

Montville Township Trustees
March 26, 2024 – Regular Trustees Meeting

Present:

Trustee Jeff Brandon, Chairman
Trustee Sally Albrecht
Trustee Allen Biehl
Fiscal Officer Mary Pawlowski
Police Chief Matt Neil
Planning & Zoning Dir. Paul Jeffers
Service Dept. Brandon Steidl

Also Present:

Resident William Hanigan

At 7:01 p.m. Trustee Brandon opened the regular meeting of the Montville Township Trustees. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Police Chief Matt Neil offered a prayer. Trustee Brandon welcomed residents and stated that the meeting is being recorded for transcription purposes only.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Trustee Albrecht made a motion approving the minutes for the March 12th regular Trustees meeting. Trustee Biehl seconded the motion. The motion was passed, 3 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

COMMUNITY EVENTS: Trustee Albrecht thought that the annual Easter Egg Hunt held last weekend was a successful and fun event. Mrs. Navicky and our staff have their roles down and everything went smoothly. We had a very large crowd again this year and Trustee Albrecht thanked everyone for being there and supporting it.

Trustee Albrecht said that Montville Cares is looking into having an annual community garage sale for Montville Township. Mrs. Navicky has sent out the idea by Facebook to get some comments. Trustee Albrecht contacted the HOA's for their opinions and requested their replies by April 15th. So far, Trustee Albrecht said that feedback has been positive. Windsor Park and Blue Heron are very supportive. Ridgewood Falls has by-laws prohibiting garage sales.

Trustee Albrecht said that people she has talked with thought that a community sale would be beneficial in getting larger crowds for the event. They would not prohibit residents from having a garage sale at their homes during any other times.

Trustee Albrecht said that there are many details to complete, such as how many days to hold the community garage sale. They plan to put a list together for those interested in joining the community sales. They will be asked to complete a description of what types of items they are selling and they will be given a number. The list will be put on the web site to help buyers to download the map and target what they are most interested in.

Trustee Biehl suggested that, with Goodwill in the township, unsold items could be donated after the sale is over.

Trustee Albrecht mentioned that Spokes is planning an Eclipse event for April 8th. Their Earth Day event will be on April 13th.

UTILITIES: Trustee Albrecht said that she received an email from Kimble requesting that they start trash pick-up one hour early on April 8th so that their trucks are off the road during the eclipse. Trustee Albrecht agreed to their request.

Trustee Brandon said that the solid waste facility will be closing at noon on April 8th. This may be another reason for Kimble to want to finish their trash service early for that day.

Planning & Zoning Director Jeffers received an email from the HOA President of Normandy Park today. They were trying to stop a fiber company from putting a box in front of one of their residences. The HOA president wanted to know why they were not notified of the fiber company's plan to come through their neighborhood and their box to be installed. Mr. Jeffers recommended they talk with the county about fiber companies that are scheduled to be in the area.

ZONING: Planning & Zoning Director Jeffers said that the Land Bank Committee met last Thursday to work through the setup of the board, code of conducts and regulations. They suggested that Montville and Brunswick Hills have a representative, one as a member and the other as the alternate. Mr. Jeffers thought that the board would like to have that person by the meeting scheduled for April 9th at 12:00 p.m.

Trustee Brandon said that, at the last Trustees meeting, he thought that both Montville Township and Brunswick Hills needed a representative since both are more than 10,000 in population. Montville passed a Resolution for Trustee Biehl to be our representative with Mr. Jeffers an alternate and advised Mr. Hambley. Mr. Hambley said that Trustee Biehl could be the representative for both Montville and Brunswick Hills. The Resolution that Montville passed could be amended to remove Mr. Jeffers as alternate.

Mr. Jeffers said that Brunswick Hills will still need to choose an alternate. This alternate does not need to be an elected official, but all members of the board will have one-year terms.

Fiscal Officer Pawlowski asked if Brunswick Hills would have to vote for Trustee Biehl to be their representative. Discussion ensued. The Trustees were still confused about the representative and the alternate would be representing both townships. Trustee Brandon will contact Christina from Brunswick Hills to get everything straightened out. Trustee Biehl would like Trustee Brandon to let him know who Brunswick Hills chooses for an alternate on the Land Bank committee so they can coordinate with each other.

