

**COLLEGE TOWNSHIP
KNOX COUNTY, OHIO
BOARD OF TRUSTEE REGULAR MEETING
April 9, 2025**

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, Zoning Inspector Roger Yarman, Fiscal Officer (FO) Courtney DeCosky, and Administrative Assistant (AA) Lora King. Also present were Village of Gambier Administrator RC Wise, College Township property owners Doug and Taylor Snow, and Jerry Kelly, along with Kenyon students, Josh and Audrey, from Kenyon's Environmental Studies Course.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Trustee Houston made a motion to approve the organizational meeting minutes from March 12, 2025; Trustee O'Connell seconded. Vote: all yes.

COLLABORATIVE PARTNER, RC WISE

VA Wise distributed the Village's Spring Newsletter. He noted that Stick it to the Village will take place Monday, April 14 and 21; Dumpster Day will take place Saturday, May 3, and Electronics Recycling on Friday, May 2. Shred It will also be there Friday, May 2 at 9:00 a.m. Residents are encouraged to bring records to shred in on Thursday, May 1. They will be secured in a storage room overnight.

COLLEGE TOWNSHIP PROPERTY OWNERS, DOUG AND TAYLOR SNOW

Doug and Taylor Snow attended with questions about the pending cell tower going in on Laymon Road and inquired as an adjoining property owner, if they have any input in the matter. If there is nothing the Township can do to prevent it, they would prefer it not placed right against their property. They have owned their property in the Township for 34 years and have used it for sledding, camping and deer hunting. It is possible they may build on the property in the future. They would like the tower to be a safe distance from their property as they are concerned about potential health issues due to the proximity of the tower and its radiofrequency (RF) radiation. There are ongoing studies on RF Radiation and its potential health effects on the average person. Taylor expressed additional concern as to how the radiation may affect someone with a pacemaker and questioned whether the tower should be going into a residential area at all.

Zoning Inspector Yarman explained that at present the only thing the Township can do, according to the Prosecutor, is to enforce zoning regulations if adjoining property owners ask for the College Township Trustees' involvement after residents have been properly notified at least 15-days prior to construction. Inspector Yarman inquired with the Prosecutor's office regarding the tower almost a year ago and was told that because it will be a utility, it is hard for the

Township to have any control. Further discussion on the possible impact the tower may have. When the Snows receive notice of construction, they will contact the Board.

COLLABORATIVE PARTNER, IAN SMITH

Jerry Kelly attended with two students from his Environmental Study Course at Kenyon, in which the focus is to evaluate and design sites for solar. Presently, the class is evaluating the possibility of powering the Lowry Center with solar.

The students had identified a few possible solar sites and particularly inquired about the spoils field past the Kenyon practice fields. The idea would be to possibly level the land and use it to put up solar panels to offset energy usage at the Lowry Center. They inquired what may be involved to move forward.

Discussion on the area being in the floodplain and what impacts that may have. Additional discussion on the area currently being under a stormwater pollution prevention plan with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). After further discussion, it was suggested that the students should start with talking to the Kenyon administration. Currently, the area is being used to handle construction materials, which is needed. If Kenyon gave positive feedback, it would go to zoning. If it fell under utility and adhered to all zoning regulations, it may be possible. The area is not used by the public, so little opposition would be expected. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), Scenic River Program would need to be consulted as well as they make decisions on floodplains. Inspector Yarman suggested that they also speak to Darrel Severns at Regional Planning as he is familiar with floodplain regulations. Mr. Kelly and the students thanked the Board. Their project would be proposed conceptually in May as part of the class.

ZONING

Inspector Yarman received a permit for an extension to a deck on Baker Road.

A certified letter has been sent to the owner of the container on Baker Road, which has been an ongoing issue for months.

