April 21, 2020

Regular Meeting

\*Pursuant to HB 197, the Township Building is closed to the public and this meeting was held via teleconference and broadcast for public attendance on Facebook Live on the “Pierpont, OH” Facebook page\*

Chairman Barbara Culp called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the trustees present in the township hall.

Roll call of Board attendance: Trustee Barb Culp, Trustee Pam Hudson, Trustee Bob Jackson.

Trustee Culp also asked those listening via Facebook to comment in their names if they would like to be counted as in attendance. (Culp, Hudson and Jackson were present in the meeting hall although they were practicing social distancing.).

Chairman Barbara Culp then turned the meeting over to Vice Chairperson Trustee Jackson as Trustee Culp was running the technology and taking minute notes for the evening.

Trustee Jackson asked for opening comments from the trustees. Trustee Culp stated that, even as there are plans to open the state back up that we must remember to continue with the hand washing and other good health habits that we have been using for the last month. Trustee Jackson congratulated our Fiscal Officer Jennifer Hoover and her husband Grady on the birth of their daughter, and reminded everyone to keep our health professionals in our prayers. Trustee Hudson congratulated Fiscal officer Jennifer Hoover and husband Grady on the birth of their daughter Marilla Fern. She also reminded everyone to keep practicing social distancing and doing whatever it is that you need to do to keep well.

Approval of prior meeting minutes:

As all trustees have already read the minutes and found no need for corrections, the minutes of the April 7, 2020 meeting were approved.

Approval of Bills:

Trustee Jackson presented $4,051.06 in bills and then moved to approve payment. Trustee Hudson seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion passed.

Committee/Department Reports:

**Road Report**-

* Trustee Jackson mentioned that Simak Trucking has been delivering stone to the township.
* He also announced that the Ashtabula County Engineer’s Department will be beginning work on Penn Line Road with the culvert replacement and realignment of the Penn Line & Creek Road intersection. Trustee Culp asked if there will be road closure and Trustee Jackson said that Penn Line Road will be closed for a period.
* Trustee Culp also spoke to residents asking that they help keep litter, leaves, and other items out of the road ditches. She also mentioned that we have some residents who are cutting firewood and leaving branches and log pieces in the road ditches. She asked those residents to help out by keeping those road ditches cleaned out.

Unfinished/Old Business

* Trustee Jackson announced that the purchase of the lawn mower that was discussed at the last meeting is on hold until the financial situation, which has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, is shored up.
* Trustee Jackson also announced that the Pierpont Township Memorial Day Parade for 2020 is cancelled. Several factors, including the inability of the band to attend due to school closure and the concern for the people in the parade were considered before Jerry Redmond and Bob Jackson decided to cancel the event.
* Trustee Culp reiterated that the Township Clean-up days for the township have also been postponed.
* The township has provided WiFi for township residents who can use it by being in the township parking lot. The password is displayed on a sign on the building.
* Trustee Culp also mentioned that they township website has been redone and invited the township residents to visit the website at [www.pierponttownship.com](http://www.pierponttownship.com). The meeting minutes are now on the website once they are approved.

New Business

* Trustee Jackson brought up the need for a purchase order for Simak Trucking in the amount of $12,000. Trustee Hudson moved to create a purchase order for Simak Trucking. Trustee Culp seconded the motion. Motion passed.
* Trustee Jackson also stated that a purchase order is needed for the culvert that will be used on Penn Line Road. The Ashtabula County Engineer’s office was able to find a culvert for the township for the price of $1,344.00 Trustee Culp moved to create a purchase order in the amount of $1,344.00 for the Ashtabula County Engineers office. Trustee Hudson seconded the motion. Motion passed.
* Trustee Culp announced that volunteers are needed on Wednesday, May 6 at 5:00 pm to help put flags on the Veterans’ graves. In the case of inclement weather, the event will be postponed.
* Trustee Culp also announced that Evergreen Cemetery has already been completely mowed for the year and thanked Dave and Rita Carr for their work.
* Trustee Jackson mentioned the COVID-19 Mitigation policy that is being developed for the township. He said that the safeguards for the employees are already in place and the concern now is about opening up meetings to the public. The trustees have contacted the Ashtabula County Health Department, the Ashtabula County Building Department, the Ashtabula County Prosecutor’s Office, the Ohio Township Association, and the Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority for guidance on developing a policy.
* Trustee Jackson also mentioned that the Local Government Fund is depleted and Auditor David Thomas has been sending out notices about how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected the financial status of the county’s governments. In response, to a call to action from the OTA, Trustee Culp spoke with Congressman David Joyce’s office encouraging the Congressman to support a stimulus package being voted on in Congress that could help with the local government funding.
* Trustee Culp also spoke with Congressman Joyce’s office about the need for broadband infrastructure in rural America. Both Trustee Culp and Trustee Hudson spoke of the internet problems in the area and the need for updating. It is particularly hard for the students and teachers who have to use online services to finish their school year.

Miscellaneous:

Trustee Culp announced that the Pierpont Volunteer Fire Department will be doing a pizza fundraiser in the month of May. They are doing this to provide folks with a local place to get food and as a fundraiser since the pandemic has shut down some of their fundraisers.

Trustee Culp also mentioned that the Purse Palooza planned by the Pierpont Community Action League has been postponed.

Public Comment

Public comments were taken from the Facebook site with the comment asking if there could still be a Memorial Day service at the cemetery in lieu of the parade. Trustee Culp answered by saying that is a possibility but we will really have to wait and see what the situation is at the time. Our main concern is the health of those involved.

There being no further business, Trustee Hudson moved to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned.

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Fiscal Officer Chairman of the Board

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Trustee Trustee

Those recorded as listening via the internet.

1. Robin Heston
2. Gary Morrow
3. Lois Morton
4. Tom Marshall
5. Randy Woodard
6. Cheri Hoover
7. Josh Woodard
8. Les Bissett