

<<<BLOOM TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING 08/8/07>>>

Brian Randles, Chair, called the meeting to order. Members present were Trustees Randles, and Joseph Smith, and Fiscal Officer Carol Moore. Trustee Petty was absent. Also present were Anne Darling Cyphert, Board and B/Z Administrator; Fire Chief Terry Gill; and several interested citizens.

Randles asked everyone to join him in the Pledge of Allegiance and to remain standing for a Moment of Silence in honor of our troops serving in the Military throughout the world.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Donna Abram: Stated RPC had a presentation regarding Community Development Block Grants. She said handicapped ramps can be put into some grants. She also reported that the Rockmill Estates extension was approved through 12-21-07.

**FISCAL OFFICER REPORT:** by Fiscal Officer Carol Moore

- **Motion** by Smith, second by Randles to approve minutes of regular meeting. Motion carried 2-0.
- **Motion** by Smith, second by Randles to approve Triad invoice, \$1,950 for Engine 553 pump repairs. Motion carried 2-0.
- **Motion** by Smith, second by Randles to approve payment of bills in the amount of \$48,059.14 and Payroll/ charges in the amount of \$38,663.07 having been certified by the clerk that funds are available. Motion carried 2-0.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- Smith stated he talked with a representative of Slate Ridge to discuss possible placement of a warning siren there. The property owners association will meet late August. Photos will be taken. The neighborhood board president will call the township when the installation is scheduled. Gill will get legal agreements from EMA that are necessary for the installation.
- Smith stated he is working with the neighbors that are experiencing issues with the Benson spring. The Health Department is also working with them to resolve the issues.
- Randles stated the roof repair will commence shortly and the roofer has someone who will discard the slate tiles.
- Smith reported he has been meeting with Kauffman Road residents regarding right-of-way agreements and is trying to work it out with them. Randles and Smith discussed tree issues that still must be resolved. Solt will review the matter.
- Ohio Township Association (OTA) Summer Conference report by Cyphert, and Moore:
  - Cyphert presented the board with and discussed the legislative status sheet distributed at the conference containing house bills about estate tax, retirement benefits, JEDD law, junk vehicles, zoning authority, speed limits, budget, prevailing wage, cable relocation, and senate bills including eminent domain, sexually oriented businesses, limited home rule, animal feeding facilities, sex offender notices, cable franchising, and vehicle removal.
  - Cyphert stated she also attended a seminar regarding the Fair Labor Standards Act. The attorney presenting the seminar pointed out several areas that we need to be in compliance with. She will work with Fiscal Officer Moore over the next several weeks on these issues and will present the information at a later date.
  - Moore reported on the new bill pending regarding estate tax that may involve a Board of Trustees vote whether to continue the estate tax.
- Petty requested at the NOV 22, 2006 meeting to put on agenda for AUG 2007 to begin searching for health insurance carrier for 2008.

Discussion regarding forming an insurance committee involving department heads or having the insurance agents come to regular meetings. It was decided a committee could narrow the field prior to a trustee decision. Randles said the committee would have its meetings prior to Oct 24<sup>TH</sup>, then employee applications could be gathered

<<<BLOOM TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING 08/8/07>>>

between OCT 24th and 31<sup>st</sup>. We will review the quotes at our regular meeting the 14<sup>th</sup> and then make a decision on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Motion** by Smith, second by Randles, to appoint Trustee Petty, the three department heads, and if a union representative wants to come on a voluntary basis, that he/she also be invited to sit on the Insurance Committee and report back to the Trustees as needed. Motion carried 2-0.

**ZONING & BOARD OFFICE REPORT:** by Anne Darling Cyphert, Board Admin & B/Z Admin.

- RPC update: Cyphert stated RPC approved an extension regarding Rockmill Estates. She reminded the trustees that the township does not object to the subdivision, but with the numerous extensions, the trustees would like to see the subdivision meet current zoning. The township was already aware the property owner, Mr. Robert Stebelton, is grandfathered due to the filing of the plat under former zoning, but we still wanted to make RPC aware if it is ever possible in the future, we would like to see it have current zoning.
- Noxious Weeds/Junk Cars: Cyphert stated she spoke with Assistant Prosecutor Julia Dillon about the noxious weeds procedures. She said Dillon advised her that the zoning inspector has no authority under Ohio Revised Code to issue Noxious Weeds violations. The violations notices must come from the Board of Trustees who would pass a resolution after the complaint is filed to send the offender an order to cut, destroy, or show cause why the weeds should not be cut or destroyed.

Dillon said "ORC 5579.05 reads: Upon receiving written information that noxious weeds,...on land in a township, the BOARD OF TRUSTEES shall notify the owner, lessee, agent, or tenant having charge of the land of the receipt of the information and of the obligations imposed by this section. Within 5 days after notification is given, the person notified shall cut or destroy or show the board why there is no need for doing so."

Dillon said never act on a verbal complaint, it must be written.

- 1) A written complaint shall be filed. Photos are preferred but if the complainant refuses, the written affidavit will suffice.
- 2) After a trustee verifies the weeds exist, a Resolution is passed that reads "The Board of Trustees directs that a certified letter be sent to (offender) giving notice that he/she has 14 days after notification is given to cut or destroy or show the board why there is no need for doing so.
- 3) If certified letter is signed for but no compliance takes place, the trustees make a Resolution to "Upon giving satisfactory notice, and no action taken, this board of trustees hereby directs that the weeds be cut by a private contractor and the costs be forwarded to the Fairfield County Auditor's Office to be placed upon the landowner's tax bill."
- 4) If certified letter is not signed for, we ask the prosecutor's office for direction on how to proceed. They will assist us in finding other means of locating the offender for notification purposes.
- 5) After we have exhausted all means of notifying the property owner, the Board of Trustees will then make the following resolution: "Upon giving satisfactory notice, and no action taken, this board of trustees hereby directs that the weeds be cut by a private contractor and the costs be forwarded to the Fairfield County Auditor's Office to be placed upon the landowner's tax bill."
- 6) After weeds are cut, the bill is sent with appropriate form to the Fairfield County Auditor's office to have it placed on the tax bill.

**RESOLUTION #16-07: BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BLOOM TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES** that a certified letter be sent to the property owner at 655 Rockmill Road giving notice that he/she has 5 days after notification is given to cut or destroy or show the board why there is no need for doing so. Motion by Smith, second by Randles. ROLL CALL: Randles-Yes; Smith-Yes; Petty-absent. Motion carried 2-0.

- Regarding Junk Cars, the Sheriff's Office is still acting as the code enforcement officer on junk car complaints. Cyphert said she is working with the Sheriff's Office to see if there is a requirement for a written citizen complaint before action can be taken. She said a new law allows the township to recoup the costs of towing junk vehicles.

<<<BLOOM TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING 08/8/07>>>

- Meeting with Scott Ziance: Mr. Ziance is working with Violet Twp's counsel regarding the proposed JEDD. Cyphert said he would like to meet with her, the Fiscal Officer, and a trustee next week to discuss. Randles will attend.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT:** by Chief Terry Gill

- Tornado Sirens: Liability release forms are being handled by the EMA. The second siren should be installed this month. South Central Power is providing and setting the poles so we are dependent upon their schedule.
- Gill said the grant they received in years past for airpacks was received again. This one will be used for a wellness program for firefighters. This includes annual physicals and stress tests. Each firefighter will have an individual fitness program. A new stepper and treadmill might also be purchased with the grant. Gill said Boom Twp is the first to receive this grant in Central Ohio.

**ROAD DEPARTMENT REPORT:** by Road Supervisor Randy Solt

- Solt reported that the mowing should be finished Friday.
- Summer Culvert Projects: All culverts are in for the roads that will be resurfaced by Shelly Company. Shelly will begin next week. Approximately 1,000 tons of reground asphalt will be used for berm work.
- Randles requested Solt work with Cyphert to send out news releases to inform the public when their road will be worked on. August 19-September 7 are the dates that work is expected to occur. Cyphert asked Solt to provide her with a list of roads to be worked on.

**OTHER:** None

**ADJOURNMENT**

Randles adjourned the meeting.

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Brian E. Randles  
Chair

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Carol J. Moore  
Fiscal Officer