

Fairview Township Regular Meeting Minutes

August 8, 2022

I. Call to order

Meeting called to order of the Fairview Township Board of Supervisors at 7:00 pm for the purpose of paying bills and new business.

II. Roll call

The following persons present: Max Anderson, Tanni Müller, Mike Seiner, Angela Jackson. Absent: Todd Mockler.

Guests: Kim Ludwig, Shayne Ludwig, Dustin Carter, Paul Pederson, Wendy Pederson, Russ Assmus, Steve Donnelly, Peggy Donnelly, Jeff Donnelly, Scott Nielsen, Mike GoBell, Rebecca Kruse, Mary Anne Meyer, and Linda Hawley.

III. Old Business - Approval of minutes from the last meeting

Minutes from the July 11th regular meeting were read and approved as read.

IV. New business

- 1) **Resolution 2022-01: Special Assessment for dust control on gravel road** – The clerk read the proposed resolution. Russel Assmus recalled his support of the petition for dust control on East Main because 50% of it was going to be paid for by a special assessment, and this is not what he had originally planned and agreed. Mike GoBel discussed road graveling and maintenance techniques that would improve the situation of the heavily traveled roads like East Main Street, which is likely the most heavily traveled road in Fairview Township. Russel Assmus commented that there is a 1,400-foot linear length of East Main where the road bed is showing and needs some more gravel. The Board of Supervisors agreed to look at the situation and add more gravel if needed. Max Anderson made the motion to table the resolution seconded by Mike Seiner and resume the conversation at a later date with a longer-term plan to improve the road on East Main.
- 2) **Postcard mailing with township information** - Motion made by Max Anderson and Second by Mike Seiner to approve mailing out a one-time informational and meeting announcement notification postcard to all property owners in Fairview Township for a total cost of approximately \$215.64.
- 3) **Fairview township website** - Max made the motion to approve of the new website design using Google Sites. Second by Mike Seiner. The website hosted at

no cost on the Township's Google Sites account was approved for publishing by the Supervisors.

- 4) **Paying bills** – Max made the motion to pay the bills as presented by Tanni Miiller in the amount of \$21,250.34 including payroll. There were no deposits. Second by Mike Seiner. Approved. See attached warrant listing.
- 5) **Burbank School House** – The township clerk summarized her findings regarding the Burbank Schoolhouse and the process of getting it delisted from the National Register by request of the chairman. The schoolhouse is owned by Fairview Township. Delisting it is done by a petition to the State Historical Society. It is a lengthy process and involves proving that all other alternatives have failed.

Mike GoBel comments: Mike GoBell is against delisting the schoolhouse and described that the schoolhouse cannot be torn down or sold per a 1990's Supreme Court case that established or resulted in a 99-year lease that set precedence for the responsible parties and shared expenses. Mike GoBell states that the lease supposedly establishes that 50% of the cost of maintenance of the building is the responsibility of the Township. He says the documents are in the schoolhouse records. Mike acknowledged that the Township has been paying the replacement cost and liability insurance, and all the utility bills for years. If the building is removed, the land is to be given back to the person/family who originally donated the land. The Community Parks and Cemeteries Association Incorporated pays \$800/year for mowing the 5 acres surrounding the school.

Linda Hawley comments: Laura Hawley supports not delisting it. She stated that all alternatives have to be exhausted before the building can be delisted from the national register, which takes a long time. She asked if the ceiling was fixed and bat droppings were dealt with; can it be re-opened since it is currently closed to the public? Linda Hawley suggested charging a fixed fee for use of the building going forward and renting the two camping spots out, which have electricity.

Other guest comments: At the meeting others engaged in a conversation on the floor about their support for keeping the schoolhouse building and finding innovative ways to raise funds to keep the schoolhouse standing and in good repair. There were no persons present who wanted to delist the schoolhouse from the national historic register and tear it down.

The supervisors stated they wanted to keep the building but do not want the responsibility for maintaining it. There was no unanimous agreement from the Board of Supervisors to tear it down and the board members present are

supportive of keeping it. If the building ceiling can be fixed and secured and the building cleaned up, the schoolhouse can reopen to the general public. The Community Parks and Cemeteries Association Incorporated aka "The Schoolhouse Association" will look into cleaning up the floor and fixing the ceiling. The schoolhouse maintenance discussion will be ongoing and there was no action item or motion on any action at this time. The Clerk will look into finding a copy of the 99-year lease.

- 6) **Gravel road maintenance in Burbank** - Mike GoBell issued a verbal concern about the status of the high gravel windrows for residents in Burbank and the problems they are creating for drivers. The supervisors agreed to discuss with the maintainer operator.

V. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 12, 2022

Minutes recorded by Angela K. Jackson, Clerk

Angela K Jackson

8/9/22