

ISLAND CREEK TOWNSHIP

APRIL 11, 2023
REGULAR MEETING

The Board of Trustees of Island Creek Township, met in regular session, with roll call as follows:

Sam Grafton: Present

Ralph (Bub) Grimm: Present

Brian Applegarth: Here

And Fiscal Officer, Darla Van Fossen, and Jeff Brown, attorney.

FINANCIAL PORTION

The Fiscal Officer read a list of bills being approved, and summaries of the Payroll, Utilities, and Truck Payments.

Several Bc's were approved. Motorola Solutions, for the Fire Dept. grant. Park Expenses, and one for repair and maintenance. PO'S for the Auditor of State were also approved.

REGULAR PORTION

Bub moved to accept the March minutes, Brian second. All in favor.

Brian moved to accept the March Special Meeting minutes, Bub second. All in favor.

Sam moved to accept the March Financials, Bub second, all in favor.

ROB HERRINGTON-WINTERSVILLE FIRE DEPT., and SEVEN RANGES DISTRICT

Rob explained that he, Brian Applegarth and Jeff Brown, met with Attorney Chip Comstock who specializes in joining Fire Districts, and ballot issues. He explained the process. One of the things that came out of the meeting that's been misunderstood is, when you go into a District, once those Boards vote to accept, they impose the tax, not the Township. The actually taxing process is by the district.

Rob contacted the County Auditor to make sure they have the information to create two taxing districts, because the Township can't take any action until that's identified. Rob provided them with the street data, and has had multiple conversations with them. It's a work in process. They haven't given him a time line.

The only other issue is if the Township is going to make Seven Ranges an issue on the ballot then the Township has to put a 6 mill levy on the ballot in that area only, that would match what they have in the district. And then if it passes turn around and vote to have that area go into Seven Ranges. Seven Ranges can't put it on the ballot, the Township has to. If the Township votes to go into Seven Ranges, if they accept it, that's done and the tax issue becomes their problem. They can then impose the tax, they could also put it on the ballot but most likely won't.

Right now, it's just a work in progress.

Brian Applegarth explained that as far as TEMS, we need that information from the auditors to continue. Rob also explained TEMS is a 2 mil Levy, Seven ranges 6. But we are going from 5 mil currently to 6 and TEMS from 1.5 to 2. It's not like we are going from zero to 6.

The ballot piece of this is another issue because it's with the Board of Elections. It will cost more to place on the ballot. For the Auditors, there's nothing that lines up with it, Edison districts don't. As far as the mapping tax Districts the auditor suggest Island Creek/ TEMS and Island Creek/ Seven Ranges.

If they estimate what part of the taxes come from their area (Wintersville) it is somewhere between 18 to 20% of tax income.

So, if you look at that for the other Departments, that is close to what would come out of the total levy funds.

Sam ask if we could get this done before June (TEMS) There are some legality's issues. We may have to have special meetings.

SCOTT BELCASTRO-TREBEL LLC

Scott was present to explain the aggregates program. Tonight, specifically the Natural gas program.

Scott added this was the first time he got to see the chairs which he donated to the Township. Scott briefly explained the program and residents can opt out at any time. The first thing Scott ask the Township was to sign an updated agreement, mainly because the rates move so fast, if they quote things at 10 AM it may be gone by 1PM, so this agreement helps Scott to be able to lock in good rates.

Also, an updated Authorization. This allows them to obtain an eligible customer list. Every two years they have to get the certification renewed. They can handle that now with the updated agreement.

Scott briefly explain the gas rates going from .39 cents for raw utility gas, and it went as high as .91 cents. The market corrected itself and its at a low rate, he recommends to go with a fixed rate o.589 per ccf. Through may of 2025.

Bub moved to accept the addendum to the master agreement with Archer Energy, Brian 2nd, All in favor.

Scott briefly explained that the Electric will need renewed most likely next month. If he can call with a good rate, he can lock in with the EMA agreement.

Sam moved to approve the EMA Agreement, second by Bub, All in favor.