Trustee Biehl moved Resolution 032624.01 amending Resolution 031224.02 to remove Paul Jeffers as the alternate on the Medina County Land Bank Committee. Trustee Albrecht seconded the Resolution. The Resolution was passed, 3 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

Mr. Jeffers reported that next Monday, April 1st at 6:30 p.m., Montville Township will be hosting the BZA Newbie training session. Attorneys Thorne and DeVanney will be instructing.

Mr. Jeffers said that Heritage of Medina, the nursing center on Wooster Pike, is getting ready to move forward on their construction. He said that this would be a good time for getting the LST fees in place if that is what the Trustees decide to do.

Trustee Albrecht asked whether the board had decided if the nursing homes will be billed by the hospital for all non-emergency calls. Chief Neil said that, although the ORC defines it, a decision needs to be made on what is and what is not considered an emergency by the Cleveland Clinic.

POLICE: Chief Matt Neil said that April 8th is the day of the eclipse. He met with the Acting Director of the EMA. They do not have a location to set up an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) as it had previously been at the sheriff's office, and they will set up a small EOC here in our training room for that day. This is the only high-tech room in the county that can be quickly converted into an EOC in the event of a major event or an AMBER alert. We can take up to 48 phones and computers, plus anything wireless. Chief Neil said that we have spent a lot of time with IT over the last couple months putting data on its own sub-network so that there is no access to any of our police files.

Chief Neil requested, and **Trustee Biehl made a motion purchasing body armor vests from Akron Uniforms for a price not to exceed \$8,400. Trustee Albrecht seconded the motion.** In discussion, Chief Neil said that this is five-year replacement vests for six officers. Once the vests are received and invoices paid, up to 75% will be reimbursed by a grant that we applied for through the Ohio Attorney General's office. Trustee Brandon asked what happens to the old vests that are replaced. Chief Neil said that they can still be worn but body sweat breaks down the vests and, once they are expired, the police cannot use them. **The motion was passed, 3 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.**

Chief Neil requested, and **Trustee Biehl made a motion purchasing four Kenwood portable radios from Vasu Communications for a price not to exceed \$9,000. Trustee Albrecht seconded the motion.** In discussion, Chief Neil said that these radios were approved to be purchased as part of a state grant that was approved and applied for in spring, 2023. The grant was recently awarded and will reimburse us for 97% of the cost of this purchase. **The motion was passed, 3 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.**

LST/FIRE: Trustee Brandon reported receipt of the February LST invoice for \$31,965.42. Trustee Brandon said that this was slightly over the budgeted amount of \$28,243.00. During the month, Montville had 65 calls for ambulance. Trustee Brandon asked Chief Neil whether there were multiple calls for any one residence.

Chief Neil said that the residence on River Styx that has already received a letter had three calls during the month. He did not confirm whether they were calls for service that resulted in patient transport. Most of the calls at that residence is for a pendant alarm, where the resident pushes her button needing assistance due to her living in the basement and not being able to get upstairs and out to the side walk where it is muddy to getting her wheelchair to her vehicle.

Trustee Brandon reviewed the February fire report from Chief Walters. During the month, there were a total of 27 calls for service in Montville Township: 1 building fire; 1 vehicle fire; 13 fire alarms; 3 motor vehicle accidents; 1 rescue; 6 EMS assists, and 2 smoke/odor investigations.

Trustee Brandon said that it was noted for February 5th that Dispatch was notified of a residential house fire. Medina Fire Department arrived on the scene; fire damage was contained to the kitchen and dining room areas with significant smoke damage throughout the first and second floors of the home. The family's dog was located and given CPR and oxygen but was unable to be resuscitated. No other injuries were reported.

Chief Neil reported a devastating fire near the corner of Franklin Drive in Medina Township, the furthest distance from our station. The call came in around 8:00 p.m. on Friday. This is the second to last home in the township. Our station responded with three Montville firefighters, all are Montville Township residents, and they worked on the fire for 4-1/2 hours. We were the third or fourth truck on the scene. Brunswick Hills and Brunswick City also assisted. They were able to rescue a dog from the basement.

ROADS: Service Department Brandon Steidl requested and the Trustees signed the paperwork for the Normandy Park Drive replacement project to go out to bid.

Mr. Steidl reported that work was begun on Monday to remove the culvert pipe on Good Road near Guilford Road, which was failing underneath the road. They hope to have the work completed on Thursday. Mr. Steidl said that they wanted the pipe repaired prior to repaving this year.

