

Middleton Township Trustees

Wednesday, May 15, 2024

6:00 p.m.

Mr. Vetter called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was spoken. In attendance were Trustees Cromley, Moulton, and Vetter as well as Fiscal Officer Limes. The sign-in sheet for employees and visitors is attached with the approved minutes.

Noted on the sign in sheet is a statement indicating the meeting may be recorded or streamed live to the internet by a visitor - not at the authority of the township trustees.

Township OTARMA representative, Rob Fawcett, UIS Insurance & Investments, reviewed the township's liability insurance policy. He noted updates to the premium packet are still on-going. In his review he encouraged review of the risk assessment and cyber policies, as well as taking advantage of grant opportunities.

FISCAL OFFICER REPORT

- **Mr. Cromley moved, Mr. Moulton seconded a motion to approve the May 1, 2024 meeting minutes as provided. Motion approved.**
- **Mr. Moulton moved, Mr. Vetter seconded approval of accounts and payroll as submitted. Motion approved.** A payment register is attached to the approved minutes.
- Mrs. Limes provided the March bank reconciliation for review.
- Mrs. Limes addressed the Board with regard to the use of the ARP funds. A new purpose will need to be established at the next report cycle, if the Board intends to use the funds for something other than road improvements.
- **Mr. Moulton moved, Mr. Cromley seconded a motion to move the July 3, 2024 meeting of the Board to 8:30 a.m. Motion approved.**

ROAD DEPARTMENT

- Jeff Eckel, Road Supervisor noted that the first round of road mowing is completed.
- Brush was cut on Forst, King, Ovitt and Dowling Roads by the county.
- A tar and chip project with Center Township is still being pursued for Cross Creek Road between St. Rt. 25 and Mercer Road.
- Homeowners on King Road in the Village of Hull Prairie are working with the township and C&L Sanitation to have their septic system approved so they can continue to work on their property and potential buildings.
- **Mr. Vetter moved, Mr. Moulton seconded a motion to approve the road department place a variety of road maintenance equipment on govdeals.com as per review of the road maintenance department staff. Motion approved.**

ZONING DEPARTMENT

- Zoning Inspector Kip McDowell updated the Board on two variance hearings. On May 22 the Board will hear a request to update parking at Midway Animal Hospital on N. Dixie Highway. On May 29 the hearing will be in regard to the decibel level of a pond fountain from McCarthy Builders, developer of the Village of Riverbend.
- Mr. McDowell noted numerous homes are being built in Riverbend.
- The Planning Commission recently approved Phase 3 in the Village of Riverbend.
- A Five Point Road resident shared concerns about a yard in need of mowing.
- An auction is planned for the River Road property that housed the Impact for Hope home.
- The Board questioned ownership of the Blanco property on N. Dixie Highway and whether taxes were paid to date. The property grounds are in disrepair and the status of the Health Department being involved was questioned.
- Mr. McDowell indicated he would be seeking assistance from legal council Peter Griggs with regard to next steps needed to enforce warnings given to the homeowner on N. Dixie Highway who has not removed equipment and facilities at the verbal and written request of the zoning inspector.

VISITOR COMMENTS

- Five Point Road residents Gary Ehrmin, Dave Zuchowski and Peter Kay addressed the Board with multiple items of concern. The first item was in regard to the speed limit on Five Point Road and discussion was held with regard to an engineering review. Talks will be held with the county engineers' office staff to determine if a reduced speed limit is warranted based on a traffic study being requested. In addition, the group is concerned about the need to jet the tile to the west of work that was done earlier in the spring to clear any potential blockages that are creating flooding problems for homeowners. The other item brought forward was the possibility of reversal of

rezoning on property to the north of Five Point Road. More information must be gathered to establish how that can occur.

- Village of Riverbend subdivision residents Kate Killion and Andrew Leonhart requested the township's assistance to have a fountain turned off in the subdivision pond. They shared concerns about damage to their property from the fountain spray and pollutants in the water. The noise of the fountain and aerator were also discussed, noting the noise level is above the allowed maximum. Mr. Moulton questioned if they have spoke to the developer as it would appear the situation would be considered a nuisance. The property owners noted they bought the property prior to the fountain being installed. The Board acknowledged the hardship and stated they would continue to work with the developer to remedy the situation. It was also acknowledged that the developer has requested a zoning variance to allow for the noise level of the existing aerator and fountain.
- Township resident Ross Fought mentioned the new light on the township grounds is very bright. The Board was prepared to address the issue and will have the bulb changed.

OLD BUSINESS

- Mr. Moulton noted there is a deadline of June 28 for township counsel to file a motion for summary judgement regarding the Copeland Estate litigation.
- Mr. Cromley addressed the drainage issue at USF Holland and the Calphalon facility, noting he feels it is a county engineer issue.

NEW BUSINESS

- Zoning inspector Kip McDowell provided the Board with the recommendations from the Wood County Planning Commission and the Middleton Township Zoning Commission with regard to rezoning property owned by the Northwestern Water & Sewer District.
Mr. Moulton moved, Mr. Cromley seconded a motion to approve a special meeting for the purpose of reviewing the recommendations from the Wood County Planning Commission and the Middleton Township Zoning Commission with regard to rezoning property owned by the Northwestern Water & Sewer District from A-1 to M-1 on Wednesday, May 15, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. Motion approved. Mrs. Limes will submit the notice to the newspaper and website.
- Mr. Moulton noted that the TMACOG Board of Directors is preparing to eliminate the township representative alternate position on the Board. This, along with other proposed changes to TMACOG bylaws, will be on the agenda and put up for a vote at the organization's summer general assembly on July 24, 2024.
- Strawser Construction requested and was subsequently granted permission from Mr. Vetter to allow vehicle storage at the township administration complex while work in on-going on St. Rt. 582.

Mr. Cromley moved, Mr. Moulton seconded adjournment of the meeting at 8:05 pm. Motion approved.

Michael Moulton, Trustee

Donald E. Cromley, Vice Chairman

Fred E. Vetter, Chairman

Laurie L. Limes, Fiscal Officer