Meeting of Pierpont Township trustees held Sept. 4, 2018

The Pierpont Township trustees met in regular session at the Pierpont Township’s Fire Dept. red building with Gaylord Millard, Barbara Culp and Robert Jackson present.. Also present were roadman Randy Williams and several township residents, County Commissioners JP Ducro and Casey Kozlowski, and Nate Shipman from State Senator Sean O’Brien’s office. Chairman Robert Jackson called the meeting to order and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Chairman Robert Jackson opened the meeting by asking township residents if they had any concerns or comments before getting into old business. The following comments were:

1. Question asked who is the new road assistant? Robert Jackson responded he is Dave Waldron and comes with 30 yrs. Experience and is retired from the County.
2. Question was property abandoned/sold on Rt. 7 S.? Gaylord Millard responded that the intention at the time of purchase was to build a new garage and meeting hall location, but later we were able to acquire the Elementary School’s old bus garage.
3. Question asked when were we going to mow Turner Rd. that it looks awful. Robert Jackson responded that we will talk about that tonite.
4. Question who is responsible for mowing that? Response was that the Port Authority owns it and we could contact them. Robert Jackson responded that when we get caught up with the roads, if they haven’t mowed it yet we could possible do it and bill them. The suggestion was made by Barb Culp that we could possibly use some volunteers for a day and do it.
5. Comment was that there is a deserted car on Anderson Rd. and was told to give our zoning inspector, Rich Rea, the address so that he may follow up. It was mentioned that property owners are permitted 2 junk cars and anything above that would constitute operating a junkyard without a permit. Paul Mechling mentioned that he was the chairman of a committed that addressed the zoning codes back in 1984 and they had come up with new codes but it never got passed. Trustee Barb Culp replied that she will look into the zoning.
6. Question was asked why the speed limit on Rt. 167 while approaching Rt. 7 remains 55mph and it is reduced on Rt. 7 when coming into town. Nate Shipman, an aide to State Senator Sean O’Brien’s office replied that he would be happy to intercede with our local ODOT office and inform them of the situation.

Barb Culp made the motion to send a letter of concern regarding this issue to both Sen. O’Brien’s office and ODOT, Gaylord Millard seconded the motion, all voted in favor. The fiscal officer will also send a formal request to both their offices.

1. Paul Mechling then asked trustees if he could have a copy of the deed and any written restrictions pertaining to Horner’s Woods and was told yes. The fiscal officer will make him copies.

Under Old Business, Robert Jackson reported that he has met with Noah Mechling and Noah has agreed to mark the trees that should be removed. Resident Paul Mechling added that we should institute a “Forest Management Plan” and Robert Jackson responded that he will have Noah make those decisions. A question was asked what the status of this wooded forest is and was told that it is considered public property.

Under New Business, Barb Culp reported the following:

1. That we have received a quote from David Hoover for the removal of trees and stumps at the cemetery for a total of $750. She stated that only small dwarf trees will be allowed to be planted as the roots eventually grow and damage the footers of the headstones. Gaylord Millard then made the motion to accept David Hoover’s quote of $750. For the tree and stump removal, Robert Jackson seconded the motion, all voted in favor.
2. That Ryan Sardella, who was mowing the cemeteries has been suspended. She reported that the lawn mowers were not used carefully and had been warned a couple of times. She suggested that we hire Steve Koivisto and Dave Carr on an as-needed basis for $15./hr. to finish the mowing season this year. Gaylord Millard made the motion to do so, Robert Jackson seconded the motion, all voted in favor. A comment was made that the cemetery looks 100% better.
3. Invited everyone to stop in and see Hall & Gould cemeteries.
4. Recommended that the Zoning Committee have a meeting to take a look at the current zoning codes of which Al Williams is chairman.
5. Informed everyone that Pierpont will not be one of the site’s selected by the County for a recycling center but that we could possibly start our own and possibly have it in operation on certain Saturdays at set times. Resident Steve Gagat informed trustees that there is a surplus outfit called HGR which has these bins very cheap.

Robert Jackson then reported the following:

1)That the current 300 gal. fuel tanks we have are too small for our current needs and we are having Centerra come every two weeks to fill so we avoid running out. He contacted Centerrra to see about getting some larger, double walled tanks and was told that Centerra doesn’t deal in tanks any longer. He mentioned that Orwell Gas will give us any size tank we want. He is considering 2 500 gallon double walled tanks, or 1 1,000 gal. tank using only diesel fuel and just purchasing our unleaded from our local gas station as we don’t use a lot of unleaded to justify a new tank. He suggested that we ask Bob Richcreek to open an account with us and buy our gas there. He mentioned that eventually he would like to see us replace the old pickup with a diesel truck anyway. Resident Lynn Williams asked the question if we would have the new tanks delivered and installed at the bus garage location and was told by Robert Jackson, yes. Barb Culp brought up the fact that sometimes the gas station runs out of gas, and that might create a problem when wanting to mow. Robert Jackson told her that we would have a couple of 5 gal. gas cans on hand in case that would happen. That being said Gaylord Millard made the motion to have Orwell Gas deliver new double walled tanks to our bus garage location and purchase our fuel from them, and open an account at Richcreek’s for our unleaded gasoline, Robert Jackson seconded the motion, the vote was carried by Gaylord Millard and Robert Jackson, with Barb Culp not being in favor.

2)That since we have an extra employee available for help with the roads, he came across a 70 hp Case tractor with a 5’ Alamo side mount flail mower that is on a government auction website and is currently taking bids. He said we currently have 27 miles of road to mow, which works out to 54 mi. to do both sides and that by having this mower, the flail mower would go first and the boom mower would follow and have the roadsides mowed in half the time and do a better job. Robert Jackson made the motion to have our roadman go to Chardon to take a look at it, and if it’s in good shape make a bid on it with an approximate limit of $5000. Plus a small administrative fee, Barb Culp seconded the motion, all voted in favor.

The fiscal officer reported that the zoning warning letter sent to Paul Staudacher has been returned unclaimed and Rich Rea, our zoning inspector, will contact Catherine Colgan at the County Prosecutor’s office to see what our next step might be.

The following bills were presented for payment and approved as follows:

TSC 661.42 Lowe’s 152.80

D.Waldron 168. R.Williams 918.75

D.Waldron 294. Med Mutual 370.30

R. Sardella 385. B.Culp 827.

R.Jackson 827. G.Millard 827.

R.Rea 125. B.Brent 1,299.75

D.Waldron 430.50 R.Williams 840.

Office Depot 44.28 Centerra 1,436.80

Jefferson Auto 250.28 Illum. Co. 170.55

Sunburst Env. 45.75 Stan Hofka 564.

TOTAL $10,638.18

There being no further business, Barb Culp made the motion to adjourn the meeting, Gaylord Millard seconded, all in favor, meeting adjourned.

O.R.C. 5705.41\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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FISCAL OFFICER CHAIRMAN