Scott will email the copies to the Township.

FAIR HOUSING

John Barnes, Carl White and Zaiere Chester were present to explain Fair Housing Month.

John was the chairman of the Ohio Valley Fair Housing. They are the representative if you have any issues, they will take care of you. Carl was the consultant from Columbus Ohio. He has 40 years of experience. The newest member present was Zaiere Chester. Carl explained that Fair Housing is a Federal, State, and Local law. Fair Housing has been in place since 1968. It protects people. If you can afford to live in a certain place, then you have the right to live there and not be discriminated against. It covers everyone who is a citizen. The banks also have laws they have to follow when loaning for housing. The Federal Law and the Ohio Law cover the citizens. Disability is one of the highest complaints they have now. They left pamphlets for everyone to have. They will be having a speaker on the 17th of April at Steubenville High School at 9:45 and one at 10:45, from the Attorney Generals office.

OTARMA- BILL LUCAS

Bill was present to review the OTARMA insurance which is up for renewal. There's only been one change to the program, the policy use to have a three million cyber liability coverage, it was lowered to 1 million. There were very view claims on this. On other coverage, statistics show that three million liability coverage is what Townships need. Bill briefly went over the Major coverages of the Policy.

Bub explained the updates on the shelter house. Bill will do a walk through at the park, and the garage, to recheck the coverage. The Trustees will review the Statements of values, the property statement of values, and Schedule of covered vehicles. Any changes or updates will be emailed to Bill. The Township will receive a 2023 capital Distribution check of \$673.41. The annual Contribution for 2023-2024 is \$15,244.00. This is a slight increase from last year, but items were added, and cost replacements were adjusted.

Bub moved to accept the policy renewal of OTARMA, Brian second. All in favor.

FEMA SLIP 381

They will be working tomorrow to replace the road base, the steels all in, concrete is in. They have to dig down and remove the contaminated soil and repack and continue. Shawn Smith ask what contaminated soil is, it was explained that anything that was cracked up old blacktop that

wasn't compacted into the ground properly. As soon as it can be blacktopped they will blacktop.

JB Green Team

Still on for June 1st, and we will apparently be taking tires.

FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Pottery Addition and Pleasant Hill still had a few questions.

Toronto representative said they never received an email. The correction of Volunteer to City of Toronto was made. Brian was waiting to hear back from the Toronto Chief on any thing else. Brian will ask Jeff to call and go over it with him.

(Jeff had to leave) Brian will review with Jeff their concerns and questions.

MOWING QUOTES

Sam recused himself from this portion of the meeting, Vice Chairman Ralph (Bub) Grimm took over the meeting. The Township received one unopened mowing quote from Grafton Lawn Care.

Bub opened and read aloud:

2023 Season Mowing & Trimming Community Building	\$250.00 per mowing
2023 Season Mowing & Trimming Cemetery	\$ 200.00 per mowing
2023-Season Trimming Brays Chapel Cemetery	\$ 70.00 per trimming

Fully Insured.

Bub moved to accept Grafton Lawn cares quote, Brian second. Both in favor.

FIRE LEVY

The Township received a letter from Richmond Volunteer Fire Department requesting the Township put on a 3.5 Mil replacement Levy for Fire Protection. Shawn ask if part join Seven Ranges and TEMS do the current Levies carry on. Sam explained, the Fire Levies would. Brian explained that the EMS Levy would go away. If we understand correctly Seven Ranges taxation district would take 18 to 20% of those remaining levies. Richmond worded it as a replacement Levy. The only one that can be replaced is the newest Levy on for 5 years. The others are on continuous. So, you can't replace a continuous with a 5 year one. The amount of 3.5 mils, was decided at a fire meeting, with all Departments. Shawn Smith ask then out of the new 3.5, they would do the percentage split. Ryan Boyd answered just between Richmond, Toronto, Pleasant Hill and Pottery, if Wintersville area joins Seven Ranges. Brian Boyd also stated we could do tonight and not need all Departments. That is correct but the Township wants to be sure all Departments are in agreement. Shawn ask if all three issues could be on the ballot in

November, Seven Ranges, TEMS, and the replacement Levy. Possibly unless a Resolution is passed to join TEMS.

