January 5, 2021

Regular Meeting

\*Pursuant to HB 197/HB 404, 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. Fiscal Officer Jennifer Hoover was present as well.

Approval of prior meeting minutes:

As all trustees have already read the minutes of the December 15, 2020 regular meeting, the minutes were approved as presented.

As all trustees have already read the minutes of the December 28, 2020 special meeting, the minutes were approved as presented.

Approval of Bills:

Trustee Culp presented $16,541.51 in bills. Trustee Hudson moved to pay the bills presented. Trustee Jackson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Trustee Culp also listed the receipts since the last meeting, totaling $20,739.46.

Fiscal Officer’s Report

Correspondence since last meeting:

Committee/Department Reports:

**Road Report**:

* Trustee Jackson presented his road plan for 2021 concerning dust control and road maintenance. Trustee Jackson requested the total received in 2020 for motor vehicle and permissive = $24,517.
* Trustee Jackson advised he would like to use emulsion on the roads 100 feet in front of houses and then cover that area in stone. That should last the entire year. He also wants to double the stone. The dust control substance would be applied in a 12 ft strip.
* Trustee Culp advised she had a contact from Mentor. Trustee Jackson advised his figures were from the County.
* Trustee Jackson also advised that Schrambling Road and Pennline Road projects are still out there.
* Trustee Culp also mentioned needing to make a base at the outpost for stone storage.
* The Trustees also acknowledged that ditches still need to be worked on.
* Trustee Jackson advised that he would like to spend $110,000.00 on dust control and materials ($57,000 from gas tax, $20,000 from permissive and $33,000.00 that was previously used for the Western Star truck payment, which was paid off last year). Trustee Culp moved, seconded by Trustee Hudson. All in favor – motion passed.

**Zoning Inspector**

* Zoning Inspector Rich Rea advised he sent a copy of the township zoning map to the County Planning Commission per their request.

**Zoning Commission:**

Next meeting is January 28, 2021 at 6:00PM.

**Parks Commission:**

Next meeting is January 26, 2021 – meeting has been cancelled.

**Revitalization Committee:**

Unsure of when their next meeting is.

Unfinished/Old Business:

* Trustee Culp advised that she mailed and emailed 80 letters to township businesses/organizations and received less than 20 responses. She would like to include a business listing in the next newsletter. She asked that people return their response as soon as possible.
* Trustee Culp advised everyone is signed up for the OTA conference. One day of sessions will be dedicated to small township, one day for medium sized townships and one day for the larger townships. It will be 5 days of webinars.
* Trustee Culp advised she will be attending an EPA webinar on a grant. There is also a cemetery grant that she would like to apply for for the building. Requested building specifications from Trustee Jackson to complete application – deadline is July.
* Trustee Culp and Hudson tried to use the UAN Cemetery software – they were looking for something that would allow anyone to look up who is buried in the cemetery. UAN software will not allow that and is not user-friendly.
* Trustee Hudson advised they delivered welcome baskets to new residents in 2020.

New Business:

