

<BLOOM TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING 03-12-08>

Joseph Smith, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M.. Members present were Trustees Smith, David Petty, Brian Randles, and Fiscal Officer Carol Moore. Also present were Anne Darling Cyphert, Board Admin.& B/Z Administrator; Fire Chief Terry Gill; Road Supervisor Randy Solt, and several interested citizens.

Smith 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.

PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- Mark Heister of Amanda Northern Road asked about the progress or non-progress of the JEDD. Randles said he was concerned that most of the audience members at the public hearing were not Bloom Twp. residents. Heister said that should tell you something. Smith said that was the reason for the public hearing and nothing has been decided. He said Bloom Twp. does not want to see anyone forced into the JEDD involuntarily. Heister said it looks like a nightmare and is unnecessary. Randles said it would stop annexations. Petty said it would be a deal breaker if the agreement would allow a property owner to be forced into the JEDD. Heister asked how it would benefit him. Randles said, in theory, it would. Petty said Bill Yaple of Violet Twp. is setting up a meeting with the entities to discuss it more. Petty said the meter (attorney bills) is pushing \$30,000. He said the attorney would be needed when the meeting is held that Yaple has called. Randles said we have gone this far and we should go to the next meeting. Petty said he thinks we have spent enough and has not heard anything of benefit. Randles and Smith said they have not heard that straight from Weltlich (Trustee, Violet Twp) and will need to find out more. Smith said he addressed the Boving farm issue at the JEDD hearing and the Bovings are not in favor of it; they want to put their land in farm preservation.
- Smith thanked the residents who came out and voted on schools, elected officials, road levy, and other issues.

FISCAL OFFICER REPORT: by Carol Moore

- **Motion** by Randles, second by Petty to approve minutes of the regular meeting held FEB 27 and the JEDD Public Hearing held MAR 5, 2008. Motion carried 3-0.
- **Motion** by Petty, second by Randles to approve payment of bills in the amount of \$36,354.49 and Payroll/ charges in the amount of \$42,944.65 having been certified by the Fiscal Officer that funds are available. Motion carried 3-0.
- We have received four property tax advances for 1st half of 2008. Total is:
 - Fire 820,000
 - Road Improvement (voted levy) 195,000
 - Road & Bridge 145,000
- Ltr from County Engineer regarding cooperative purchasing meeting MAR 12 @ 4:00 p.m.

Petty said he attended the meeting regarding road projects and there were only five or six townships there. They have talked to Shelly Company about prices. The asphalt would be \$110-\$125 per ton estimate. Solt said that is double last year's price. Fuel prices have drastically increased the prices. Petty said he thinks there are issues such as the time table. Chip-n-Seal, Paving, and MWS Solvent are issues. They need by Mar 28, the measurements for any roads we want to do. Apr. 4th is the finalizing of information. Apr. 25 to pass resolution to advertise for bids, then May, then June....The trustees expressed concern that the process would not be a fit for our twp. The township expects to do half the work as last year due to costs. Motor paving technique was discussed. Solt would like to improve the dead-end of Sitterley this year as well. Petty will inform the engineer's office that we are not participating this year.

- Citizen email of complaint received MAR 3, 2008, regarding OPWC Kauffman Rd project. Randles said he called the resident after the last meeting. The resident is concerned about the tree removal. Randles said he explained the reasons for the project. He explained the public safety aspects of the project. The resident is concerned about speed. Randles advised him to contact the sheriff's office. Solt said he has requests from residents on that road requesting the wood from cut trees. Solt is emphasizing to the surveyors that they make sure they only take trees in right of way.

NEW BUSINESS: None

OLD BUSINESS:

- JEDD Meeting: Randles offered to attend the meeting that Yaple is arranging. Randles will call Yaple and offer some suggested dates. If he is not able to attend, Petty will.
- Route 33 Economic Development Alliance Petty distributed information from the group. He said we will not have a seat if we do not pay the \$1,000 contribution for 2008: Petty said the group is meeting and is in need of dues. He said the project is moving forward and making progress.

Motion by Randles, second by Petty to pay the \$1,000 contribution for 2008 for the Route 33 Economic Development Alliance. Motion carried 3-0.

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- Basement water problem: Solt asked what the trustees wanted him to do about it and what they feel should be done. The trustees will view it. Only one estimate contains addressing the mold problem. Solt said that needs to be addressed. Wendell Miller, Maintenance Director, said he is not comfortable working in the basement due to the mold. Smith suggested the trustees go to the basement to view the water and mold problem this evening. Cyphert will go back to the vendors who quoted and ask them to address the mold problem.

