

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**  
**German Township Board of Trustees**  
**Work Session/Regular Session**  
**August 12, 2014**

The German Township Trustees met in a work session on Tuesday, August 12, 2014 at 6:15 p.m. with the regular meeting beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the German Township Office, 3940 Lawrenceville Drive, Springfield, Ohio. The session is called into order by Mr. Rodney Kaffenbarger, President.

**Roll Call:** Mr. Clark – present; Mr. Metzger – present; Mr. Kaffenbarger – present  
**Township Department Supervisors present:** Jeremy Blum, Lt. – Police Department: Tim Holman, Fire Chief; George Degenhart, Zoning: and Angela Griest, Fiscal Officer.  
**Vistors:** See sign in sheet

**PLEDGE OF Allegiance**

*Work Session:*

Mr. Kaffenbarger stated that the purpose of this work session was to educate and discuss why the Township put a General Expenses Levy of 1.314 mills on the ballot. The General Fund has slowly decreased over the last 5 years by approximately \$125,000. This is mainly due to cuts from the State in the Local Government Distributions and Estate Taxes. We have lost \$23,000 from Cable Franchise fees. We want to be able to continue providing excellent service to our residents, and want to keep you informed.

Mr. Metzger stated that this is not just a problem for German Township, but a lot of other Townships are facing the same problem. The State of Ohio has fixed their budgets on the backs of local government: counties, cities, villages, and townships, by lowering the funds we receive.

Mrs. Griest reviewed the General Fund revenues and yearly expenses showing how the revenues have diminished over the last 5 years, and that in the last two years the expenses for the General Fund have been cut back. The levy is a 1.314 mills levy and will bring in approximately \$199,000. The main expenses for General Fund include the township office costs, salaries, workers compensation, property & liability insurance, building loan payments, utilities, and cemetery mowing. We are not allowed to transfer any money into the General Fund from any other Fund.

Mr. Clark stated that we are trying to be proactive in handling this situation. Currently we have spread the trustee salary costs across all the funds, township, fire, police, and maintenance; employees are paying a portion of their insurance costs; we have reduced the cemetery mowing costs.

Mr. Metzger commented that the more we distribute through to other funds, such as the costs of the trustees, fiscal officer, and secretary, that those funds will also be affected because we will have to offset those expenses in those funds.

Questions/Comments from the audience:

How can we educate others? - Talking to our friends and neighbors

How can we get people to understand that this levy is important? - Maybe by tying it to the safety service, fire/ems, police, and road work.

Are there other items on the ballot for the Township? Yes- a Fire levy renewal, electric aggregation, and natural gas aggregation.

What is the aggregation? This enables residents to form a group for buying electric or gas. It should save them money. There will be several mailings going out concerning the aggregation.

Can you renegotiate the cable franchise fees? - The township will need to look into that, but it was originally a long term contract.

Mr. Metzger thanked everyone for coming this evening.

A. Motion to adjourn the work session at 7:00 p.m.:

Motion: Mr. Metzger 2<sup>nd</sup>: Mr. Clark Roll Call: Yes – all

Mr. Kaffenbarger stated there would be a 10 minute recess before beginning the regular session.

The German Township Trustees regular session on Tuesday, August 12, 2014 at 7:10 p.m. . at the German Township Office, 3940 Lawrenceville Drive, Springfield, Ohio was called into order by Mr. Rodney Kaffenbarger, President.

**Roll Call:** Mr. Clark – present; Mr. Metzger – present; Mr. Kaffenbarger – present

**PLEDGE OF Allegiance**

**Fiscal Officer Report:**

B. Motion to approve the minutes of July 8, 2014 with the following change: In Motion L, at the end of the motion, delete the words “*and the mailings.*”

Motion: Mr. Metzger 2<sup>nd</sup>: Mr. Clark Roll Call: Ayes – All

C. Motion to approve the minutes of July 23, and August 5, 2014:

Motion: Mr. Metzger 2<sup>nd</sup>: Mr. Clark Roll Call: Ayes – All

D. Motion to approve the checks issued July 8, through August 12, 2014

Motion: Mr. Clark 2<sup>nd</sup>: Mr. Metzger Roll Call: Ayes – All

E. Motion to receive the June 2014 financial reports from the Fiscal Officer

Motion: Mr. Metzger 2<sup>nd</sup>: Mr. Clark Roll Call: Ayes – All

F. Motion to approve a resolution for the Alternative Method of Apportionment of the Local Government Fund of Clark County, Ohio:

Motion: Mr. Clark 2<sup>nd</sup>: Mr. Metzger Roll Call: Ayes – All

G. Motion to approve the Northwestern Schools 2014/2015 Fall & Winter Sports Program ad at a cost of \$40.00 for an 1/8 of a page:

Motion: Mr. Metzger 2<sup>nd</sup>: Mr. Clark Roll Call: Ayes – All

H. Motion to approve the \$500 annual fee for the Transportation Coordinating Committee (TCC):

Motion: Mr. Kaffenbarger 2<sup>nd</sup>: Mr. Metzger Roll Call: Ayes – All

Both levies and both the electric and natural gas aggregation paperwork have been turned into the Board of Elections. In order for the aggregation programs to move forward, the voters will have to pass each issue. Bethel Township had passed one earlier and Pike and Mad River may be adding theirs to this election also.

