May 5, 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. (Trustees Culp and Hudson were present in the hall and practiced social distancing while Trustee Jackson attended via teleconference.)

Approval of prior meeting minutes:

As all trustees have already read the minutes and found no need for corrections, the minutes of the April 21, 2020 meeting were approved.

Approval of Bills:

Trustee Culp presented $6,793.88 in bills. Trustee Hudson moved to approve payment of those bills. Trustee Culp seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion passed.

Committee/Department Reports:

**Road Report**-

* Trustee Jackson stated that the road department was back to their normal working routine. mentioned that Simak Trucking has been delivering stone to the township.

Trustee Culp advised that no committees have met since the COVID-19 outbreak.

**Parks Commission**

* Trustee Culp discussed Horner’s forest on Turner Road. The property was deeded to the township with use restrictions in 1983 by Mr. Horner. The deed states that the property shall be used for the enjoyment of the community. The township was presented with a forest management plan by the Parks Commission last year.
* At the first meeting in April, the trustees discussed the removal of firewood from the property and asked that the Parks Commission discuss a policy and provide the trustees with feedback. In response, the Parks Commission spoke via teleconference and prepared a letter to the trustees with their thoughts. Trustee Culp advised that the PC voted 5-0 to not allow the cutting of firewood by township residents and provided a list of 10 reasons. (See attached letter).
* In regards to fishing on the property, the PC advised that they did not promote fishing due to the trash often left behind. Further, the pond on the property is not stocked.
* Trustee Culp advised that the trustees would make the final decisions in regards to Horner’s forest and it is her opinion that parks are an essential public service. She asked that the residents provide their thoughts and ideas for the property.
* Trustee Hudson stated that she believes Mr. Horner wanted the property to be open to the public for their use and enjoyment, but knows that there is a lot of work to be done
* Trustee Jackson welcomed input from residents and mentioned that they would use the newsletter to gather input as well.
* Trustee Hudson also mentioned that she had contacted the Metroparks at one point and will touch base.

Unfinished/Old Business

* Trustee Culp reiterated that the Township Clean-up days for the township have been postponed and they would table the discussion until August. Trustee Culp advised that in 2019, it cost approx. $2,000 to the township to hold clean up days. Trustee Hudson stated that it was a valuable benefit to keep items from being dumped in ditches but does not want to risk the health of township workers.
  + Trustee Jackson advised that he received an email from the Auditor which outlined a 20% cut in our budget and advised that the township is down to essential spending only. At this time, Trustee Jackson did not feel this was an essential expense and is opposed to rescheduling. Lastly, he advised that the budget cut may also hurt stone purchasing.
  + Trustee Culp stated that she would contact PennOhio for proposed costs.
* Trustee Culp advised that the next newsletter was scheduled to go out in June but would now like it to go out prior to Memorial Day since the parade has been cancelled. In order to do so, it will need to be completed by next Tuesday (May 12). After this edition, the next one will be mailed out in September.
  + Trustee Jackson advised that he would like something in the newsletter to honor veterans.
  + It will also include photos of the new culvert on Pennline Road.
* Trustee Culp mentioned the COVID-19 Employee Mitigation Policy and advised that PPE is now available for all township employees. She advised that the policy had been forwarded to the County Prosecutor and her suggestions had been incorporated into the final version before the trustees. Trustee Hudson moved to adopt the policy. Trustee Jackson seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion passed.

New Business

* Trustee Culp advised that they received a letter from Dollar General requesting a letter from the trustees stating that the improvements made to the site are up to township standards. Trustee Hudson suggested that the lawn sprinkler system be corrected or adjusted so as to not spray so close to the horse hitching rail.
  + Trustee Jackson added that the store is a great addition to the township
  + Trustee Culp requested the Fiscal Officer to send a response letter to Dollar General and also request a name and contact information for someone they can go to with any questions or concerns in the future.

Public Comment

Public comments were taken from the Facebook live video.

1. Josh Woodard asked if there was any money allocated for a green space from a group and asked if that money could be used for Horner’s forest. Trustee Culp advised that the WRCDC received $75,000.00 to create a green space across the street at former Coker property and advised that the plan is on the website if anyone is interested.
2. Lois Morton asked if the trustees wanted her to take pictures of the Pennline Road culvert. Trustee Culp advised yes and added that anyone could send pictures to be included in the newsletter.
3. Dan Swift commented that the Boy Scouts would also like to use Horner’s forest if it is improved.

Miscellaneous:

Trustee Culp advised that they will need to come up with a public meeting plan for when the township hall can be reopened.

Trustee Culp also advised that they will be placing flags in the cemeteries on May 6, 2020 at 5:00PM and the public is invited to help.

Trustee Hudson mentioned an event being held by Ducro on May 9th from 2-3PM. Fiscal Officer Hoover read Ducro’s Facebook post which stated that Ducro and Country Neighbor would be providing meals and pet food and added that Hometown Harvest would also be providing free coffee (while supplies last).

Trustee Culp advised that she would be in touch with Cheri Hoover in regards to the farmer’s market and further advised that the scheduled blood drives had been cancelled as of now.

Trustee Jackson ended by requesting a list of needs/wants from the Boy Scouts for Horner’s forest.

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