

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

THORN TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES

REGULAR SESSION

Held: May 10, 2023

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The Board of Trustees of Thorn Township convened in regular session from 5:00 P.M. to 6:04 P.M. in the Township Hall. Trustee Boring called the meeting to order with the following members and visitors present:

Members:

Billie Dearlove	Present	Richie Boring	Present
Richard Wilson	Present	Robert Coleman	Present

Visitors: Anna Cox, Sterling Krout, Traci Sturgill, Brad Blain, Gina Kaetzel, Dave Cox, Kari Stevens, Dale Brusse, Jenny LaRue, Terry Fischer, Tom Jenkins, Teresa Whipkey, Lynne Snider, Tom Rogers, Karen Rogers

Fiscal Officer Report:

- Approval of April 12, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes
- Approval of April 20, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes #1
- Approval of April 20, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes #2

Motion: A motion to approve the April 12, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes was made by Trustee Boring and seconded by Trustee Wilson. **Votes were:** Richie Boring; Aye, Richard Wilson; Aye, Robert Coleman; Abstained.

Motion: A motion to approve the April 20, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes #1 was made by Trustee Coleman and seconded by Trustee Boring. **Votes were:** Richie Boring; Aye, Richard Wilson; Aye, Robert Coleman; Aye.

Motion: A motion to approve the April 20, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes #2 was made by Trustee Wilson and seconded by Trustee Coleman. **Votes were:** Richie Boring; Aye, Richard Wilson; Aye, Robert Coleman; Aye.

- Fiscal Officer Dearlove submitted the Fund Status, Receipt Report, Payment Report and Fire Department Payroll Report and the April 2023 Bank Reconciliation Report. She advised that on the bank reconciliation there was a .58 cent adjustment for a bank processing error that they will adjust and fix.
- PRD-Nest at Buckeye Lake: Fiscal Officer Dearlove reported that as you all are aware from the e-mail received from our Zoning Inspector Ed Corns, the Nest developer has decided to withdraw the Nest PRD Application in full and advised that they have decided not to pursue any further with the development. Fiscal Officer Dearlove advised the board that Thorn Township has spent \$17,110.00 with G2 and V3 Companies on this Nest project and since they have decided to withdraw the project this money will not be reimbursed back to the township. Just something to keep in mind if this comes up again.

Motion: A motion to accept the application withdrawal from the Nest was made by Trustee Wilson and seconded by Trustee Boring. **Votes were:** Richie Boring; Aye, Richard Wilson; Aye, Robert Coleman; Aye.

- Buckeye Lake Trail-Letter of Support and Resolution- Fiscal Officer Dearlove stated that she had a question about section #5 on the resolution that was sent to her from Mark Shonebarger, and asked if this meant there would be a cost involved for the township with these signs? Terry Fischer gave a brief explanation of the wording in section #5 of the resolution and stated that there would be no cost to the township for the signage.

Motion: A motion to approve the resolution including section # 5 for the Buckeye Lake Trail was made by Trustee Boring and was seconded by Trustee Coleman. **Votes were:** Richie Boring; Aye, Richard Wilson; Aye, Robert Coleman; Aye.

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Trustee Reports:

Trustee Boring: Reported that the new tractor is here. Nothing further to report.

Trustee Wilson:

- Reported that Shelly Company has finished paving Township Roads 391 and 94.
- Stated that he talked with Perry County Engineer Kent Cannon today and they are getting ready to start up Chip & Sealing so we need to look at what the township can do this year. A brief discussion was held. Fiscal Officer Dearlove stated that she does not have those figures yet. She asked if they knew how many roads or miles they had in mind to do? Trustee Wilson stated that once they get the figures from her they will just have to take a look at what roads they can do.
- He asked Fiscal Officer Dearlove if they had the \$500.00 sign money available this year? He stated that they need to get a couple signs. She stated yes it is available, go ahead and get the signs that they needed.

Trustee Coleman:

- Reported that he submitted and was granted the "Goose Permit" for the Kayak Park. He stated that they have done one so far. It goes from March to June 1st.
- Reported that the Branding Committee meetings have been successful. They have picked out two logos' and will pick the final logo next week; this will be for a regional logo.
- Attended a BLRC meeting; Perry County Commission Scott Owens was there and reported that the county received the Brownsfield Grant in the amount of \$75,000.00 and used this grant money to remove the old sewer plant on Honey Creek Road. Reported that a Licking County commissioner at this meeting reported that a solar panel outfit was moving into their county to build solar panels.
- Reported he met with Jeff Comer who owns 3XP Tours that does Kayak Tours and child safety classes. He would like to know if he could do Kayak tours and the safety classes at the Kayak Park? He also has an Ice Cream truck and would like to sell ice cream at the park. A brief discussion was held. They decided that he can do the kayak tours and safety classes but he cannot have his ice cream truck at the park selling ice cream.
- Reported that he sees that the Village of Thornville Mayor is here tonight, he said that he did receive a phone call from them regarding a township levy for the Thornville Pool. He said my question is, can the township put a levy on the ballot for something that is in the village and not in the township? This topic was discussed later in the meeting under public comments.
- Reported that Buckeye Hills Regional Council has approved the multi-use trail on Township Road 358 in the amount of \$75,000.00. He reported they also approved a side walk project in New Lexington for \$43,834.00.
- He reported that he has received several e-mails from Mr. Eberts who lives in Fireman's Park. Trustee Coleman's suggestion is to send these e-mail over to our attorney to look at them. Trustee Wilson stated that he has received various complaints from Mr. Eberts also. Mr Eberts' concerns are about water running across his property; about a weed that is growing there and wants the township to take care of them, and several other concerns and complaints. Fiscal Officer Dearlove will send a copy of the emails received from Mr. Eberts to the Township attorney for review.