**Hearing of the Public:**

Mr. Jamie Erret is new to the Township and lives at 3525 Johnson Road. He has a concern with the speed limit on Johnson Road being 55 mph. He feels that the speed is too high for this area due to the houses being so

close to the road. He is especially concerned for the children if they are in the front yard. He presented a petition signed by neighbors to try to have the speed limit be 45 mph.

Mr. Metzger stated that the Township does not set the speed limits of the Township roads. We can ask the Clark County Engineer’s Department to do a road study. Because it is not in a subdivision, or has not been journalized, the speed of the road is set at 55 mph.

Ms. Amy Knapp stated that the 45 mph would be a much safer speed for all the farm equipment that travels that road.

Chief Holman stated that there have been numerous accidents in that area.

Lt. Blum stated when patrolling this area for speed, there is no place to pull over to the narrowness of the roadway.

Deputy Chief Eubanks (Fire Dept.) who is also a Clark County Sheriff Deputy stated that the road would need to be journalized in order to change the speed limit. The Clark County Transportation Coordinating Committee (TCC) would also look at the number of accidents and the usage of the road in helping to determine the speed limit. The Sheriff's Department has a speed sign/ counter/ radar trailer which records information that would be helpful in determining if the speed limit needed to be changed. He asked Mr. Erret to contact him at the Sheriff's Department concerning the matter.

**Zoning Report:**

- I. Motion to appoint Marilyn Mayhone to the Board of Zoning Appeals:

Motion: Mr. Metzger 2nd: Mr. Kaffenbarger Roll Call: Ayes – All

**Fire Report:**

Motion to approve the costs for ACLS Instructor classes for Richard Craig, Chris Freeze, Sherree Liming for a total cost \$705.00:

Motion: Mr. Kaffenbarger 2nd: Mr. Clark Roll Call: Ayes – All

**Police Report:**

Lt. Blum presented the Police Report in the absence of Chief Stitzel:

In an effort to try to track stolen property that has a serial number, the police can utilize a program called LeadsOnLine, LLC. Using this program on a month trial, the Police Department had two success stories where they were able to track stolen property, and make an arrest. This program is nationwide and many pawn shops and similar businesses are utilizing this program that identifies stolen property, and then informs the corresponding police agency. The cost for the program is \$1578.00 for the year

- J. Motion to approve the purchase of the LeadsOnLine:

Motion: Mr. Clark 2nd: Mr. Kaffenbarger Roll Call: Ayes – All

The Police are in possession of an ATV that was being held by the department. The Cincinnati Insurance Agency handling the claims for this ATV states that for a cost of \$50.00 the police Department can take possession of the vehicle. The department will mainly use it as a public relations tool.

- K. Motion for approval of the \$50.00 to take possession of the ATV:

Motion: Mr. Metzger 2nd: Mr. Clark Roll Call: Ayes – All

All three trustees recognized Lt. Blum for his excellent service to our community. He has done an outstanding job and we appreciate his services.

**Maintenance Report:**

This year the yellow signs need to be replaced throughout the Township for the state mandated Sign Retro-reflectivity Program. Quotes are as follows:

Newman Signs - \$2012.71; Hall Signs - \$3501.75; Kleem Signs - \$3859.35

Need to be sure the signs are of comparable size and quality. May also want to check with Macray Street Signs:

- L. Motion to table the purchase of the signs:

Motion: Mr. Clark 2nd: Mr. Metzger Roll Call: Ayes – All

The drainage problem area on Hanson and Deer Run has been determined to be caused by roots from two trees that have plugged the tile. The property owners need to be approached concerning this problem. On Mosspointe Lane, a property owner had installed a tile, installed it incorrectly, and without Township permission which caused a drainage problem. The property owner had the dirt and tile excavated in order to reopen the drainage area.

**Old Business:**

None

**New Business:**

- M. Motion to not pay the Trustees and Fiscal Officer cell phone allowance retro-active to July 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31, 2014:

Motion: Mr. Metzger 2nd: Mr. Clark Roll Call: Ayes – All

Mr. Metzger stated we need to think about raising cemetery fees.

Mr. Kaffenbarger asked if there would be a problem with the Fire Department personnel mowing around the Fire Station and Administration Buildings. Mr. Metzger, Mr. Clark, and Chief Holman were okay with them helping to mow when they were having down time between runs. Need to talk with the Maintenance Department first concerning this matter.

Chief Holman stated that while cleaning out gutters, they noticed that a lot of the ice catchers on the building have come off, and need to be reattached. The Fire Department is willing to do the work but he needs to know what type of glue will work for these metal buildings. Mr. Kaffenbarger will find out and let him know.

N. Motion to adjourn: Mr. Clark 2<sup>nd</sup>: Mr. Metzger Ayes: All

Approved by:

Board of German Township Trustees

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Rodney Kaffenbarger, President

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Mr. Metzger, Vice President

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Robert Clark, Member

Recorded in the  
Record of Proceedings  
August 12, 2014

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Angela D. Griest, Fiscal Officer