Trustee Brandon said that there is a lot of leftover road salt due to the light winter this year. Mr. Steidl said that they should have enough room to store the salt we ordered on this year's bid. Fiscal Officer Pawlowski said that we have been ordering less salt over the last few years.

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING: Chief Neil reported that the camera project is currently in full swing. We have areas where wire is hanging out of the ceiling and we hope to have work completed in the next week.

Chief Neil said that the workout room had been repainted and the new equipment is now put together in the room. Sergeant Searle has done a fantastic job of organizing the room. There are some pieces of equipment that will be moved around, and there are a couple pieces of equipment that we received from the military and we will be requesting approval to sell them on GovDeals. Mirrors have

been added, as well as another TV so that LST, police and fire can see the calls that are coming in.

Trustee Brandon asked how the new rooftop units have been holding up. Chief Neil responded that they are doing a fantastic job.

CEMETERY: Trustee Albrecht had no updates to report.

PARKS: Mr. Steidl reported that the Service Department has been working on the trail in Blue Heron. One of the bridges is completed, and they are very pleased with how it came out.

Trustee Albrecht said that they are going to develop an Aaron Smith Nature Reserve rock snake along the edge of the sidewalks. He will be named, "Monty" for Montville Township. Kids can paint rocks and can add on to Monty when they come to the nature reserve.

Trustee Albrecht said that the scout who put in our bat cages wants to do another project for us. Trustee Albrecht asked him whether he would be interested in identifying and labeling the trees along the pathway of the nature trail. He could compile the names of the trees and include any interesting information that could be put onto a little sign that could be put in the ground in front of the tree. The scout is very excited about doing this project.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Trustee Brandon said that he and Trustee Biehl attended the Medina County Economic Development annual meeting on March 21st at Blue Heron. This was a well-attended and successful event. The keynote speaker was Matt Tift, a NASCAR driver who graduated from Highland High School. He is only 27 years old and talked about his racing career, his life and then recently selling his team for \$40 million, the largest amount in NASCAR history.

Trustee Brandon said that the upcoming Medina County Economic Development breakfast meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 18th at 7:30 a.m. at the Medina County District Library. The topic will be the State of the Cities, which is a topic they do every year.

The Medina County Township Association will have its first event of 2024 on April 18th at the Westfield Township Town Hall. The speaker for this meeting will be the Executive Director of NOACA.

Trustee Brandon met with Katie Fuerst from Akron Children's Hospital. They have purchased and are adding on to the former Summa facility on Route 18. Katie had estimated that work will be completed in about a year. Trustee Brandon said that Akron Children's had already met with our zoning board last fall for necessary approvals. Trustee Brandon had invited Katie to a Trustees meeting to introduce herself and discuss their project.

Trustee Brandon said that Andy Conrad sent an email that the transportation task force meeting is scheduled for April 2nd at 6:00 p.m. at the Engineers Center on W. Smith Road. Trustee Brandon said that we will need to

have the meeting advertised since all our Trustees are planning to attend. Mr. Jeffers will take care of advertising the meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

Trustee Biehl made a motion paying \$31,965.42 to Medina Hospital for February LST services. Trustee Albrecht seconded the motion. The motion was passed, 3 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

Trustee Albrecht made a motion approving the 2023 inventory disposal list. Trustee Biehl seconded the motion. In discussion, Fiscal Officer Pawlowski said that the Trustees have already approved the items on the list as required at the time of disposal but this covers what was listed in the inventory in January. She said that the list has been sent to OTARMA. **The motion was passed, 3 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.**

Trustee Biehl made a motion approving BC & PO's and paying bills totaling \$59,607.86. Trustee Albrecht seconded the motion. The motion was passed, 3 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

Fiscal Officer Pawlowski noted that payments were received from the baseball and soccer associations for their upcoming seasons.

Fiscal Officer Pawlowski said that she wanted the Trustees to be aware that, if they do anything on the Russel property including government buildings, we will be charged the three-years back taxes for the CAUV exemption regardless. As we agreed with the seller, we have a five-year period to honor their agreement to the farmer that was currently farming the parcel.

Trustee Biehl commented that he will not be available for the regular Trustees meetings scheduled for May due to commitments made prior to his accepting the position as Trustee. Trustee Albrecht and Trustee Brandon agreed that they could be available for the May meetings.

At 8:30 p.m. Trustee Brandon adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Klafczynski

Approved By:

Date:

Attested:

Date: