

Montville Township Trustees
August 27, 2024 – Regular Trustees Meeting

Present:

Trustee Jeff Brandon, Chairman
Trustee Sally Albrecht
Fiscal Officer Mary Pawlowski
Police Chief Matt Neil
Planning & Zoning Dir. Paul Jeffers
Service Director Chris Kosman

Also Present:

Resident Bill Hanigan

At 7:00 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.

GUEST RECOGNITION

Resident Bill Hanigan had a question from a meeting that Fiscal Officer Pawlowski had reported receipt of opioid settlement money, which is building up in the fund. She said that there are rules to follow for how these funds may be spent, such as for drug education. Mr. Hanigan asked if there is a way for the hospital or LST to identify drug related cases and use the opioid money to offset those costs. His other suggestion was to use the funds to purchase an ambulance.

Fiscal Officer Pawlowski responded that Montville Township does not own the ambulances. It is part of our budget but the hospital purchases the ambulance. Mr. Hanigan thought that we should be able to use the settlement money to offset the budget expense for that.

Police Chief Neil explained that the Secretary of State has outlined exactly what the money can be used for. There are only specific ways to use it, and they would prefer to see it go towards education or a task force to combat drugs.

Mr. Hanigan thanked for response from NOACA regarding the transportation survey.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Trustee Albrecht made a motion approving the minutes for the August 13th regular Trustees meeting. Trustee Brandon seconded the motion. The motion was passed, 2 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Trustee Brandon said that the next Medina County Economic Development meeting will be held on September 19th at 7:30 a.m.

This breakfast meeting will be at RPM International's lodge on Pearl Road. The topic will be employee retention strategies.

Montville Township hosted the Medina County Township Association steak roast at White Tail Park on August 15th. Trustee Brandon said that it was a very nice event and a great turnout including Ron Miller, VP of the Ohio Township Association, and several county officials.

The next meeting for the Medina County Township Association will be on September 19th at Litchfield town hall. This will be an evening with the Medina County Commissioners.

COMMUNITY EVENTS: Trustee Albrecht said that plans for the October 19th Halloween event are well under way. The flyer has been updated. There will be no specific theme this year; they are simply adding to the scenes.

Trustee Albrecht is considering an article for the September *Montville Living* magazine about our park volunteers, including the Girl Scouts and the Friends of the Park that are painting our bridges.

UTILITIES: Trustee Albrecht reported a complaint from a Blue Heron resident about their recycling not being picked up. She forwarded the complaint to her contact at Kimble and believes that he followed up with the resident.

ZONING: Planning & Zoning Director Jeffers requested, and **Trustee Albrecht made a motion setting a public hearing for zoning text amendments: amend Chapter 210, definitions; adopt Chapter 416, JEDD-Mixed-use Overlay District regulations; amend Chapter 530, Landscaping, Screening and Outdoor Lighting regs; and amend the official Zoning District map to include the Mixed-use Overlay District for September 10, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. Trustee Brandon seconded the motion.** In discussion, Mr. Jeffers explained that this involves the east side of Wooster Pike and Cobblestone Park south of Route 162. It is giving that an overlay use which would give that property owner the ability to develop under Community Business, which it is currently zoned, or to use the Mixed-use Overlay and include residential and commercial. **The motion was passed, 2 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.**

Trustee Albrecht made a motion approving Summer Ridge Estates Subdivision Replat No. 2 creating Sublot 6B, dated August 16, 2024. Trustee Brandon seconded the motion. In discussion, Mr. Jeffers explained that this is near the cul-de-sac that was vacated and then graded many years ago. Now the Workman's are purchasing the rear 50 acres of the farm. **The motion was passed, 2 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.**

In his zoning report, Mr. Jeffers said that they will begin seeing a lot more residential activity beginning this fall. Currently, Lakeview Pines is going through their infrastructure and will likely be platting before the end of the year. Hillsong will be platted as soon as they get the finishing signatures from Woodford Commons 8-unit parcel that was already there. Montville Reserve is ready to begin pulling permits. Also, if the Mixed-use Overlay is approved and goes into effect, Mr. Jeffers would expect to see a plan before the end of the year with work starting in the spring.

Mr. Jeffers said that a church is planning to build on the Kowal property. They started discussions on this project about a year and a half ago and it is now moving more quickly than they had anticipated.

Trustee Brandon said that the Trustees have had frequent conversations about our identity and sense of arrival into the township. While traveling northbound on I-71 today, he noticed how our Service Department's salt bin is very visible from the road. If we ever wanted to put a sign on the side of one of the buildings, it would be very visible from I-71. Trustee Brandon said that it could help with identity and travelers knowing where they are. Trustee Albrecht liked the idea.

Service Director Kosman said that Trustee Bischof had wanted to put "Montville Township" on the salt barn but it is somewhat difficult to put lettering onto that material. Mr. Kosman will look into it again. Fiscal Officer Pawlowski suggested that it could be a sign near the building and not on the building.

POLICE: Chief Neil advised the Trustees that the Police drones are being used on a regular basis. Chief Neil explained a drone use on a recent pursuit on Route 94 into Sharon Center and another drone used on a crash site this past Sunday. He said that, while it takes 30 minutes to get an airplane in the air, drones can be launched in a matter of seconds.

Chief Neil noted that the Police continue to receive and work hard at filling public records requests that relate to videos and body and dash cameras. It is tedious and they are several weeks behind. Chief Neil said that, for some reason, public records in society has become a big deal and with every bit of technology brings with it more requirements that we release.

Chief Neil requested, and **Trustee Albrecht made a motion applying for the 2024 Ohio Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) JAG grant for software and licensing upgrades to our dash and body camera server totaling \$51,090.25, with a 25% local match. Trustee Albrecht seconded the motion.** In discussion, Chief Neil said that Motorola bought out Watchguard, who is the company that we use for our dash and body cameras. We received an end-of-service notice that will require us to upgrade to a new version of their software. It is an annual license that we will have to apply and pay for every year. This upgrade is the software and the server, not the cameras. Chief Neil would like to apply for a grant to cover some of this amount, hopefully \$15-20,000. **The motion was passed, 2 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.**

Trustee Albrecht made a motion accepting a \$3,500 increase to the American Rescue Act's First Responder Wellness grant that was first passed on August 8, 2023. This will increase the original award amount of \$9,900 to \$13,400. Trustee Brandon seconded the motion. In discussion, Chief Neil said that this is a state grant where there is extra funds available. Chief Neil is trying to bring in a speaker who has dealt a lot with officer of law shootings, including command staff. The sheriff's agency will also commit some money to have a class here in Montville Township for higher-level supervisors of law enforcement agencies in the county. **The motion was passed, 2 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.**

Trustee Albrecht made a motion to use eBay or GovDeals to auction off old Car #6, a 2016 Ford Police Interceptor Sedan. Trustee Brandon seconded the motion. In discussion, Chief Neil said that we replaced this car earlier this year with an SUV. This car has mechanical issues and is not worth keeping as a spare, as was recommended by the Service Department. **The motion was passed, 2 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.**

Trustee Albrecht made a motion paying for training and expenses for Officers Eckstine and Denton to attend firearms armorer's courses instructed by Defensive Edge Training & Consulting, Inc. at Columbus State Community College the week of January 6-10, 2025. Trustee Albrecht seconded the motion. In discussion, Chief Neil explained the training need for the courses and that we may not be able to get both officers in the classes as we are on the waiting list for a second opening. **The motion was passed, 2 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.**

Trustee Albrecht made a motion paying \$240 to allow Chief Neil to attend the Ohio Attorney General's 2024 Law Enforcement training symposium September 29 - October 1 at Kalahari. Trustee Brandon seconded the motion. In discussion, Chief Neil explained that he is interested in attending some very good classes that he would like to register for at this symposium. After discussion, **Trustee Albrecht amended the motion from "paying \$240" to "cover expenses". Trustee Brandon seconded the amended motion. The motion was passed, 2 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.**

Trustee Albrecht made a motion amending motion of August 13th to correct dates for Officer Eckstine's SWAT training from September 5 - 8th to August 27 - 30th. Trustee Brandon seconded the motion. In discussion, Chief Neil said that the training dates were changed. **The motion was passed, 2 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.**

Chief Neil requested a brief executive session after this evening's meeting for discussion regarding employment.

LST/FIRE: Trustee Brandon reported receipt of the July LST invoice from Medina Hospital for \$34,185.58. This invoice exceeded the budgeted amount of \$26,468.00. Trustee Brandon said that there were 69 calls for ambulance during the month.

Trustee Brandon said that the quarterly LST meeting scheduled for August 15th and moved to September 19th has now been cancelled. The next meeting will be in November.

ROADS: Service Director Kosman said that they are waiting on the paving crew, which should get to us around the end of September or early October. Some of the curbing work may be started prior to that timeframe. Mr. Kosman said that the county will reach out to us in the next couple of months regarding what road surfaces we will need to redo.

There was some correspondence this week regarding a Montville Lakes resident's request for repaving their development's roads. Mr. Kosman agrees that

there are flaws to the road, but the surface is in good shape. There are other surfaces in our township that are younger but are in worse shape. He said that it is monetary that drives some of it, but also condition that drives most of it. Mr. Kosman asked the Trustees' opinion of resurfacing in that development earlier than scheduled.

Mr. Jeffers noted that a lot of heavy equipment has been using that road and that will continue until Windfall Estates is completed. Mr. Kosman agreed and said that Robert Gary Court and Arlyne Lane are being torn up due to the trucks coming in one way and out the other.

