

# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

COPLEY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR

Meeting

GOVERNMENT FORMS & SUPPLIES 844-224-3338 FORM NO. 10148

MONDAY, JUNE 22, 2020

Held \_\_\_\_\_ 20 \_\_\_\_\_

## **Open**

Trustee Dressler called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

## **Pledge of Allegiance**

## **Welcome**

## **Board of Trustees**

**Public Hearing-** Trustee Dressler moved to continue the Public Hearing from the last meeting on June, 08, 2020 considering a text amendment to the Zoning Resolution, Article 16- Tree Preservation. Second by Trustee Koellner; all voting aye.

**Text Amendment** -Mrs. Shawna Gfroerer, Zoning Inspector, presented a Request Summary proposal for the text amendment Zoning Resolution, Article 16 – Tree Preservation. Mrs. Gfroerer gave dollar amount examples of properties bought by developers and residential parcels based on the Summit County Fiscal Offices' assessment of the value of the properties. A percentage of which, would be put towards the preservation, replanting and/or replacement of trees.

Trustee Dressler stated the Resolution has remained open for two weeks, allowing the public time to ask questions and comment on the amendment. He suggested a discussion on the amendment.

Trustee Schulte motioned to close the Public Hearing; second by Trustee Koellner; all voting aye.

Trustee Koellner stated he thought the amendment would give the developers more options and is therefore a proponent. Trustee Schulte stated the amendment was a nice, balanced approach and would not impede future development.

**2020 - 91 Resolution** approving a text amendment to the Zoning Resolution, Article 16 – Tree Preservation per attached. Trustee Koellner moved approval; second by Trustee Schulte. Roll call vote: Trustee Dressler, aye; Trustee Koellner, aye; and Trustee Schulte, aye.

## **Safety Facility** – Presentation by David King

Pictures and cost estimates were provided regarding the new facility to be built on Sunset Drive. Part of the land which was initially planned to be utilized as a road to the new location has been declared a wetland area, therefore alternate plans will be discussed. Mr. King estimated with everything included, the total cost for the project would amount to approximately \$18,000,000. Mr. King said there are different ways to lower that cost and offered different scenarios.

**Discussion** followed. Trustee Koellner stated that costs were only going up along with interest rates, but following the COVID-19 virus pandemic, rates are dropping. Mr. Koellner stated decisions should be made sooner rather than later to lessen the cost to the tax payers. Mr. Koellner also stated contractors are bidding low to increase their business. Trustee Schulte requested for Mrs. Marshall to reach out to the Bond Counsel & the Township's Financial Advisor with the cost estimates. Trustee Dressler thanked Mr. King for his time.

## **Fiscal Officer's Report – Ms. Linda Peiffer**

**Motion** to approve the Board of Trustees Regular Meeting minutes of June 08, 2020. Trustee Dressler moved approval, second by Trustee Schulte; all voting aye.

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**Motion** acknowledging receipt of and approval pending audit of the May, 2020 Financial Statements. Trustee Schulte had questions regarding franchise fees and bed taxes and requested a list of each. Trustee Schulte questioned the status on the ambulance collection funds brought up by Chief Bower and whether the Attorney General had been contacted to discuss what progress was being made. Trustee Schulte also inquired about the interest rate charges from the Huntington Bank statement for May. Trustee Schulte questioned when the \$225,000 given to the CIC would be placed in the Capital Fund rather than the General Fund, and lastly why a \$58,000 charge was put into, and then taken out of the fund. Ms. Peiffer stated she would make calls and get the lists and information as requested, and also stated the \$58,000 was misreported. Trustee Koellner moved approval; second by Trustee Dressler; Trustee Schulte abstained until questions were answered.

**2020 - 92 Resolution** to accept County Coronavirus Relief Distribution funds received by the County pursuant to House Bill 481. Trustee Dressler moved approval; second by Trustee Schulte. Roll call vote: Trustee Dressler, aye; Trustee Koellner, aye; and Trustee Schulte, aye.