The Regional Planning Commission (RPC) held its elections last month; Inspector Yarman remains the Chair. The City of Mount Vernon did not renew their RPC membership this year. However, two new townships joined, neither of which are zoned. The RPC approved the Knox County Comprehensive Plan to be passed on to the Knox County Commissioners. Additionally, the Commissioners moved forward with funding RPC for the year.

Zoning maps are coming soon to be hung in the front room of the Service Center for easy reference.

CEMETERY

Jewish Section Expansion: Trustee Houston spoke with Marc Bragin about the Township's suggestion to allow room for a 10ft right-way for equipment. Mr. Bragin appreciated the idea and will measure it over the summer with Howard Sachs.

Trustee Houston moved to have the Fiscal Officer request an amended certificate from the Knox County Auditor for the year 2025, increasing estimated revenue in the Cemetery Fund (2041) in the amount of \$8000.00 to account for the Cemetery Levy, and to additionally request appropriations in the Cemetery Fund (2041) in the amount of \$6000.00. Trustee O'Connell seconded the motion. Vote: All yes.

Roads Supervisor Smith would like to get two stumps removed from the cemetery before mowing season. Quotes were distributed from Specialty Outdoor Services (\$400) and Blue Denim (\$575). The wood chips would be left to be used for the flower bed at the Service Center. Discussion on cemetery priorities now that the Township has begun to collect cemetery levy funds. All agreed to move forward with SOS for the stumps. Next priorities in order would be the fence, security system and tree plan for the next year. AA King will reach out to Custom Wired and possible ADT for security system quotes. Additionally, she will reach out to Wade & Gatton for tree planting guidance and quotes, as they are familiar with the cemetery, having done work there previously.

ROADS

SUPERVISOR SMITH'S ROADS REPORT - APRIL 2025

Equipment:

The plow truck is still at Donley's. We are waiting for them to finish the job. The zero turn was picked up and serviced. It is all set for the summer, new blades and a battery. We were sent a safety bulletin from New Holland for the parking brake. They don't have a fix yet and they will let us know when they do. Once we get the truck back we will remove the salt spreader and plow. We will also pick up the forks for the tractor.

Roads:

Not a lot has changed since last month, since we haven't had the truck. I removed trees off of Glen Rd removed the sign on Laymon that was falling over. I will reinstall once we get the truck back. Have we heard anything from the State on berming material?

General:

The front office project has been completed. We moved a couple of filing cabinets from upstairs down into the front office along with the paper shredders. Lora has been using the front office. Dumpster Day is the first Saturday in May.

FO DeCosky updated the Board on the status of the Township truck at Donley Ford as of April 9. Supervisor Smith was told that the diesel mechanic was on vacation but they would make sure he prioritized the truck on his return.

Discussion on Roads Evaluation completed on March 18 by Trustees and Supervisor Smith.

Discussion on what trees may need removed on Porter.

Trustee Houston moved to adopt the following resolution, which Trustee O'Connell seconded.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION

IN THE ODOT ROAD SALT CONTRACTS AWARDED IN 2022

WHEREAS, the College Township, Knox County (hereinafter referred to as the "Political Subdivision") hereby submits this written agreement to participate in the Ohio Department of Transportation's (ODOT) annual road salt bid in accordance with Ohio Revised Code

5513.01(B) and hereby agrees to all of the following terms and conditions in its participation of the ODOT road salt contract:

