

Pierpont Township Record of Proceedings

Regular Meeting

November 5, 2019

Chairman Bob Jackson called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance.

Roll call of board attendance: Trustee Bob Jackson, Trustee Barb Culp, Trustee Grady Hoover, and Fiscal Officer Andrea Leap. Also in attendance were several township residents.

Barb Culp motioned to waive the reading of prior meeting's minutes and approve the minutes. Grady Hoover seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Barb Culp motioned to approve the payment of \$148,964.55 in bills. Bob Jackson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Reports:

Road Department-

- Working on getting trucks ready for winter and installing the plows.

Fiscal Officer-

- No comment

Zoning-

Revitalization Committee-

- Next meeting in December 16, 2019 and the main discussion will be about broadband.

Parks Commission-

- Paul Mechling spoke about the organizational meeting that they had on October 29, 2019. Officers are Paul Mechling as President, Dan Decker as VP, Pam Hudson as Secretary. He recapped the meeting's minutes and stated that they will have quarterly meetings on the 4th Tuesday of the first month of the quarter. The next meeting is scheduled January 28, 2019 at 7pm.

Cemetery-

- Barb Culp presented \$1,234.37 that was raised for the cemetery building project. The proceeds were from a Stuffed Pork Chop dinner and donations from people at the Farmer's Market.

Old Business

Road man parameters were brought up for discussion at a prior meeting and Barb Culp presented the final draft of the Road man parameters to outline vacation, sick, holiday pay, etc. Trustee Bob Jackson motioned to accept the parameters as presented and Grady Hoover seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Committee/Board Policy was discussed in order to amend the already adopted policy. There are two amendment lines that need to be added to the current policy.

Amendment 1 states "Finances:

- No funds can be spent unless approved by a vote of the committee, recorded in the minutes of the committee, and brought to the board of trustees.
- Funds can only be disbursed upon the presenting of actual vendor receipts for the materials purchased.

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Barb Culp motioned to approve Amendment 1 and Bob Jackson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Amendment 2 states "Policies and Decisions:

- Committees are formed to conduct research, investigate problems, present solutions and make recommendations to the trustees. Committees do not set policy, or make final decisions. All recommendations must be brought to the board of trustees before action is taken.

Barb Culp motioned to approve Amendment 2 and Grady Hoover seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Trustee Bob Jackson mentioned that he is still working on getting the townships ownership over asphalt grindings. He stated that Trumbull County Engineers and Senator O'Brian is helping with this matter.

New Business

Trustee Bob Jackson discussed reimbursing a township employee (Thomas Lamson) and a township trustee (Barb Culp) for the expense of the driver's test for acquiring a CDL license. A township resident, Steve Gagat, spoke up and suggested allotting a certain amount a time that the employee should work for the township after the township reimburses for the test. Trustee Bob Jackson motioned to approve the reimbursement of the driver's test and Trustee Grady Hoover seconded the motion. Bob Jackson and Grady Hoover voted yes and Trustee Barb Culp abstained.

Public comments

Barb Culp corrected a statement made at the previous meeting by a resident that someone had put a septic system in for \$6,000 but it was actually only a septic tank that was installed and not a whole system according to the health department. Randy Barnes said the average septic system install in around \$14,000.

Alvin Williams commented about the bills being paid and wanted a payment listing that the trustees gave to him at the meeting.

Josh Woodard was in attendance and has to write a paper on his local community government so he wants question the trustees after the meeting. Adam Romanko was also in attendance again who was is there to collect information for a school presentation.

Steve Gagat commented about the article in the Star Beacon. He talked about the surveys that were sent out to residents. Also, that there is a potential of multiple stages of the sewer project according to the county commissioners. Steve commented about Bob Jackson's quote in the paper about a small group of people are opposed, which Bob clarified that he meant the group of critics that come to the meetings that are opposed. Also, Lois Morton clarified that the survey results were based on parcels which some residents own multiple parcels.

Ken Long suggested taking the sewer project to the ballot. Trustees said that they would mention it to the county commissioners to see if it is possible. Residents in attendance said that all of the township should be involved and not just the people that would be affected by the sewer project. Some statements were made that the sewer project would affect the whole townships taxes and the trustees and Lois Morton corrected the crowd as to that is not what the county commissioners stated. The other residents would not incur costs for the sewer project unless they own one of the parcels where the sewer will run through.

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Brian Brent stated that the county will move the sewer project to more stages and affect as many residents as they can reach out to. Lois Morton said there is no plan to extend the sewer project further than the plan that was presented to the commissioners.

Carl Williams made a statement about the township purchasing the Cokor property and as of the last meeting, it was at a standstill. Trustee Bob Jackson stated that the township knew as of last meeting that the purchase agreement expired and at that point in time, the township did not know what was going on with the property. After the last meeting, the purchaser/assigner put an extension in which let the township purchase the property at a later date.

Ken Long asked why the \$1.5 came to Pierpont Township instead of the county. It was explained to him that the state put it in their biennial budget for Pierpont Township.

Alvin Williams expressed that he thought that the trustees misled the last meeting about buying the Cokor property. The trustee told what they knew at that point in time.

Marty Holden stating that in all the discussions that he was involved in for the sewer project, that more phases were not discussed. Brian Brent stated that the county commissioners stated about more phases at their last meeting.

Darla Richcreek asked about sewer and water going together. The proposed project is only for sewer.

Steve Gagat also commented on if the sewer project does not happen, what will happen with the \$1.5 million that was given to the township for the sewer project. Trustee Jackson that the township will deal with it if it comes to that point.

Alvin Williams and Steve Gagat both spoke about the pictures taken to the county commissioners meeting. Steve also presented some photos with comparisons of the photos from now and the pictures taken before. Lois Morton spoke up and said she presented the photos to show how downtown Pierpont looked then and explained that many residents have cleaned/fixed up their homes now.

Connie Gagat expressed her opinion that Lois should not have presented the photos to the commissioners.

Alvin Williams questioned if Cameron Wright's property will have to tie into the sewer system and Trustee Bob Jackson said that he will even though it is a new system.

Dan Decker states that he thinks that the reason everyone is up in arms is due to not knowing the actual cost of the system and how much it will affect each parcel involved. Also that he thinks the township should not have purchased land before knowing the outcome.

Marty Holden spoke up and said that the Revitalization Committee was appointed and are volunteers to try to revitalize Pierpont.

Shanda Dunn stated that she moved to Pierpont to raise a family and not to have stores. She feels the committee is not for the community.

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Steve Gagat spoke about the CHIP program and how people can benefit from the program.

Barb Culp suggested having another community meeting for residents to come together and discuss what residents need help with.

Alvin Williams asked about a comment Janet Switzer said at the county commissioners meeting if we have failing sewers that more grants would be available. He also commented on why the township had a committee member buy a property for the township but was corrected by the trustees that the committee member did not buy the property and the township did.

Carl Williams expressed that he thinks that these differences are dividing the community.

Brian Brent stated that residents need to contact the county commissioners with their concerns.

Barb Culp stated that there was an anonymous letter was sent out to some residents. The township does not know who sent them out but thinks that there are trying to cause problems.

Barb Culp motioned to adjourn the meeting and Bob Jackson seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.