**2020 - 93 Resolution** to receive the Township's share of funds from the County COVID-19 Local Government Payroll Support Program funds. Trustee Koellner moved approval; second by Trustee Schulte. Roll call vote: Trustee Dressler, aye; Trustee Koellner, aye; and Trustee Schulte, aye.

## **Administration – Mrs. Janice Marshall, Administrator**

### **Discussion – 2021 Tax Budget**

Mrs. Marshall requested discussion of the 2021 Budget due to the county July 15, 2020. The purpose of the budget is to justify the levies the Township has in place. Trustee Koellner motioned approval to discuss; second by Trustee Schulte. Trustee Koellner requested more time to review the budget further with Mrs. Marshall or Ms. Peiffer. Trustee Dressler moved to table the discussion until the next meeting; second by Trustee Schulte; all voting aye.

**Executive Session** request to discuss employment and benefits of personnel in the Community and Economic Development Department.

## **Fire Department – Chief Chris Bower**

Chief Bower requested to correct the agenda to reflect Pat Friend is a Part-time Firefighter/EMT not a Medic.

**Motion** to accept, with regret, the resignation of Part-time Firefighter/EMT, Pat Friend effective immediately. Trustee Koellner moved approval, second by Trustee Schulte; all voting aye. Chief Bower thanked Firefighter Friend for all of his years of service and many volunteer hours. He has been a valued member of the Copley Fire Department and will be missed.

Chief Bower also thanked the Board for the ability to hire two excellent Fire Department employees who have shown great progress since their start as Full-time employees. He congratulated Hope Cozad and John Zabala. He is grateful to be able to pull from his Part-time Firefighters and put them into these Full-time positions. Chief Bower is very happy with their efforts and is looking forward to all that they will bring to the department.

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**Noted:** The 1985 MACK Water Tender sold at auction for \$21,700.00.  
The Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) sold at auction for \$1602.11.

**Executive Session** request to discuss employment/benefits of personnel in the Fire Department.

## **Police Department – Chief Michael Mier**

**No Requests**

## **Service Department – Mr. Mark Mitchell, Service Director**

**2020 – 94 Resolution** approving a Purchase Order in the amount of \$6,000.00 to Lindsay Precast for landscaping blocks to build a retaining wall at Copley Community Park in connection with the new trail.

Following discussion regarding funding for the project, Mrs. Marshall stated monies would be allocated from the general fund rather than the Service Department budget, adding this could be amended following discussions regarding the new Gateway and Town Hall signs.

Trustee Koellner moved approval, second by Trustee Schulte. Roll call vote: Trustee Dressler, aye; Trustee Koellner, aye; and Trustee Schulte, aye.

## **Discussion – Trash Collection Survey.**

Mr. Mitchell presented the draft survey letter to the Board and requested any changes and/or concerns. Trustee Dressler stated the surveys could actually remain open until the time the Board decides on the bids for the Township's trash/recycle collector. Trustee Dressler stated the majority of the residents want to minimize costs, yet there was a limited response to the previous survey. Trustee Koellner stated the last survey was five years ago and he believes it is a bigger issue now. Mr. Koellner suggested the survey information be displayed on the circle sign and newspapers to better inform the residents. Mr. Mitchell added he will do that as well as post it on Copley's website. Trustee Koellner stated he is a proponent to move forward with the survey and he is in favor of one company for the Township adding the road damage caused by the heavy trucks is expensive and limiting the number of trucks on our roads will minimize the cost to maintain them. Trustee Schulte suggested Survey Monkey would be the best way to get the most responses. Survey Monkey could track the information received to decipher what the residents want. He also thanked Mr. Mitchell for reaching out to the condo associations in the Township and getting back to him with the information. Mr. Mitchell stated he will get the word out using every means possible including Survey Monkey and Copley's website and will finalize the survey for the Board's approval.

