

**COLLEGE TOWNSHIP
KNOX COUNTY, OHIO
BOARD OF TRUSTEE REGULAR MEETING
May 8, 2024**

Trustee Chairperson Houston called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. All were invited to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag. Those present were Trustees William Houston, Ed O'Connell and Bernard Ingles, Fiscal Officer (FO) Courtney DeCosky, and Administrative Assistant (AA) Lora King. Also present were Kenyon's Vice President for Facilities, Planning and Sustainability Ian Smith and Village Administrator RC Wise. Special Guest Gary Walters from Rinehart-Walter-Danner entered via Zoom at 7:01 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Trustee Houston made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes from April 10, 2024, and special meeting minutes from April 16, 2024; Trustee Ingles second; Vote: All Yes.

COLLABORATIVE PARTNER, RC WISE

The Village will receive its 17nd Annual Tree City USA Award.

The Village received the official notice that they are receiving a grant from the Central Ohio Rural Planning Organization (CORPO) for \$99,200 to design and engineer a shared use path from the Kokosing Gap Trail up to downtown Gambier. VA Wise sent correspondence to the Ohio Department of Transportation to get an idea of next steps.

The Village Council made changes to parking on Wiggin Street.

The Village Council heard the first reading on a Food Truck Ordinance, which specifies language in a prior ordinance, spelling out noise and light restrictions, etc.

The Village Council heard the first reading on a resolution regulating the keeping of bees.

VA Wise proposed a possible collaboration between the village and township regarding the mowing of the new nature play area mounds at the Community Park. When put in, the grass was supposed to be low-mow, but that has not been the case. The Village may be willing to pay the Township to mow with the boom mower a few times a year, as using the Village's 0-turn is a safety hazard.

VA Wise brought up a discussion he and Trustee Ingles had about possibly partnering for an Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) grant for Quarry Chapel Road. The Township would have a good chance of receiving as it has never applied for a grant from OPWC and partnering with the Village would earn the application extra points. Typically the grant applications are due

the first week in November. If the Township and Village would like to move forward, they should schedule a meeting with the County Engineer.

The Village does not have the right equipment to operate the shared chipper discussed in the previous meeting either. The Village could possibly put it on GovDeals and split the sale with the Township. The Township Trustees agreed with this solution. VA Wise will check with the council and see how to move forward.

COLLABORATIVE PARTNER, IAN SMITH

Kenyon's Commencement is coming up on May 18.

The Ohio Department of Transportation's (ODOT) contractor cleaned up the trees near the future roundabout site.

Kenyon is expecting to have a big reunion weekend the weekend following Commencement (May 24-26).

The State Route 308/229 intersection is scheduled to shut down on June 11 and reopen Nov. 1 after the roundabout completion. Pelotonia is the first weekend of August. Traffic could be a challenge with all the family and support staff traveling in for the event.

Kenyon's fall semester starts later than usual this year at the end of August. The football team, as an early arrival group, does not come to campus until August 14.

COLLABORATIVE PARTNER, RC WISE, cont.

In response to Township concerns about wear and tear on local roads during the roundabout construction, VA Wise suggested getting video of Township roads before the roundabout construction to get a comparison of road conditions before and after. He also informed the Township that in an emergency, the Township could ask the County to apply for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) on their behalf, which covers emergency infrastructure.

ZONING

Inspector Yarman was traveling and unable to attend.

Trustees allowed time for discussion on formerly proposed zoning changes and possible solar resolution from the Commissioners' office. The potential solar resolution would be a request from the township to prohibit industrial solar. The commissioners' would make the final decision. Passing the resolution would eliminate the need for additional language in the zoning book. Trustee Ingles suggested that the Township might consider adding language to the zoning book that would require certain visual barriers around commercial solar farms, so the township is not prohibiting residents from selling or leasing their land to specific parties, but still somewhat protecting the neighbors from the visual impact of industrial solar.

SPECIAL GUEST, GARY WALTERS via Zoom

Mr. Walters gave the synopsis on the current insurance marketplace, which is seeing rate increases on all kinds of insurance, primarily in property. This is due to a number of things, including numerous tornadic and severe weather events in the Midwest. There has also been an increase in auto expenses. Consumer auto repairs have been up around 25%, while industry rates have lagged behind.

Mr. Walters reviewed the Ohio Plan Proposal with the College Township Board. In reviewing, it was suggested the Township evaluate their computer equipment as it seems high on the proposal. This may reflect prior equipment when the Township ran its own fire department.

Mr. Walters shared that there is new Ohio Law allowing townships to protect themselves from employees via crime policy, which would be covered by insurance instead of a bond, which has to be paid back by the bondholder. If the township would want to go the crime policy route, they would need to pass a resolution. There are pros and cons for each. Bonds have no exclusions in their forms, while crime policy has exclusionary language.

FO DeCosky will send updates to Rinehart Insurance after the board reviews what needs to be removed before June 8. The board will also consider an additional fee to reduce cyber deductibles.

CEMETERY

Doug McLarnan's burial is still to be determined.

Supervisor Smith did a good job of getting the cemetery leveled out. It will be due for a mowing soon.

ROADS

Trustee Houston drafted a letter to ODOT regarding engine brakes as requested by Dr. Bazzoli and Mr. McBride at the last meeting. The trustees will sign it and send it to ODOT.

Trustee Houston proposed a resolution to declare the 14-year old defibrillator as surplus to be recycled. Trustee Ingles seconded. Roll call: O'Connel yes; Ingles yes; Houston yes. Resolution passes.

