMENT FOR FULL-TIME HOURLY EMPLOYEES AND EIGHT HOURS COMP TIME FOR SALARIED EMPLOYEES.** The roll was taken and the adoption vote was as follows: Mr. Rehmert-Yes; Mr. Stubbs-Yes. **RESOLUTION 2021-27 WAS ADOPTED.**
- Mr. Heistand noted that the Township's Personnel Manual needs to be updated to include Juneteenth as the Township's eleventh holiday. Mr. Rehmert introduced **RESOLUTION 2021-28**, seconded by Mr. Stubbs: **A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE TOWNSHIP'S PERSONNEL MANUAL SECTION 4.2-3 (A) TO ADD JUNE 19-JUNETEENTH AS THE TOWNSHIP'S ELEVENTH STANDARD HOLIDAY.** The roll was taken and the adoption vote was as follows: Mr. Rehmert-Yes; Mr. Stubbs-Yes. **RESOLUTION 2021-28 WAS ADOPTED.**
- He reported that he responded to two Public Records Requests since the June meeting. Both requests were for current drafts of the Joint Economic Development District (JEDD) agreements.
- He noted the upcoming 7/29/21 Special Trustees Meeting at 6 pm to discuss the potential JEDD.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT:

- Chief Andzik noted that one of the two new cruisers was being upfitted at K.E. Rose. The second new cruiser was reordered due to electrical issues.
- He reported that the Township phones were down but as of 7/9/21 they were back up and running except for the Road Department. Mr. Holbrook said that Time Warner will be at the Township on 7/13/21 to check out the Road Department problem.

ROAD/SERVICE DEPARTMENT REPORT:

- Mr. Holbrook reported that the new backhoe had been received and is now in service. The 2004 John Deere 310sg backhoe was sold on GovDeals.com and the payment had been received.
- He noted that his Department continues to mow and trim cemeteries and continues to perform pre-chip seal patching.

ZONING DEPARTMENT REPORT:

- Mrs. Sewell reported that permits were issued this month for new homes on Preble County Line Road and Friend Road, a shed on Sugar Street, and an accessory structure on Germantown-Middletown Road.
- She noted that she has used 46% of her 2021 budget through 6/30/21.
- She discussed the possibility of offering on-line payment of zoning fees and trash bills, noting that she has received several requests for this option to pay zoning fees.
 - An on-line payments option is offered by iWorq, which provides the software used by the Zoning and Trash Departments. The annual charge is \$650 for integrated service. In addition, there are processing fees, but she did not yet know these charges.
 - GoDaddy also offers on-line payments. The minimum monthly cost is \$17.49. Processing fees are 2.9% of the amount, plus \$0.30 per transaction.
 - **Visitor Comment: Mark Keener:** Mr. Keener stated that the GoDaddy option probably wouldn't integrate with the trash and zoning software, something he expected would be a feature of the iWorq on-line payment system.
 - **Visitor Comment: Mark Cross:** Dr. Cross stated that he didn't want to see the Township take a financial hit by offering an on-line bill payment option.

- The Trustees requested that Mrs. Sewell obtain more cost information for discussion at a future meeting.

TRUSTEE REHMERT'S REPORT:

- Commenting on the proposed JEDD, Mr. Rehmert noted that counsel for the jurisdictions are reviewing the draft documents. The Petitions need to be sent to the school district for review.
- He noted that the Parks Board sponsored the recent Independence Day Parade on 7/5. The Board continues to discuss the upcoming Parks Levy that will be on the November ballot.

TRUSTEE STUBBS' REPORT:

- Mr. Stubbs noted that the Cemetery is behind in mowing, due to the heavy amount of recent rain.
- He reported that attendance at the Pool has been good so far. It is hoped that revenues will be \$100,000 this year. He stated that Pool Manager Devin Stoutenborough does a fantastic job.
- He stated that he will be unable to attend the 7/29/21 JEDD meeting, but did not have a problem with the meeting going forward in his absence.
- He noted that he did a ride-along with Officers Gabir and Jones, stating that the Police Department does an excellent job. He particularly noted the great job that Shauna Close does as Police Clerk.
- He commented on the recent phone and Wi-Fi problems at the Township caused by the 6/18/21 storm. Chief Andzik expressed his appreciation to Mrs. Close who transferred the police phone lines to her personal cell phone. He noted that her phone rang day and night for two weeks. Mr. Holbrook reported that he had opened an insurance claim related to the phone line damage.

NEW BUSINESS:

- None

OLD BUSINESS:

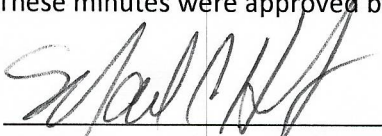
- None.

MEETING ADJOURNED:

- With no further business, Mr. Rehmert made a MOTION, seconded by Mr. Stubbs, to adjourn. The MOTION WAS APPROVED by a unanimous voice vote. The Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Signed: 
Tyler Rehmert, President, Board of Trustees

Attest: These minutes were approved by the Board of Trustees at the August 9, 2021 meeting.

Signed: 
Mark A. Heistand, Fiscal Officer