**Cemetery Deed** was presented for the Bessemer Family

## **Community and Economic Development – Mr. Loudan Klein, Director**

**Welcome to our new Director of Community and Economic Development, Loudan Klein.**

Zoning Inspector Shawna Gfroerer requested the Board consider moving forward with designs and cost proposals for the second gateway sign to be built. She recommended the next sign be put on the east side of Copley stating that the Township owns two pieces of property there in which the sign could be placed. The sign would be similar to the flagship gateway sign on Media Road and Route 18. Jeff Newman managed that project and will be overseeing similar sign projects in the future. The sign would be

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similar to the flagship gateway sign on Media Road and Route 18, which was installed at a cost of \$12,835.95. Future signs would be considered individually for design and cost.

Mrs. Gfroerer recommended the sign at the Town Hall be replaced with a sign highlighting the integrity of Town Hall and incorporate the school house history of the building. Mrs. Gfroerer requested the Town Hall sign be approved in concept by the Board today June 22, 2020, and submitted to the Architectural Review Board and Board of Zoning Appeals at their next meetings. The deadline to submit requests for the next meeting is June 23, 2020.

Discussion followed regarding available funds for the sign projects.

The Capital Improvement Fund is estimated to receive \$450,000.00 in 2020. \$225,000.00 has been earmarked for Copley Community Improvement Corporation and \$110,557.00 has being earmarked for Professional and Consulting fees to Environmental Design Group. The new connecting trail at Copley Community Park is estimated at \$33,400.00 bringing the total estimated expenses in the Capital Improvement Fund to approximately \$370,000.00 and leaving about \$80,000.00 for future plans. Mrs. Marshall said we could use this money for the signs or get the money from another fund.

Trustee Schulte said we don't have to spend all the money in that account and would like to see the remaining balance be used as matching funds for grants at the end of the year. He does not want to drain the account. Mrs. Marshall agreed. Trustee Schulte stated the sign for Town Hall should be taken out of the General Operating fund as it is not a new sign, but is replacing an old sign. Trustee Koellner stated the sign was built in 1972 and is in need of repair.

Trustee Koellner moved to proceed getting approval from the Zoning Board for a 10 foot setback on the Town Hall sign; second by Trustee Schulte; all voting aye.

The request for a gateway sign on the east end will be reviewed by the Board after proposals for cost of design and installation are received. Mrs. Gfroerer stated Kelly McPherson could modify and design smaller versions of the first flagship gateway sign if needed. All signs would have the original integrity and likeness of the flagship sign, but may vary architecturally.

### Old Business

Movie Night is scheduled for June 27<sup>th</sup> at Copley Community Park beginning at 8:30 p.m.

Safety Town will be held virtually August 3-6, 2020.

**2020- 95 Resolution** approving a purchase order in the amount of \$110,557.00 to Environmental Design Group for consulting services involving the Community and Economic Development Department. Trustee Schulte moved approval; second by Trustee Koellner. Roll-call vote: Trustee Dressler, aye; Trustee Koellner, aye; Trustee Schulte; aye.

**Discussion** regarding landscaping for the roundabout at Hametown and Ridgewood Roads. The Copley Volunteer Group is still interested in the project and would like to move forward. The project had stalled due to the COVID-19 virus. Mrs. Marshall stated she would get an update from Summit County to see if they would let the volunteers take over the maintenance of the garden area. They would like to replace the flag pole before the end of 2020 and do the landscaping in the spring of 2021. A letter was received from Kathy Manghillis, a resident near the roundabout, inquiring if anything was going to be done to improve and maintain the circle.

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## **New Business**

Trustee Schulte spoke about getting the speed limit lowered in the area of Ridgewood between Cleveland Massillon Road and Medina Line Road, adding many residents have contacted him regarding lowering the speed limit to 35 mph. Residents have witnessed many traffic accidents as well as near misses, which could have been prevented and voiced concerns over backing out of their personal driveways. Trustee Schulte is also very concerned about the site distance and many curves of the road itself, adding speeding vehicles make that stretch of road very unsafe. Trustee Schulte said he would rather handle the situation with Summit County now rather than wait until someone is hurt or dies in another accident.

Chief Mier stated it is a difficult place to set up radar due to the curves and site distance. He suggested putting an officer on a motorcycle in that area because a police car would not be able to park anywhere to monitor the passing cars.