Department Reports:

Zoning Inspectors Report:

- Zoning Inspector Ed Corns was not in attendance at tonight's meeting but submitted his monthly reports.

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Fire/ EMS Report:

- Chief Weekly presented his monthly reports.
- Asked for approval to hire Ryan Guenther to fill the vacant full-time firefighter/paramedic position.
- Received a \$10,000. Grant from the Fellers Foundation and will be used for replacement of fire hose.
- Finished the spring cleaning at the station.
- Reported he and Fiscal Officer Dearlove completed the medicare paperwork, this is to receive EMS funds from Medicare.
- Received a free 16' boat & motor. This will provide from response from this side of the lake. They are now working on dock access for the warmer months.
- Reported that he will be attending Command Officer Boot Camp next week.

Motion: A motion to hire Ryan Guenther as a full-time firefighter/paramedic was made by Trustee Wilson and was seconded by Trustee Boring. **Votes were:** Richie Boring; Aye, Richard Wilson; Aye, Robert Coleman; Aye.

- Proposal for a \$5,000 stipend for full time employees who do not take health insurance. Chief Weekly explained that if they offer this option for employees to opt out of taking insurance it will be a savings of \$22,000.00. A brief discussion was held.

Motion: A motion to approve a stipend of \$5000.00 for full time Fire Department employees who opt out of taking health insurance was made by Trustee Boring and was seconded by Trustee Coleman. **Votes were:** Richie Boring; Aye, Richard Wilson; Aye, Robert Coleman; Aye.

Public Comments:

Mayor Gina Kaetzel, Village of Thornville: Gave a brief presentation including some history of the Thornville Pool. She stated that the pool is now at a point that it cannot be opened. She said that they have received a couple of estimates to replace the pool. One was at 1.8 million and the other at 2.3 million dollars - this includes bringing the pool up to code. She stated what they are asking is for Thorn Township to go in with the Village of Thornville and place a 2 mil levy on the ballot this fall to replace the pool. She explained this would have to be done by the township as it would be a township wide levy. The levy would be for 5 years. She stated to answer Trustee Coleman's question as to whether is legal, she stated that the Village of Somerset and Reading do this for their pool. Fiscal Officer Dearlove asked how will this work, who will manage the pool? Mayor Kaetzel stated that the village would run and maintain the pool. She said they would have to get a loan, which Village Administrator Traci Sturgill has talked with Peoples Bank and the loan rate will be at 6.25% for 1.5 million dollars. She said that the village has \$500,000.00 to contribute to the replacement. Trustee Wilson asked if the pool made any money? Mayor Kaetzel stated they are happy if it breaks even, they have had to take money from general fund to pay the last paychecks for pool employees. Trustee Wilson stated that he thinks the township needs to take this to their attorney and make sure they can even do this. Trustee Boring thanked Mayor Kaetzel for her presentation and information on the pool. He stated they will take their request under advisement and get back with them.

Teresa Whipkey: Thinks the pool is a great asset for the community.

Sterling Krout: Said for a community to thrive they need a place for families to be able to go to and have fun, be together and he feels the pool provides this place for the residents of the community. He stated, put the levy on the ballot and let the residents decide if they want to keep the pool or not.

Tom Jenkins: Asked if this levy will drop off after five years? Mayor Kaetzel stated yes it would, it is not a continuing levy. Mr. Jenkins also thanked Trustee Wilson and Jason for fixing his corner.

Lynne Snider: Asked if the township had something in their zoning requirements about mowing? She stated that the field beside Schein Brite Daycare needs mowed. Trustee Wilson said that he would get with the owner and ask them to mow it.

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Tom & Karen Rogers (14611 Township Road 1062): Said they have a petition for the closure of the alley that runs between two of their lots. Trustee Wilson said that he will have to take a look at the paper work they have and go from there. Trustee Boring said the township will have to pass a resolution first before it can go down to the county.

Jenny LaRue (Perry County Health Department): Said that she came this evening to make sure that the township knew that the grant from Buckeye Hills and from ODOT was awarded for the Multi-Use Trail on Township Road 358.

Kari Stevens: Said she is in favor of the levy for the pool. She said she attended the pool in the past and would hate to see it go away. She asked if there might be grants available that the Village of Thornville could get to help pay for the new pool? Mayor Kaetzel stated yes there are some grants available.

Dave Cox: Said he has seen in the past few years where area pools are having staffing and life guard shortages. He said maybe they should look at putting something else in that would not require employees. Maybe a splash pad in that would require no life guards.

Jenny LaRue: Asked at our last meeting, did the township vote for accepting these funds for the Multi-Use Trail. Fiscal Officer Dearlove said do you mean for the township to handle the funds, no they did not. Trustee Boring stated that his understanding is that ODOT will handle everything 100%. The township will only be the governing body. Fiscal Officer Dearlove said she does not have capacity for handling the funds for that project.

The board reviewed the alley closure paper work submitted from Tom & Karen Rogers. A brief discussion was held.

Motion: A motion to approve accepting the application for vacating the alley between the lots of Tom and Karen Rogers was made by Trustee Wilson and was seconded by Trustee Boring. **Votes were:** Richie Boring; Aye, Richard Wilson; Aye, Robert Coleman; Aye.

Meeting Adjourned:

With no further business to discuss, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 6:04 P.M. by Trustee Boring and seconded by Trustee Coleman. **Votes were:** Richie Boring; Aye, Richard Wilson; Aye, Robert Coleman; Aye.

Billie Dearlove

Richie Boring

Richard Wilson

Robert Coleman

All of the formal actions of Thorn Township concerning and relating to the adoption of resolutions and/ or motions passed at this meeting were adopted in a meeting open to the public, in compliance with the law, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.