Brian moved to begin the process of placing a 3.5mil replacement to the 1 mil current levy. Bub second, all in favor.

RECREATION GRANT

The Township received a letter from the County Commissioners regarding recreation grants. Bub would like to request additional items for the Community Building to make it more assessable for groups to meet here and possibly in the future be able to rent out for events. We will put together a request for the April 30th deadline.

ROAD IMPROVEMENT

Bub had a list of roads as follows:

Chip & Seal:

Back Bone, single, 0.4 miles

Seven Creeks to 2nd creek single, 0.6 miles

Back of 375, single, 0.4 miles

Back of 428, Double, 2.6 miles

Blue Hallow & Sims, single, 1.3 miles

The single ones, we doubled last year. Hopefully if we give them another coat, we might be able to skip a year or two going forward.

Total 5.3 miles

Blacktop:

Maplewood, .4 mile

4 Seasons, base and top .4 mile (may use ARPA Funds since it's a community improvement.)

Jewett Rd to Briar Hill, .5 mile

Ludlow, .4 mile

Mellwood, bottom half, .3 mile

East Rd., .4 mile

582 & 380, .4 mile

428 from towers (where chip & seal ends), .2 mile

We don't have a price on Blacktop yet. We are waiting on the County to lock in their price and then that's what the Township gets it for.

As far as the budget for blacktop, it's hard to give a dollar amount until the FEMA slip is complete and the LMI Grant project is finalized.

We can start on the chip and seal and then once we get a blacktop price start on those projects.

SEVEN CREEKS

Sam talked with the County concerning a bridge down on Seven Creeks. The estimate is 93,000.00. The County can do it if we purchase supplies. If the County does it, it would be cheaper than that. This is a box culvert 40ft x 10ft x 4ft high.

We don't know if this project needs to be bid out if the County is doing it, so Sam will get the project details and ask the County concerning the bid process.

PARK RESOLUTION

The Resolution concerning the royalties earned at the park was re-worded last April for the funds to be deposited in the Park Fund to help with the expenses at the Park. The fund is now able to start to pay for some expenses. The mowing for just the Park, (Community Building) will be taken from that fund along with the Tractor repair. Everyone Agreed.

ODOT SALT BID

Sam moved to join the ODOT Salt bid program, requesting 300-ton, Bub second. All in favor. The resolution will be sent in.

MARGARET LEBEDZINSKI

Margaret ask, who determines what roads get fixed? The Pot Holes. Road 382 definitely needs patched like yesterday. Bub explained that we will relay the message to the Road Foreman and he'll put it on the list.

LIQUOR LICENSE RENEWAL

A notice to renew the Liquor License on two ridge road, AL POST 557, Stevens Christian was received. The Trustees have no problems with that.

STOP SIGN

It was brought to Sam's attention that people are going up School House Road and into the Trailer Court. A stop sign needs up coming out of the Trailer Park because obviously the Township Road has the right of way.

DON BROCKWAY (possibly)

He ask why we were doing Backbone again. Bub explained that it is a single chip, basically helps with dust control. Mr. Brockway stated that's a lot of waste of money for 3 houses. Bub explained there's a lot of places all over the Township like that, to be honest with you. For the last three years traffic was using Backbone because Briar hill was closed.

BUDGETARY

Now that the real estate tax check has been received, Sam moved for the Trustee paychecks now be 10% General 90% Road and Bridge. The Road employees will now be taken from the Road & Bridge Fund also. Second Brian. All in favor.

Brian moved to accept the following supplemental Appropriation

TO: 1000-120-313-0000 UAN Fees \$204.00

FROM: 1000-410-319-0000 Other Professional Services

There being no further business brought before the Board,
Brian moved to adjourn, Bub second. All in favor.