- a. The Political Subdivision hereby agrees to be bound by all terms and conditions established by ODOT in the road salt contract and acknowledges that upon award of the contract by the Director of ODOT it shall be bound by all such terms and conditions included in the contract; and
- b. The Political Subdivision hereby acknowledges that upon the Director of ODOT's signing of the road salt contract, it shall effectively form a contract between the awarded salt supplier and the Political Subdivision; and
- c. The Political Subdivision agrees to be solely responsible for resolving all claims or disputes arising out of its participation in the ODOT road salt contract and agrees to hold the Department of Transportation harmless for any claims, actions, expenses, or other damages arising out of the Political Subdivision's participation in the road salt contract; and
- d. The Political Subdivision's electronic order for Sodium Chloride (Road Salt) will be the amount the Political Subdivision agrees to purchase from its awarded salt supplier at the delivered bid price per ton awarded by the Director of ODOT; and
- e. The Political Subdivision hereby agrees to purchase a minimum of 90% of its electronically **submitted** salt quantities from its awarded salt supplier during the contract's effective period; and
- f. The Political Subdivision hereby agrees to place orders with and directly pay the awarded salt supplier on a net 30 basis for all road salt it receives pursuant to ODOT salt contract; and
- g. The Political Subdivision acknowledges that should it wish to rescind this participation agreement it will do so by written, emailed request by no later than Friday, April 29 **by 5:00 p.m.** The written, emailed request to rescind this participation agreement must be received by the ODOT Office of Contract Sales, Purchasing Section email: Contracts.Purchasing@dot.ohio.gov by the deadline. The Department, upon receipt, will respond that it has received the request and that it has effectively removed the Political Subdivision's participation request. Furthermore, it is the sole responsibility of the Political Subdivision to ensure ODOT has received this participation agreement as well as the receipt of any request to rescind this participation agreement. The Department shall not be held responsible or liable for failure to receive a Political Subdivision's participation agreement and/or a Political Subdivision's request to rescind its participation agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it ordained by the following authorized person(s) that this participation agreement for the ODOT road salt contract is hereby approved, funding has been authorized, and the Political Subdivision agrees to the above terms and conditions regarding participation on the ODOT salt contract:

William Houston, yes

Ed' O'Connell, yes

Bernard Ingles, yes

FO DeCosky will ask Supervisor Smith to contact Small's about a quote for Baker Road.

FIRE

Incident Reports (read by Trustee Ingles)

MARCH

Kenyon: 4

Village: 5

Township: 6

GENERAL

Fiscal Officer's Report - April 9, 2025

Columbia Gas

The monthly budget for Columbia Gas is increasing from \$128/month to \$257/month on April 1. This is an additional \$129/month, which equals \$1548.00/annually. This could change when reevaluated in August. The cost increase is due to increased usage, for example there was a 40% increase from March 2024 (369.0 Ccf) to March 2025 (515.0 Ccf).

First Half Settlement

College Township has received the First Half Real Estate Settlement for 2024. This will be reflected in the reports after the Township receives an amended certificate. See below.

Amended Certificate Needed

FO DeCosky recommends the Board make a motion to have the Fiscal Officer request an amended certificate from the Knox County Auditor for the year 2025, increasing estimated revenue in the Cemetery Fund (2041) in the amount of \$8000.00 to account for the Cemetery Levy, and request appropriations in the Cemetery Fund (2041) in the amount of \$6000.00.

Financial Reports

Monthly financial reports are in your folders and should reflect actual financials as of March 18, 2025.

Courtney DeCosky

Fiscal Officer

College Township

FO DeCosky met Scott Adams, Director of Investments at the Ohio Treasurer's Office at the recent Local Government Conference. She invited him to a College Township meeting to share information about Star Ohio. She hopes he can attend the May or June meeting either in person or via Zoom.

Records Retention Paperwork to be signed following the meeting.

FO DeCosky will give ENew Zone the go ahead to wipe and recycle 3 surplus laptops and 4 surplus ipads with little to no value. ENew will do this at no cost to the Township. Additionally, she will ask them to proceed with repairing 2 laptops in good condition that will be kept at the Township for back up.

Trustees Houston and O'Connell will need to run for election this year.

Correspondence reviewed regarding parking brake recall on tractor. The solution is pending and the Township will be updated accordingly.

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, Trustee Houston moved to pay bills. Second by Trustee O'Connell. Vote: All yes. Trustee Houston made a motion to adjourn at 8:12 p.m., with a second by Trustee O'Connell. Vote: all yes.

Chairperson

Fiscal Officer