At today's rates, Mr. Kosman estimated that the repaving for the 2.1 miles of the entire development to be between \$415,000 and \$450,000. Just the main loop alone would be about \$225,000.

Trustee Albrecht asked when we would get to resurfacing that development if we stayed on the regular schedule. Mr. Kosman said that it would be within the next five years. He thinks that the new area will be built out in the next two years.

Trustee Albrecht said that residents will have to understand that there is logic to how we repair roads and that there are certain guidelines that we follow. We wish that we could have new roads for everyone but, unfortunately, that development will be in another couple of years.

Mr. Kosman requested, and **Trustee Albrecht made a motion to advertise and accept applications for the open position in the Service Department. Trustee Brandon seconded the motion.** In discussion, Fiscal Officer Pawlowski said that this is a replacement for an employee that left. **The motion was passed, 2 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.**

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING: Mr. Kosman reported that the Service Department will begin work on the infrastructure for the parking lot for this building. The lot will be torn up some while they put in lines and do some drainage work. The light poles were ordered at the last Trustees meeting and they will be putting them in also. The parking lot will become a little bit larger. We will be removing the grassy knoll which will add about 26 parking spaces. We will lose three spots that were indents from the original school building. The large islands will be removed and curbed to make it easier flowing and the main driveway will be larger. Mr. Kosman said that the surveyors will be out next week.

Mr. Kosman said that they will prep for it but need some direction from the Trustees on what they would like for the signage. As he mentioned at the last Trustees meeting, the wood sign needs to be replaced.

Trustee Brandon would prefer a good looking, maintenance-free sign. His development's sign was replaced about five years ago with some type of carved limestone or sandstone sign. He will look for more information about that sign.

CEMETERY: Trustee Albrecht had no updates to report.

Mr. Kosman said that he had spoken with the County Engineer regarding an overlay for the cemetery roads. Mr. Kosman would like to put that into our road bid for next year to hopefully get more consideration from contractors since it would be such a small job. Mr. Conrad gave his approval to work with his office to do the engineering for it as time allows. He agreed that we can put it out with our road bid.

Trustee Albrecht and Trustee Brandon requested to see the inside of the house the township recently acquired. Mr. Kosman will take each of the Trustees to see the structure as they are available.

Fiscal Officer Pawlowski asked the Trustees to consider future use of the house and the time and cost to maintain it. She said that this is not truly an historical building due to additions and updates. She expressed concern over its future use. We are paying utilities and taxes on it. We can use the barn for storage, and options for the house may be to rent it or take it down to see if we can become tax exempt. We pay property taxes because it is residential.

PARKS: Trustee Albrecht said that she has been driving the Girl Scouts through the parks recently to help them determine what projects they would like to do. There are two troops of Girl Scouts looking for service project ideas for the fall and over the next year. The junior troop is about 20 girls that are working towards their bronze award which would be finding a need in the community and filling it and spend twenty hours per girl scout planning, brainstorming, and implementing their project.

OTHER BUSINESS

Fiscal Officer Pawlowski requested, and **Trustee Albrecht made a motion paying \$23,517.97 to Medina Hospital for July LST services. Trustee Brandon seconded the motion. The motion was passed, 2 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.**

Trustee Albrecht made a motion paying \$4,000 to Medina County SWCD for the Stormwater Phase 2 program. Trustee Brandon seconded the motion. In discussion, Mr. Jeffers explained that this is an EPA requirement. We can choose to do this on our own but he does not feel that would be worthwhile considering the time and effort that Soil & Water put in. Mr. Jeffers added that, by paying this fee, we are not required to do any of the paperwork, litigation, or inspections. **The motion was passed, 2 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.**

Trustee Albrecht made a motion approving BC & PO's and paying bills totaling \$60,785.60. Trustee Brandon seconded the motion. The motion was passed, 2 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

Fiscal Officer Pawlowski brought up under discussion the use of ARPA funds to keep it in front of the Trustees.

Fiscal Officer Pawlowski gave a reminder for elected and all employees to complete required fraud reporting and training as soon as possible. Almost all have completed the requirements.

At 8:20 p.m. **Trustee Albrecht made a motion entering into Executive Session for personnel reasons for employment, which is required to be kept confidential by law and everyone requested to stay are bound by confidentiality. Trustee Brandon seconded the motion. The motion was passed, 2 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.**

At 8:47 p.m. **Trustee Albrecht made a motion returning from Executive Session. Trustee Brandon seconded the motion. The motion was passed, 2 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.**

Trustee Albrecht made a motion to advertise and accept applications for an open full-time police officer position. Trustee Brandon seconded the motion. The motion was passed, 2 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

At 8:48 p.m. Trustee Brandon adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Klafczynski

Approved By:

Date:

Attested:

Date: