June 16, 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.

(Trustees Culp and Hudson were present in the hall and practiced social distancing while Trustee Jackson attended via teleconference.) Lois Morton of the Pierpont Revitalization Committee was also present to present a committee report.

Approval of prior meeting minutes:

As all trustees have already read the minutes, minutes were approved as written.

Approval of Bills:

Trustee Culp presented $9,876.49 in bills. Trustee Hudson moved to pay the bills presented. Trustee Jackson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Trustee Culp added that they did not have any receipts since the last meeting.

Committee/Department Reports:

**Road Report**:

* Trustee Jackson acknowledged that dust control is the current dilemma. He advised that he placed the order for dust control on June 7th but that the truck had broken down. He was advised that they would be back on the road tomorrow (June 17th).

**Parks Commission:**

* Trustee Culp advised that the next meeting is in July

**Revitalization Committee:**

* Lois Wright Morton was present and provided a summary of the June 15th Revitalization Committee meeting:
  + First, she advised that they had difficulty with the video and it was not able to be posted.
  + She then presented 4 items of discussion:
    1. Lois advised that the greenspace powerpoint from the March 16th meeting is on the website and encouraged everyone to take a look at it. The greenspace at the house on Route 7 would be funded by the Ashtabula County Civic Development Corporation.
    2. She advised that Kent State Ashtabula had invited Pierpont to partner in a USDA telemedicine/distance learning proposal to place a “Zoom room” in Pierpont. The room would allow KSU to offer distance learning classes including college courses, high school credit classes and continuing education classes. The USDA grant would fund equipping the room and they are seeking additional funding for room rental and fiber connections. The Revitalization Committee voted unanimously to submit a letter of support to KSUA for the proposed USDA telemedicine/distance learning project and further requested that the Trustees also send a similar letter of support. They will also be seeking letters of support from PV, Jefferson and Conneaut school districts.
    3. Broadband – Committee member Jake Hudson is a member of the countywide broadband committee. The County has a consultant from Stark County who is helping the commissioners develop a countywide assessment of broadband connectivity and reliability. She also went on to explain how COVID-19 has revealed the gaps in the internet access in Pierpont Township.
    4. County/Township MOU for sewer construction – County Engineer will begin survey and field work followed by engineering design and cost estimates for the downtown sewer project. The Committee requested the Trustees to pass a resolution to request the second half of state funds and also asked the Trustees to direct the Fiscal Officer to contact the OEPA after July 1st to request those funds.
  + Lois advised that the next Revitalization Committee meeting is September 21, 2020 at 6:00PM and it will be their organizational meeting.
* Trustee Culp asked Lois if groups would be able to utilize the Zoom room for trainings and meeting and Lois advised “yes”. Lois is looking at several locations including the former Coker house and the “Wright Building”.
* Lastly, Lois advised that she had also submitted their committee report to the Trustees electronically.

Unfinished/Old Business

* Trustee Jackson advised that township road work begin with routine and priority maintenance and that is not done yet (mainly Schrambling and Anderson). He advised that no extra projects will begin until those projects are complete. Trustee Culp added that she drove all of the township roads and thinks they are in pretty good shape, with the exception of the dust. Trustee Hudson added that she drove down Ford Road (which was done in asphalt grindings by the County when the Graham Road bridge was closed for construction).

New Business

* Trustee Culp presented Resolution No. 2020-09 (A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO ACCEPT NORTHEAST OHIO PUBLIC ENERGY COUNCIL (NOPEC) 2020 ENERGIZED COMMUNITY GRANT). Trustee Culp advised that Pierpont Township had received this grant in the past and moved to pass the resolution, seconded by Trustee Hudson. Roll call was recited – Trustee Hudson – yea; Trustee Culp – yea; Trustee Jackson – yea. Resolution passed.
* Trustee Culp presented Resolution No. 2020-10 (A RESOLUTION REQUESTING FUNDS FROM THE ASHTABULA COUNTY CORONAVIRUS RELIEF DISTRIBUTION FUND PURSUANT TO SB 310 AND UNDER SECTION 5001 OF THE CORONAVIRUS AID, RELIEF, AND ECONOMIC SECURITY (CARES) ACT). Trustee Culp advised that she watched a webinar which advised that large cities had already received the funding and that the County would disperse our funding. The funds will have limited uses, i.e. items required to open the hall back up and costs to set up audio and video systems to broadcast meetings. This was a form resolution received from the County. Trustee Hudson moved to pass the resolution, seconded by Trustee Culp. Roll call was recited – Trustee Hudson – yea; Trustee Culp – yea; Trustee Jackson – yea. Resolution passed.
* Trustee Culp presented Resolution No. 2020-11 (A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE REMAINING FUNDS FROM THE OHIO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (OEPA) FOR THE SANITARY SEWER PROJECT.). Barb advised that the County is drawing up plans for the sewer system. Trustee Hudson moved to pass the resolution, seconded by Trustee Jackson. Roll call was recited – Trustee Hudson – yea; Trustee Culp – yea; Trustee Jackson – yea. Resolution passed.
  + Trustee Culp requested the Fiscal Officer to request the funds from the OEPA.

Miscellaneous:

* Trustee Culp advised that the field behind the former Coker property had been mowed and she intended to mow a walking path for residents.
* Trustee Culp advised that the Revitalization Committee had requested a letter of support o KSU and asked the Fiscal Officer to send such a letter supporting the project.
* Trustee Culp reminded viewers that the farmers market is scheduled to begin on June 20th and will run from 7:00AM-Noon. She also advised that this past Friday was the final day for Fire Department pizza sales. She and Trustee Hudson advised that an Amish family on Route 7 would be starting pizza sales.

Public Comment

Public comments were taken from the Facebook live video.

1. A viewer asked the trustees who owns the apartment building at the corner of Marcy Road and Route 7 – Trustee Culp advised the property is owned by Ohio Endeavors LLC and that the Trustees had been working with the building department. She had not heard anything on the property recently and will request a status. The same viewer further advised the Trustees that they were doing a great job.

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