

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
German Township Board of Trustees
Regular Session
August 13, 2019

The German Township Trustees met in regular session on Tuesday, August 13, 2019 at 8:00 a.m. at the German Township Office, 3940 Lawrenceville Dr., Springfield, Ohio. Mr. Clark called the meeting to order.

Roll Call: Mr. Clark - present; Mr. Kaffenbarger – present; Mr. Metzger- present
Fiscal Officer: Angela Griest - present

Township Personnel present: Mike Stitzel, Police Chief; Tim Holman, Fire Chief; Mark Bevan, Maintenance; George Degenhart, Zoning Inspector; Karina Emory, Secretary.
Visitors: Kim Northup, Jill Acuff, and Dan Kegley.

Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes

- A. Motion to approve the minutes for July 09, 2019:
Motion: Mr. Metzger 2nd: Mr. Kaffenbarger Ayes- All

Fiscal Officer:

- B. Motion to receive the July 2019 management reports:
Motion: Mr. Kaffenbarger 2nd: Mr. Metzger Ayes- All
- C. Motion to approve payments issued \$158,048.28 July 9, 2019 through August 12, 2019
Motion: Mr. Kaffenbarger 2nd: Mr. Metzger Ayes: All
- D. Motion to approve 2019-2020 Property & Liability Insurance through OTARMA – McMann Smoot Riddle Agency – Cost \$41,407.00.
Motion: Mr. Metzger 2nd: Mr. Clark Ayes: All
- Lawrenceville Church property acquisition update: Loan completed. Church has been paid. New deed in process.

Hearing of the Public

- Dan Kegley. Has several concerns.
 - He is concerned about the safety of the Road Maintenance Department worker, Mr. Bevan. He has noticed that Mr. Bevan works a lot by himself, but feels he needs to have a second person working with him for safety reasons. When operating the brush truck alongside the road his back is to traffic and he is very close to the road. At times, he has to back equipment out onto the road by himself. He is just concerned for his safety while he is out working alone and operating heavy equipment.
 - He is also concerned about talk he hears concerning the Police Department. The next Police levy may not pass due to talk he hears around the community. People complain that they only write tickets to make money and they are seen a lot outside of the Township area around St. Rt. 68 and St. Rt. 334 which are the furthest points in the Township. Why are they not patrolling the areas in the Township where most of the people live?
 - Mr. Kegley asked if the Police Department purchased a window tint tester. He has heard that the Police patrol through Rural King looking for cars with dark windows.
 - It might make it easier for others to come to Township meetings if they were in the evenings.

Chief Stitzel addresses the concerns:

- German Township does have part of St. Rt. 68 in its jurisdiction. Officers out on St. Rt.68 must request permission from me to be out in that area. Officers do patrol around all parts of the Township. We keep centralized during school times. Sometimes, we will have two cars out at the same time. We take over 4000 calls per year. We do a lot more than write tickets.
- Yes, we did purchase a window tint tester for each cruiser. Ohio does have a window tint law that restricts tint darkness to 50 percent. Window tint cuts down on visibility and can be a danger for Police Officers or others when approaching a car with darkened windows.
- Rural King has trouble with shoplifting every day. We keep making our presence known at Rural King to deter shoplifting.

Chief Holman comments: Serious crashes have diminished tremendously in the township. We have had no serious accidents lately.

Trustee's comments: We have tried having every other meeting in the evening in the last year, and it makes no difference in the number of people who attend. It is easier for the employees to attend the meetings in the morning during work hours.

- Kim Northup: Would like to see if the Township could put up "Hidden Driveway" signs along Fox Hollow Road. Cars going up and down go too fast and she is afraid someone may be hit trying to pull out.
 - Mr. Bevan stated that the County Engineer usually does not recommend putting up "Hidden Driveway" signs. He will check with the county for recommendation.

Zoning Department:

Mr. Degenhart presented the following:

- Has a written complaint and pictures concerning noxious weeds (*Amaranthus palmeri* aka Palmer's pigweed) on Ballentine Pike. The weed is in a cornfield farmed by Phil Steele. A certified letter was sent concerning the noxious weeds. As of today, there is no notice that the issue has been addressed.
 - Mr. Metzger stated that due to the corn crop planted there, it could be expensive to either mow or spray the weeds. We cannot afford to cover those kind of costs.
 - Mrs. Emory stated a call has been put into the prosecutor.

Fire Department

Chief Holman presented the following:

- Sears shut down their fire system. They did have a water leak, and repaired the line. The fire system must be kept on and maintained annually. Trying to get the County to have control of the system since Sears is vacant. Mr. Degenhart stated that since Sears has left, it has been very hard to contact them. He did find out that Sears has a leasing agent but before an occupancy permit can be approved he will need to have Sears' contact information. We must have the fire system working to have occupancy. The Halloween Store may be leasing Sears.

E. Motion to authorize the sale on Govdeals.com of the repeater and the VHF radios that the Fire Department no longer needs:

Motion: Mr. Metzger 2nd: Mr. Kaffenbarger Ayes: All

- Mr. Kaffenbarger gave a flier to the Fire Department concerning training for Natural Gas.
- The large tree that went down in Mad River is on private property. Still looking for a way to have that tree removed, because it causes a very hazardous situation for those going down the river. The current pulls you into the tree, and as people try to paddle around it, it causes the canoes to capsize. Strong current. Most companies that use the river are avoiding that area.

