

>>>**BLOOM TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING 04/27/05**<<<

Joseph Smith, Chairperson, called the meeting to order. Members present were Trustees Smith, Larry Coyle, David Petty and Carol Moore, Clerk. Also present were Anne Darling Cyphert, Board Office Admin. & Bldg/Zoning Admin; Tom Scholl, Road Department Superintendent; Terry Gill, Fire Chief; and several interested citizens. Smith led in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

CLERK REPORT:

- **Motion** by Coyle, second by Petty, to approve minutes of the 4-13-05 regular meeting. Motion carried 3-0.
- **Motion** by Petty, second by Coyle, to approve payment of bills in the amount of \$44,268.04 and Payroll/charges in the amount of \$41,532.06 after being certified by the clerk that funds are available. Motion carried 3-0.
- **RESOLUTION #28-05: BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BLOOM TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES** to approve supplemental transfers to 1000-760-730 IMPROVEMENT OF SITES from the funds as listed below. These additional funds are needed for the Greencastle Office Project.
 - \$17,500 from unappropriated balance in the General Fund
 - \$1000 from 1000-120-322 Garbage & Trash Removal
 - \$20,000 from 1000-760-740 Machinery/Equipment/Furniture
 - \$10,000 from 1000-910-910 Transfers OutMotion by Petty, second by Coyle.
ROLL CALL:
Coyle: yes
Petty: yes
Smith: yes
Motion carried 3-0.
- The clerk requested that an executive session be held before the end of the meeting for the purpose of discussing personnel matters as defined in the Ohio Revised Code 121.22 G-S.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Coyle presented a letter from Jeff Baird of County Engineer's Office regarding drainage issues at the area of Alspach and Sitterley Roads. Coyle will send it to Jerrold Schwarz, Esq. for legal review prior to a meeting being set by the trustees with the neighbors.
- Petty inquired about a visit from FEMA regarding our request for reimbursement for tree debris removal. Cyphert reported that FEMA representatives Dionne and Jessie stopped in when Petty was in Anniston receiving homeland defense training.

Scholl had driven the FEMA reps around the township to view the clean-up areas. Scholl said they wanted to know why we had not taken pictures of the storm damage.

Cyphert said the FEMA reps said we did an inadequate job of monitoring the clean-up by Arborturf. They said that in the future we can hire someone on a temporary basis to monitor the contracted work if our current employees cannot monitor the work. The township could then apply for reimbursement for the cost of the monitor.

Cyphert was told that we will not receive the whole amount because the purchase order had been exceeded. Lack of proper approval for the work to be done and lack of proper monitoring were reasons cited by the FEMA reps that will cause us to receive a reduced reimbursement. Petty said the bottom line is that we lost \$12,000.

A FEMA rep told Cyphert that someone had complained to the State level regarding whether the work was emergency or maintenance, therefore, any reimbursement may be delayed pending an investigation of the complaint.

NEW BUSINESS: None

BLDG/ZONING & BOARD OFFICE REPORT:

- Cyphert reported that she recently spoke with Brooks Davis at Fairfield County Regional Planning Commission who informed her that a large scale developer will soon be contacting her regarding a possible zoning amendment to allow a Planned Development in the northern end of the township. She said no other details are available yet.
- Cyphert reported that Attorney Schwartz had told her that he was going to write a letter to the attorney of Northeast Ohio Natural Gas telling him what decision Bloom Twp has made concerning the request to work in the right-of-way. Cyphert asked the trustees if they wanted to pay our attorney to tell NE Gas's attorney what they should be learning from Mr. Woods who had represented the company at the trustee meeting where board action had been taken. The trustees said they do not want to engage our attorney for such a letter.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT:

- Terry Gill reported he has two part-time firefighters he would like to hire.

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Motion by Petty, second by Coyle to appoint John Schwinne effective 5-18-05 and Steve Downey effective 5-6-05 as part-time firefighters/paramedics on a 12 month probationary period at a rate of \$8.00 per hour. Motion carried 3-0.

- **Motion** by Petty, second by Coyle to approve reimbursement of \$1,114 for Firefighter Instructors Conference in Indianapolis for Jeff Cotner for hotel, parking, and mileage. Motion carried 3-0.
- Petty informed Gill of a FEMA Seminar in Anniston, AL regarding Weapons of Mass Destruction and recommended he consider sending other firefighters to the conference in the future which is paid for 100% by government grants.
- Report on Working Partners Drug Free Workplace Program: Gill presented the trustees with a draft of the Drug Free Workplace policy developed by Working Partners Inc. The cost to the township to develop the policy is \$737.50. The savings for developing policies is 75% of Workers' Compensation premiums. Training of all employees will be required. The other cost to the township is the actual drug testing at a cost of \$42 per test. The Road Department employees would be exempt because they are already drug tested for CDL license by the Department of Transportation.

Gill said we are required to offer employee assistance. He presented two possible plans. Plan A would cost \$1217.50. Plan B could be purchased from People Resources (not part of Working Partners). This plan costs \$22.40 per person annually which entitles each employee up to 3 visits per year at no cost for counseling sessions. Road workers would also be eligible for the employee assistance program. Gill said the goal is to provide a healthier and safer work environment for all employees. Firefighters Eric Smith and Scott Weber displayed a safety sign and vest the department is using as part of a safety program.

Gill will be notified as the Program Administrator when someone is due for testing.

Petty asked if the union has any problem with this Drug Free Workplace program. Scott Weber said, "unofficially no." All agreed that a memorandum of agreement is needed between the firefighters' union and the trustees.

Gill said the deadline to apply for this program is May 10, 2005 so that we can implement it by July 1, 2005. The trustees stated they preferred the option that allows for the three counseling sessions.

Motion by Petty, second by Coyle: to move forward with employee assistance Plan B, as presented by Gill, that offers counseling sessions at a cost of \$22.40 per employee; and that the trustees review the draft Working Partners policy plan and act on it or not at the next meeting. Motion carried 3-0.

ROAD DEPARTMENT REPORT:

- Scholl needs weed killer.
Motion by Coyle, second by Petty to purchase Crossbow and Roundup weed killer at a cost of \$1366.70. Motion carried 3-0.
- Scholl reported a former long-time township resident wants to purchase cemetery plots at the resident price. Petty expressed his opinion that if a person has ties to the township they should be allowed to purchase at resident price. He recalled that in 1991 the trustees set the policy for the higher price charged to non-residents to protect the township from funeral homes referring people to our cemetery in order to get the low price compared to other cemeteries. Discussion of how to define "resident" for the purpose of determining cemetery lot purchase.

Motion by Petty, second by Coyle to define "township resident" for the purpose of purchasing a cemetery lot as follows: someone who currently lives in the township, or has lived or whose immediately family has lived in the township for at least 20 years. Motion carried 3-0.

- Scholl received a phone call from Bill Yaple, Operations Director for Violet Township, who would like a cooperative arrangement with Bloom Township to share road snow plow care. Scholl and Yaple will bring a draft written agreement before the board at the next meeting.
- Scholl and Rick Bennett of Shelly Company examined Brandt Road. They agreed it should continue to be maintained with gravel this year and tar and chip applied next year. Scholl asked if he could use the \$20,000 for tree removal since it will not be used for Brandt Road. The trustees said it could be spent on gravel but not tree removal. Petty stated Greenfield and Liberty Townships do their own paving and asked Scholl if he thought that would be a savings. Scholl said he didn't think that would save any money and he indicated the product would be of a lower quality.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Gill reported that there was a fire at a detached garage in Collegeview that had a couple of cars in it. He stated the compressed foam truck helped extinguish the blaze. He said the person who started the blaze had to be transported to the OSU Hospital. He said the assistance of Lancaster Fire Department was helpful.
- Gill presented a letter from Violet Twp. Fire Department that thanked Bloom Township for assisting by staffing the Violet Twp. Fire Department during a recent tragedy.

Smith adjourned the meeting.

Joseph Smith
Chairperson

Carol J. Moore
Clerk