Discussion took place on the possible purchase of a new defibrillator to be placed in service for roads. AA King will continue looking for possible grants and Trustee Ingles will talk to Chief Christopher to see if the Township can get a deal purchasing through the fire department.

ROADS REPORT **May 2024**

EQUIPMENT:

All equipment is in good shape.

Roads:

I moved all the old salt to one side of the salt bin. We received our 25 ton of salt for the 2023 Salt Contract. I pushed the salt to the right side of the salt bin. I submitted our paperwork for the 2024 Salt Contract. I received confirmation that it was received. I meet with Bob Small to go over road projects, they will try to have estimates ready for Township meeting. Bob has agreed to drive the roads with the Trustees to set priorities for paving and chip & seal. Call the office and setup a time with Michelle.

Cemetery:

Tom Lepley's grave was leveled off and the ruts were filled. We got a ton of topsoil, leveled out areas, sowed grass seed, covered with straw and watered the straw down. Ralston has been contacted for the footer.

General:

Things are cleaned up for Dumpster Day. Phil and Alec are helping with Dumpster Day. I'm trying to set something up with SOS to look at trees on Quarry Chapel Road with me to get some estimates. We will start working on signs once Alec is finished with school. I removed tree from roadway on Gaskin Street after hours.

FIRE

Trustee Ingles shared information on the meeting between the City of Mount Vernon, Kenyon and College Township in regards to the MVFD contract. The meeting went well. All parties agreed to extend the contract to 5-years. There was discussion about improving the student program. Equipment was also discussed at the meeting; it was suggested that the equipment be donated to MVFD, who would then take on the insurance for the equipment. There was also discussion about additional construction fees MVFD will be adding.

Discussion ensued on the possible donation of equipment to MVFD.

Trustee Houston proposed a resolution that any and all fire protection and EMS related equipment and vehicles outlined in exhibit 2 and 3 in the contract with Mount Vernon that College Township currently owns be declared as surplus. Ingles seconded. Roll Call: O'Connell yes; Ingles yes; Houston yes. Resolution passes.

Trustee Houston proposed a resolution that College Township donate any and all fire protection and EMS related equipment and vehicles outlined in exhibit 2 and 3 in the contract with Mount Vernon to the Mount Vernon Fire Department. O'Connell seconded. Roll call: Houston yes; O'Connell yes; Ingles yes. Resolution passes. All agreed that Mount Vernon should absorb the possible cost of any transfers.

Discussion ensued on possible fire levy. Two levies expire at the end of the year; one for 6 mill and the other for 1.25 mill. College Township would like to combine the levies and possibly renew or replace them. The board is leaning towards renewing to minimize taxes for township residents. First, the township needs to figure out exactly how much mileage is needed to honor the contract with MVFD and keep up with Service Center maintenance and utilities. FO DeCosky will get renewal v. replacement estimates from the the Auditor's office for discussion and decision-making at the June meeting.

Discussion went back to the subject of roads. Trustee O'Connell read correspondence from Supervisor Smith regarding trees on Quarry Chapel Road.

Smalls will have a quote soon for possible road repair. Trustee O'Connell will give Small's a call to set up time to look at roads and proposed repairs.

Trustee Houston made a motion to go in business with SOS for work on Quarry Chapel not exceeding \$4K, Ingles seconded. Vote: All yes.

Trustee Ingles visited Dumpster Day, which he felt was well organized. Supervisor Smith and Equipment Operator Mackey were there, along with Village employees.

GENERAL

Fiscal Officer's Report - May 8, 2024

2025 Budget

FO DeCosky will have the first pass of the budget ready for the June public meeting. The Township can advertise to the public that this discussion will take place at the June meeting. This will allow the township to pass the budget via resolution at the July meeting, meeting the Knox County Auditor's deadline.

Quarterly Reports

Quarterly reports have been completed and submitted/mailed for 1st quarter 2024 prior the April 30 deadline for both ODJFS and the IRS.

2022/23 Audit

Wilson, Phillips & Agin, CPA's Inc. has returned the boxes from the 2022/23 Audit and submitted their draft report for board and FO review. The auditors are available to meet if the board has questions before accepting the draft report.

Financial Reports

Monthly financial reports are in your folders and should reflect actual financials as of April 30, 2024.

*Courtney DeCosky
Fiscal Officer, College Township*

The trustees understood the audit results and agreed to waive the right to a meeting.

Discussion on possible gravel/retaining wall at the Service Center where township employees park. For now, the township will try to fix the issues with township employees. AA King will get a half load of limestone, or whatever is needed, and have Supervisor Smith and Equipment Operator Mackey Bill work on.

Spectrum is offering a deal to upgrade TV channels for a monthly cost of \$35. It would likely be appreciated by MVFD employees. The trustees confirmed with FO DeCosky and AA King to move forward.

The township will research the cost of a Go-Pro Camera and consider purchasing to capture road conditions prior to the State Route 229/308 intersection closure. AA King will check the video capturing capabilities of a camera the township already owns.

All correspondence sent and received was discussed in the body of the meeting. There being no further business, the fund cash balances certified lawfully appropriated to pay bills being reviewed, and Trustee Houston moved to pay bills. Second by Trustee Ingles. Vote: All Yes. Trustee Houston made a motion to adjourn at 8:52 p.m. with a second by Ingles. Vote: All Yes.

Chairperson

Fiscal Officer