Police Department:

Chief Stitzel presented the following:

- Presented several samples of Cruiser markings from VSP for the cruisers to try to make it easier to identify the township police from other area departments. Adding yellow and red. Larger letters on hood stating German Twp. Continuing to look for ideas.
 - The 2011 Dodge cruiser will need replaced next year.
 - The federal Bulletproof Vest Partnership grant (50% match grant) to help purchase bulletproof vest for the officers has added a new requirement for grant applications starting in 2019. In addition to the mandatory wear policy we already have, we will also need to incorporate a provision for a "uniquely fitted vest".
- F. Motion to amend the German Township Police Department Body Armor Policy, Section III (B)(1) and in Section III (B)(1)(b) as follows:

Section III (B)

1. The Board of German Township Trustees will provide up to fifty percent (50%) with a maximum of \$550.00 of the cost for the purchase of body armor for each sworn member of the German Township Police Department. The individual employee may choose to exceed the dollar amount provided by the purchase allowance at his/her own expense.
 - a. All vests shall meet the minimum NIJ standards.
 - b. All vests shall meet the Uniquely Fitted Armor Vest Requirement. "Uniquely Fitted Vests" means a protective (ballistic or stab-resistant) armor vests that conforms to the individual wearer to provide the best possible fit and coverage by: (1) Correctly sized panels and carrier, determined through appropriate measurements and (2) Properly adjusted straps, harnesses, fasteners, flaps or other adjustable features.

Motion: Mr. Kaffenbarger 2nd: Mr. Metzger Ayes: All

- Officer Mosier and Officer Gleason may be taking position elsewhere, which would cut back the number of hours they work. So, would like to fill a part time position.

- G. Motion to move Officer Reynolds to part time at \$15.00 per hour:
Motion: Mr. Metzger 2nd: Mr. Kaffenbarger Ayes: All
- H. Motion to bring on James (Doug) McKinley on as auxiliary once he has passed his test:
Motion: Mr. Metzger 2nd: Mr. Kaffenbarger Ayes: All
- Attended a meeting with Motorola and the County Sheriff concerning the new CAD system that they are transitioning to for their cruisers. You can do everything in the car, including reports. It would be fast, and we would be on the same system as the county. The cons for the system is it is a multi-agency system. All agencies on the system would have the ability to see any details of an active investigation, ability to release our data with no penalty for doing so, and the County would hold and keep all of our data, nothing kept here. There are also future fees, both yearly and technical, with costs locked in and once you are in you cannot get out. Startup costs could amount up to \$30,000. Which would include equipment, internet for each car, and start up fees. Chief Stitzel does not want to make the change.
- Request that the prosecutor be hear for our next meeting.

Road Maintenance Department

Mr. Bevan presented the following:

- I. Motion to participate with Clark County Engineers Road Resurfacing grant for 2020 – match grant - \$150,000:
Motion: Mr. Metzger 2nd: Mr. Kaffenbarger Ayes: All
 - The old Truck sold for \$9650.00 on Govdeals.com. Fee \$723.75. Net \$8926.25. Completed.
- J. Motion to approve payment to Hiles & Son for contracted services for ditching & piping for the month of July \$3,000.00
Motion: Mr. Kaffenbarger 2nd: Mr. Metzger Ayes: All
 - Baker Road ditch done. Cleaned the back ditch to solve the problem.
 - Tecumseh Road tiled.
 - Dredge Road 4 ft pipe ordered. 48” road culvert has holes. Trying to get it done before school starts. Waiting for lines to be located.
 - Ohio Edison fixed the pipe on Johnson Road they had damaged.
 - Zerkle Road ditch – has a 6” pipe. Do not think that the ditch will be able to handle the water from the tiling Steele is - there is a private property retaining wall that needs repaired. Cannot just fill it with dirt or it will fall over. Need to meet with the resident. Have received complaints concerning the issue. Mr. Kaffenbarger to stop down to talk with the owner.
- K. Motion to become a member of the 811 Call Before You Dig. Cost \$50.00:
Motion: Mr. Kaffenbarger 2nd: Mr. Metzger Ayes: All
 - Mr. Kaffenbarger was working on getting Fire Apparatus to maintenance the road department vehicles but they cannot do it on site. Looking into Rogers to do the maintenance work.

Old Business:

- Set a work session meeting for September 4, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. to work on the personnel manual. Needs advertised.

New Business:

- Ad for the Northwestern Athletic Boosters sports program approved by consensus.
- Mr. Kaffenbarger gave report concerning the Tremont Barrel Fill: In a past meeting, they estimated that a shovel could be in the ground by this year. At this recent meeting, it was reported that the parties involved have not finalized the plan and it will probably be another year or possibly two until something will start.
- L. Motion to adjourn by Mr. Metzger, seconded by Mr. Kaffenbarger Ayes – All

Approved by:
Board of German Township Trustees

Recorded in the
Record of Proceedings
August 13, 2019

Robert Clark, President

Rodney Kaffenbarger, Vice President

Angela D. Griest, Fiscal Officer

Charles Metzger, Member