* Trustee Culp called Lois Wright Morton. Lois was asked to be a member on the Ashtabula County Steering Committee to develop a 1-year plan for the County. She advised that the first rounds of public input “Focus on the Future” will begin soon. Zoom meetings are scheduled for 1/19/2021 at 6PM, 1/20/2021 at 12PM, and 1/22/2021 at 9:00AM. Anyone interested in attending those Zoom meetings can register at allinashtabula.com. All meetings will contain the same content so you only need to register for one. She also advised that there will be a web-based participation option on the website from 1/19/2021 through 2/8/2021. She will keep the trustees apprised of what is happening.
* Trustee Culp presented the 2021 Fire and EMS contracts for review. She asked that the address be changed to P.O. Box 42 for the Fire Department. There were no other changes to the Fire contract. The total Fire contract price is $48,500.00.
  + Trustee Culp read Section 1 and advised the Fire Department will need to verify the accuracy. She also requested we delete a section in the EMS contract and also that the Fire Department review sections 6a and 6c. Total EMS contact price will be $48,000 thanks to the newly passed levy.
  + Trustee Jackson moved to accept the changes to the agreements. Seconded by Trustee Hudson. All in favor – motion passed.
  + Trustee Jackson also moved to approve the agreements with the changes, subject to Fire Dept. approval. Seconded by Trustee Hudson. All in favor – motion passed.
* Trustee Culp advised that Tom Marshall from the Fire Department contacted her regarding applying for the Ohio Firefighters Equipment Grant. The Fire Department needs the signatures of the chairperson and the fiscal officer because they are not a township fire department. Grant is for $15,000 and they would do all of the paperwork. Trustee Jackson suggested asking the Prosecutor for an opinion on signing the grant paperwork for the private fire dept. Trustee Culp requested FO Hoover to request an opinion from Prosecutor O’Toole.
* Trustee Culp touched on the township inventory and mentioned it was previously required to be sent to the County Engineer. She requested Trustee Jackson to have the road crew to review the inventory for our files.
* Trustee Jackson will remain liaison for Revitalization Committee and Trustee Hudson will remain liaison for Parks Commission.
* The following motions were made:

1. Motion for Trustee Hudson to remain liaison for Parks Commission and Trustee Jackson to remain as liaison for Revitalization Committee. Moved by Trustee Jackson, seconded by Trustee Culp. Motion was passed by unanimous vote of “aye.”
2. Motion to appoint pay mileage at the 2021 IRS business rate of $0.56 per mile for out-of-county travel. Moved by Trustee Culp, seconded by Trustee Jackson. Motion was passed by unanimous vote of “aye.”
3. Motion to adopt the Ashtabula County Highway Personnel Policy. Moved by Trustee Culp, seconded by Trustee Jackson to adopt the Ashtabula County Engineer’s Personnel Policy for calendar year 2021, except where amended by Trustees. Motion was passed by unanimous vote of “aye.”
4. Trustee Culp moved to appoint Robin Heston the Zoning Board of Appeals, effective January 1, 2021 for a term of 5 years. Seconded by Trustee Hudson. Replaces Jake Hudson on the Board. There is still one open position. Current members are David Hoover, David Carr and Tim Neczeporenko.
5. Zoning Commission members are Ray Brocket, Steve Koivisto, Larry Kotnik and Logan Fogus. Trustee Culp moved to reappoint Alice Dreslinski to the Zoning Commission for a period of 5 years, beginning January 1, 2021. Seconded by Trustee Hudson. Motion was passed by unanimous vote of “aye.” There is also an open alternate position.

* Trustee Culp asked for discussion on a raise for the fulltime road position. Part time position pays $10/hour and fulltime position pays $18/hr. She talked to the County and 25 other townships in the County and presented a spreadsheet with others pay rates. Trustee Culp advised Dave received a $0.50 raise in 2020. Township does not provide health insurance. Trustee Jackson asked what portion of fulltime pay was paid from gas tax – FO Hoover advised all of his wages are paid from gas tax. Trustee Jackson expressed his concern with timing due to the list of projects slated for 2021. FO Hoover advised a $1.00/hour raise would be feasible for 2021. Cost of living raises were also discussed. Trustee Culp advised the township used to pay $21/hour for another road employee. She also presented the idea of splitting the raise in two $.50 increments. Trustee Culp moved to give roadworker Dave Smith a $1.00/hour raise for 2021, seconded by Trustee Hudson.

Miscellaneous:

* Trustee Hudson advised that she had been having some issues with making calls from her cell phone. FO Hoover advised she saw on the County EMA Facebook page that a fiber line had been cut and it was affecting Verizon customers.
* Trustee Culp advised that Pierpont Fire Department pizza sales begin on Friday, January 8, 2021.
* Trustee Hudson discussed COVID-19 and encouraged the vaccine if you have it available to you. She also advised that Pierpont was up to 36 cases.

Public Comment:

Several public comments were read from the Facebook Live feed.

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

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Fiscal Officer