

Liberty Township, Licking County, Ohio

Regular Trustee Meeting Minutes

April 8, 2024 at 6:30 pm

Opening

- Bill Bogantz called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. He stated that the meeting is being recorded and will be a public record. Bill led the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Melodie Bogantz took the roll call with the following answering present: Bill Bogantz, and Ed Wasem.
- The minutes from March 11, 2024 Regular Meeting were available for inspection.
- **Bill Bogantz made a motion to approve the minutes for the March 11, 2024 meeting. Ed Wasem seconded the motion. The motion passed with all YES votes.**

Resident/Public Input

- Gary Hamilton, for 6252 Johnstown Utica Road, expressed concern about “outside” storage not being allowed at storage facilities in the township, yet every such facility has this type of storage. Bill Bogantz stated that he has a valid question/concern and that we are seeking input from legal counsel on how to address this issue. Woody mentioned that the Hamilton’s storage facility needs to have a technical review.

Zoning

- Woody presented the monthly zoning report for March
 - 2024-P-003 Kenny Hixson \$75.00
9350 Crouse Willison Rd.
Pool
 - 2024-P-004 Kenny Hixson \$150.00
9350 Crouse Willison Rd.
Pavillion
 - 2024-P-005 Duane Larason \$766.35
6040 Castle Rd.
Residence
- Woody gave an update on other issue/permits in the township
 - Marcus Vance (Contractor) was emailed Conditional Use Application on 12/18/23 for 4863 Sportsman Club Rd.
 - Kenneth Belczak is considering a PUD. Working with Shawn Lanning from Watcon Consulting Engineers & Surveyors. Submitted preliminary plan on March 12, 2024, only to remove for additional adjustments. 6912 Nichols Lane Road.
 - 2023-V-002 Laurie A. Thompson 11/14/23. Owner still waiting on construction for new 1408 SQFT Barndominium. Getting Concrete quotes. for foundation. 4328 Hardscrabble Rd.
 - 2024-V-001 Houcks Auto Parts 2/12/2024 Owner has started to remove junk vehicles from 3634 Sportsman Club Rd.

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- Woody also mentioned that he regularly gets residents with smaller lots asking about reducing setback requirements because they are so limited on where to put buildings.
- Bill Bogantz informed residents that OTA has put out a talking points document about the issue of the state possibly getting rid of township zoning.

Old Business

- Bill Bogantz mentioned that the Ohio EPA withdrew its request for approval of package plants that lowers water quality standards for output of the sewage package plants.
- **Four Corners:**
 - **District 9:** Bill Bogantz said that he has not received any feedback from the Licking County Commissioners on the township's position letter that states that Liberty Township does not believe it is part of District 9 and was not given to Southwest Licking Water & Sewer. Bill said he will be attending the next Commissioner's meeting to ask for their response.
 - **208 Plan:** Bill Bogantz stated that he has told the Commissioners that Liberty Township does not want to be assigned to a water & sewer provider.
- **Miles Estate Update:** Bill stated that there is not update beyond what was reported last month saying that the estate will get about \$415,000 for the land taken by the electric company by eminent domain.
- **Rental (7111 Northridge Road):** no update.
- **New Administration Building Update** – Bill mentioned that the building is coming along nicely. He is working on getting a sound system and a security system for the building.
- **Roads & Bridge Levy 10 Mills** – Melodie presented Resolution 2024-06. Passing this resolution is the first step in the process for the renewal of the tax levy to be on the November 2024 ballot.
- **Bill made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-06, a Resolution to Request That the County Auditor Certify Valuation and Revenue Information Pursuant to R.C. 5705.03(B).** Ed Wasem seconded the motion. The motion passed with all YES votes.
- **Roads**
 - **2024 Roadwork** – The estimates for the proposed 2024 roadwork from Smalls were discussed. The trustees agreed they would like to go with the estimate that puts down a thicker layer of asphalt.
 - **Bill Bogantz made a motion to request for assistance from the County Engineer's office for proceeding with the road work as recommended by Smalls Asphalt.** Ed Wasem seconded the motion. The motion passed with all YES votes.
 - Melodie will send the request to the County Engineers Office.
 - Jeff is working on fixing roads that were damaged from the flooding.
 - Jeff and Bill checked on residents and the roads after the tornado this past month.
 - **Update on new truck:** no update

