

Minutes of February 23, 2016

Record of Proceedings

Regular meeting of the Washington Township Board of Trustees was held at the Washington Township Administration, 6200 Eiterman Road, Dublin, Ohio, on February 23, 2016, at 6:30 p.m. Meeting was called to order by M. Charles Kranstuber, Chair.

Roll call – Mr. Charles Kranstuber, Chair, - Present
 Mr. Gene Bostic, Vice Chair – Present
 Ms. Denise Franz King, Trustee – Present

Oath of Office:

The Washington Township Trustees administered the Oath of Office to the following employees:

Matthew Scarbury – Captain
 Jason Mack – Lieutenant
 Christopher S. Soteriades – Full Time Fire Fighter/Paramedic
 Evan Will – Full Time Fire Fighter/Paramedic
 Michael Altonmare – Deputy Fire Marshal
 Neil Cline – Fire Inspector
 Chad Hamilton – Fire Inspector

Items Not On The Agenda:

Mr. Victor Steinfelds, resident of 5153 Hayden Woods Lane, Hilliard, OH, 43026, (The Woods at Hayden Run) was present to inform the Board of gun shot damage to his property and the continued shooting of guns from neighbors to the back of his property. Mr. Steinfelds read the following letter to the Board;

My wife and I have been a resident at this address for over five years and during that period our home has been struck by bullets coming from properties located less than 500 feet away. On one occasion the bullet went through my neighbor's sun room window. On another occasion the bullet striking our home merely missed my granddaughter's head while standing outside our home. I have attached a picture of that bullet hole and would like to read the attached report given to the Sheriff by my Granddaughter.

Both of these instances, which involved bullets striking our home, are a matter of public record as they were reported to the Franklin County Sheriff's office. The name of the person shooting at that time and his address of 4826 Cosgray Road, Hilliard, OH, was identified by the Deputy Sheriff who investigated the shooting that almost struck my granddaughter. To our dismay we were told by the Deputy Sheriff that until the law is changed they are powerless to stop this shooting in Washington Township

I have been a gun owner all my life, along with many of my neighbors, and when we choose to shoot we go to where it is safe away from homes. We do not go into our backyard and shoot bullets that occasionally strike the homes of our neighbors because the law allows. We do not set-up target backstops and represent to officials that we are our shooting in a safe responsible manner while knowing some of our bullets are hitting our neighbor's home.

Gun shooting emanating from the backyards of Cosgray Road is becoming a daily occurrence and we live in fear after having two bullets hit our home that the next bullet may find one of us. In this day and age it is incomprehensible that citizens living in a great community such as Hilliard must live in fear of being struck by bullets from persons living in a district protected by antiquated gun laws.

The Deputy Sheriffs responding to our reports of gun fire share our frustration that they are powerless to act under the current laws and also share our concern that this is a fatality waiting to happen.

Given the gravity of this situation, we ask that the Board of Trustees of Washington Township join with us in pursuing a change in law that will protect all citizens of Hilliard from this gun fire. We respectfully ask that you join us in petitioning our State Representative Mike Duffey of District #21 and Stephanie Kunze of District #24 who represent the adjoining Districts impacted by this serious problem, as well as State Senator Jim Hughes of District 16, to sponsor a Bill that will bring this problem to end.

Thank you for allowing me and on behalf of the concerned residents of our community The Woods at Hayden Run, to bring this matter before the Washington Township Board of Trustees. The statement by Mr. Steinfelds Granddaughter was also read and appended to the minutes. #2016.02.23.001

An email was also read that was sent to State Senator Jim Hughes regarding the same.

#2016.02.23.002

Washington Township's Attorney Mark Landes of Isaac Wiles, was present to state legally what the Township can do regarding the discharge of firearms and with this issue, which the Township is prohibited to act on or pass a resolution regarding this issue. The Township does not make the laws; only the General Assembly can act upon this and change the law. Attorney Landes stated the law as follows regarding this: Ohio Criminal law states that "[n]o person ... shall knowingly ... discharge a firearm at or into an occupied structure ... "R.C. #2923.161(A)(1). Under R.C. #2901.22, "[a] person acts knowingly, regardless of purpose, when the person is aware that the person's conduct will probably cause a certain result or will probably be of a certain nature."

Several other residents (Mr. Frank Latella, Ms. Marty Grote,) addressed the issue and stated their concerns as well.

State Representative Mike Duffey of District #21 was present and stated he has been researching the issue and stated there is no pending change slated in the law regarding the discharge of firearms but he will continue to follow up and will be in contact with Franklin County Sheriff's Office and the City of Hilliard.

A discussion was held and the Board directed Ms. Sara Ott, Township Administrator, to draft a letter of notice to land owners in the Unincorporated Area surrounding The Woods at Hayden Run, addressing the concerns of this meeting and to inquire if there are other issues known of within the Township.

Approval of the Minutes:

Motion by Mr. Bostic, seconded by Mr. Kranstuber, to approve the meeting minutes of December 15, 2015, as presented. Motion passed.

#2016.02.23.001

Motion by Ms. King, seconded by Mr. Bostic, to approve the meeting minutes of February 9, 2016, as presented. Motion passed.

#2016.02.23.002

Approval of Bills, Payroll and Transfers:

Motion by Mr. Kranstuber, seconded by Mr. Bostic, to ratify the bills for the Township, and to include all now and then certificates, dated February 15, 2016, in the amount of \$70,559.05. Motion passed.

#2016.02.23.003

Append #007

Motion by Ms. King, seconded by Mr. Kranstuber, to ratify the electronic bills for the Township, and to include all now and then certificates, dated January 2016, in the amount of \$1,344,119.26. Motion passed.

#2016.02.23.004

Append #008

Motion by Mr. Bostic, seconded by Mr. Kranstuber, to ratify the payroll for February 5, 2016, in the amount of \$8,773.96. Motion passed.

#2016.02.23.005

Append #009

Motion by Mr. Kranstuber, seconded by Ms. King, to ratify the payroll for February 12, 2016, in the amount of \$395,319.44. Motion passed.

#2016.02.23.006

Append #010

Community Garden:

Motion by Mr. Kranstuber, seconded by Mr. Bostic, to direct the Township Administrator to enter into an agreement to provide a water source to the Community Garden in an amount not to exceed \$23,000 (twenty three thousand dollars). Motion passed.

#2016.02.23.007

Executive Session for Personnel Matters:

Motion by Ms. King, seconded by Mr. Bostic, to adjourn into executive session for the discussion of Personnel Matters per the request of the Township Administrator and per the Ohio Revised Code Section #121.22 (G)(1) at 8:30 p.m. The roll was called on and all members of the Washington Township Board of Trustees that were present voted aye. Motion passed.

#2016.02.23.008

Reconvened:

Meeting reconvened at 8:40 p.m.

Adjourn Meeting:

Meeting of February 23, 2016, adjourned at approximately 8:40 p.m.

Mr. Charles Kranstuber, Chair

Ms. Joyce E. Robinson, Fiscal Officer