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

- Cyphert reported that the Fairfield Board of Health is going to be presented with an alternative plan to the Ground Water Protection Program at its next meeting by the director, Frank Hirsch. The alternative would be to implement an inspection program; a certain township would be selected, and all the septic systems in that township would be inspected. Residents only would be billed after their system is inspected, under the alternative plan. A resident's septic system would be inspected once every three years, and the inspection fee could be \$45 to \$50, due at the time the service is rendered, under the plan. Smith said the county may consider a mandatory pump out of septic tanks. Randles presented an email from officials from other townships regarding seeking an opinion whether the District Health Advisory Board can over rule the Health Board regarding the Ground Water Protection Program. Petty and Smith do not think that can legally happen.
- Cyphert reported permits this year for the first two months are about the same as last with only one new residence permit granted. For the first time in at least 15 years, the zoning department did not grant any permits for accessory buildings, homes, etc. during the entire month of February.
- Cyphert reported she has received a telephone complaint and has personally observed an abundance of junk vehicles and other junk on the Richard Schumacher property, 2650 Winchester Southern Road, Parcels 0090178300 and 0090178100. She said in 1998, she had the health department and OEPA visit the site with her, but they declined official action. She said she ordered him to clean the property up but he did not do it. Subsequent violations were issued in 2002 and 2003, still no cooperation. She and Jerrold Schwarz, township attorney, met with the Municipal Prosecutor's Office to officially file for a court trial. The asst. prosecutor at that time agreed to do so, then left the office shortly thereafter, once again putting the case in limbo.

Cyphert reported there is a new law that will now assist in getting this junk cleaned up and doing it more expediently. House Bill 50 was enacted by the General Assembly that allows for the Board of Trustees to pass a resolution to order it be cleaned up. If it is not cleaned up, instead of her having to go through municipal court and wait to get on the court docket which could take years, this new method would allow for the trustees to have her take photos of the property, regardless of whether a written complaint has been filed or not, then send a letter (approved by the prosecutor) following a resolution by the trustees to order the owner to clean it up. If the owner fails to do so, the township can then contract with a company to clean it up and have the costs attached to the property tax bill/lien.

Petty said it is a major eyesore. Smith stated the health department should look at the house. Randles asked if a formal zoning complaint form was filed this year. Smith said a backhoe from the property was placed in a dangerous place too close to the road. He advised the highway patrol and it was moved. Petty said it needs addressed. Smith said if we address it, the township will be responsible for the clean up. Some of the items are agriculture, but much is junk and junk cars.

Motion by Petty, second by Randles to have the zoning inspector contact the Prosecutors Office on how to execute the provisions within House HB regarding clean up of the Schumacher property. Motion carried 3-0.

- Cyphert presented resolution regarding a new law that became effective in January regarding sexually oriented businesses. This is a proposed resolution by the Ohio Attorney General's Office and puts some extra teeth into regulation of these types of businesses. She will ask for approval of the resolution at the next meeting.

ROAD DEPARTMENT REPORT: by Road Supervisor Randy Solt

- Solt was impressed with the business that did emergency repairs to the Road Dept trucks during the winter storm over the weekend. He presented a letter for the trustees to sign of thank you to Todd Bader, Bader Trucking, for his outstanding service on the repairs for Bloom Twp. In addition, he presented a letter of thank you for assistance of Greenfield Twp. and their employee, Tom Shaffer, during our emergency repair problems during the winter storm. It is expected the truck repairs will be about \$6,000. Discussion regarding repairing of axles and breaking of studs due to excessive use. Truck #4 is in storage. It could be replaced with a similar size truck we have now with a plow. Smith said the problem needs corrected before we have a problem again like last week. Smith said it should be ready in case of a storm. Solt asked if the trustees wanted to invest money in repairs for a truck rarely used. Smith said the repairs would pay for themselves when you consider having to hire emergency contract help. Randles asked if it could be used in an emergency. Solt said yes with tire correction.

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Motion by Randles, second by Petty to approve emergency truck repair expenditures due to heavy snow/blizzard. Estimated cost \$6,000. Motion carried 3-0.

Motion by Randles, second by Petty, to compensate Greenfield Twp for truck at county rate and employee rate and other emergency snow storm contract help Rick Althaus and Bill Catz. Motion carried 3-0. Fiscal officer Moore reminded him the contractors will need to complete a W-9 form.

- Further discussion of Truck #4: Petty said the funds could come from Road and Bridge. Money could be moved around in the fund to make it work. Randles suggested holding off on the hoe purchase to make the repairs to the truck. The issue of parking/storage will also need to be addressed. Moore said funds could also come from the Gas Fund to build a storage facility. She said more money can be appropriated in that fund. Trustees will consider construction of a pole barn. Discussion of using brine: Solt is not sure where Bloom Twp. can obtain it. He will investigate it. He asked the trustees to talk to the Violet Twp. Engineer for advice.
- Solt commended the road department employees for their hard work during the winter storm. The trustees also commended them. Solt said Wendell Miller was a great help.
- Solt said he has received complaints about mailboxes being knocked down.

OTHER: The trustees and others present went to the basement to view the water problems there.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT: by Chief Terry Gill

- Gill requested an Executive Session for personnel medical reasons.

Motion by Petty, second by Randles to enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel medical issues. Motion carried 3-0.

Motion by Petty, second by Randles to come out of Executive Session to discuss personnel medical issues. Motion carried 3-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Smith adjourned the meeting.

Joseph E. Smith
Chair

Carol J. Moore
Fiscal Officer