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- **Cemeteries:** Melodie prepared a spreadsheet comparing Liberty's cemetery fees with nearby cemeteries. Ed recommended no changes to the cemetery fees. The trustees will discuss further when Doug is present.
- **Health Insurance for elected officials and full-time employees:** Bill Bogantz stated that he is still looking into township provided health insurance but it is no longer pressing. He would like to move forward with implementing before the next trustee election.
- **Comprehensive Plan Update:** Bill stated that we received 280 responses to the last survey. A new survey is coming out soon. The steering committee has a meeting on April 18th. The next public engagement activity is April 30th. The Comprehensive Plan should be wrapped up in July.
- **Zoning Fees & Salaries Update:** this was skipped because Doug's presence is needed for this since Bill Bogantz cannot vote on it.

New Business

- **The Energy Cooperative:** Melodie presented the Energy Cooperative's request to drill to provide electricity to 6016 Castle Road. The trustees agreed to sign the request.
- **BZA opening:** Bill Bogantz stated that we have two BZA openings – one on the committee and one as an alternate. Bill introduced Aaron Jennings who is interest in a position on the BZA. Aaron told everyone a little about himself.
- Tyler McNutt, currently the 1st alternate, introduced himself and stated he is interested in the open position on the BZA.
- **Bill Bogantz made a motion to appoint Aaron Jennings to the open 2nd alternate position on the BZA to expire 3/1/26. Ed Wasem seconded the motion. The motion passed with all YES votes.**
- Bill Bogantz stated that the trustees would fill the open seat on the BZA when all trustees were present.
- **Flooding on Liberty Church Road:** Ed Wasem discussed a flooding issue on Liberty Church Road.
- **Water & Soil:** Bill Bogantz asked Ed Wasem to contact the land owners where the road flooding occurs near Denunes and Nichols to get permission to be on their land to look at the flooding there. Licking County Water and Soil is looking into the flooding to see what can be done.
- **High Speed Internet:** Melodie presented cost information she received from Spectrum for providing internet at the new township building. One resident stated that when the power goes out Spectrum is also down. Another resident stated that he has had good luck with T-mobile internet.
- **Bill Bogantz made a motion to approve going with internet that will cost around \$50 per month. Ed Wasem seconded the motion. The motion passed with all YES votes.**
- **New Building Change order:** Bill Bogantz mentioned that he discussed with the builder adding a cat walk in the attic. He also mentioned that it would be a good idea to see if

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we can get the building wired for a generator. Bill said he would talk with Doug and the builder on these two possible changes.

Correspondence & Financials

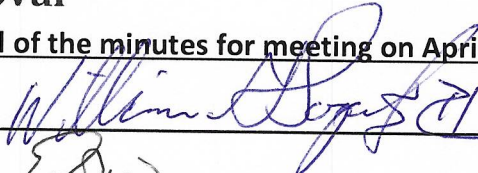
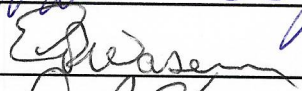
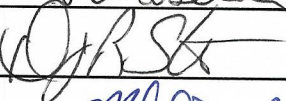
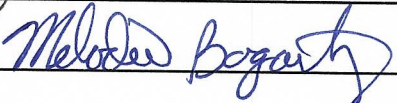
- Melodie read the March Credit Card Charges totaling \$441.43
- Melodie read the January and March correspondence.
- Melodie read the past month's payment totaling \$32,490.66
- Melodie read the past month's receipts totaling \$756,793.86
- The meeting was paused to sign Credit Card Summary, Bank Reconciliation, Minutes, Permits, Reports and Warrants.
- Bill Bogantz introduce Bruce Lane, a St. Albans trustee. Bruce stated that today's JAG and SW Licking Water & Sewer meeting was cancelled by Southwest.

Closing

- Announcements: Next monthly meeting is May 13, 2024 @ 6:30 pm.
- **Bill Bogantz made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ed Wasem seconded the motion. The motion passed with all YES votes.**
- The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:00pm.

Approval

Approval of the minutes for meeting on April 8, 2024:

Trustee:		Date:	5/13/2024
Trustee:		Date:	5-13-24
Trustee:		Date:	5-13-24
Fiscal Officer:		Date:	5/13/24