Administrator Janice Marshall stated a traffic study was completed in 2018 which included a traffic count as well as data on the speeds of the vehicles in that area. Tim Boley from the Summit County Engineers office stated the primary indicator on an appropriate speed is an evaluation of the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile which indicates the typical driving speed. Indicators revealed 45 mph as an appropriate speed limit for that area. Fairlawn Heights, on the other end of Ridgewood Road, is a residential neighborhood located in the City of Fairlawn, therefore allowing the City to determine the speed limit in that area. Mr. Boley advised the Ohio Revised Code differs in a Township and believes it is outdated, suggesting the Board lobby legislature for a change.

Trustee Schulte requested that Mr. Boley research having the speed limit decreased to 35 mph, followed by Trustee Dressler requesting a new traffic study of the area.

**2020- 96 Resolution** requesting the Summit County Engineer to conduct a traffic study to determine the feasibility of reducing the speed limit on Ridgewood Road, west of Cleveland Massillon Road an up to Medina Line Road. Trustee Dressler moved to approve; second by Trustee Koellner. Roll-call vote: Trustee Dressler, aye; Trustee Koellner, aye; and Trustee Schulte, aye.

**Discussion** about portable radar signs and residents requesting them. Scott Ferguson of 3585 N. Sunnyfield requested a portable radar sign to be placed on N. Sunnyfield. Chief Mier advised he would relocate the sign from Ridgecrest to this area. John Lucas of 4593 Ridgewood also requested a sign due to the large amount of pedestrians vs. speeding vehicles in that area.

Mr. Mitchell stated Ridgewood Road is a County road and therefore he will contact Summit County to request a mount for the radar.

Judy from Judy's Ice Cream is requesting approval to set up her business in the circle during one of the weekends in July. The Board will review the request and discuss at the next Board of Trustees meeting.

A request from Google Street View to film inside the Town Hall for the Webb application that is available to the public was approved by Trustees Koellner and Dressler with Mr. Loudan conducting a tour of the building.

Trustee Koellner proposed that a Resolution be drafted requesting the City of Fairlawn to use Rothrock Road as a detour for traffic when construction commences on Cleveland Massillon Road. Tim Boley, from the Summit County Engineers office, suggested sending it to the County of Summit and the Ohio State of Transportation. Trustee Koellner's concern is that too much traffic would be going through residential areas if the County decides to use Ridgewood Road as one of the detour options. Chief Bower stated there could be an impact on emergency services and travel to Copley Place would be delayed. Trustee Schulte requested Mr. Boley's support through the County when speaking with representatives from Fairlawn. The pre-construction meeting will be held on June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020.

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~~2020- 97 Resolution~~ approving a Resolution be sent to the City of Fairlawn, Summit County, and the State of Ohio requesting that Rothrock Road Extension be used as a detour route during the construction on Cleveland Massillon Road. Trustee Koellner moved to approve; second by Trustee Schulte. Roll-call vote: Trustee Dressler, aye; Trustee Koellner, aye; and Trustee Schulte, aye.

Chief Mier requested that Mr. Boley assess the northbound lane in the area of 167 Medina Line Road as there is a steep drop off with numerous accidents there in the last several months. Mr. Boley stated the county has already been out there and the short term fix will be to extend the berm for more shallow of a drop off. The long term fix will be to tear up and replace the road.

### Executive Session

Trustee Dressler made a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss benefits of employment in the Community and Economic Development Department and the Fire Department. Second by Trustee Koellner. Roll-call vote: Trustee Dressler, aye; Trustee Koellner, aye; and Trustee Schulte, aye.

A five minute recess was called; the session began at 8:45 p.m.

Trustee Dressler moved to reconvene at 9:05; second by Trustee Koellner; all ayes.


Trustee Koellner made a motion to increase the wage scale to \$27.36 per hour for the Code Enforcement Officer; second by Trustee Schulte; all voting aye


### Adjournment

At 9:06 p.m., with no further business to come before the Board, Trustee Dressler moved to adjourn, second by Trustee Koellner; all voting aye.

Approved by:

Respectfully submitted:

  
Scott D. Dressler, President

  
Linda J. Peiffer, Fiscal Officer