

September 24, 2024 Regular Meeting
Bethel Township Trustees
3333 Lake Road
7:00 p.m.

Welcome, pledge and prayer: Led by Trustee Alec Ashbaugh at 7:03pm

In Attendance: Trustees Chris Crowley and Alec Ashbaugh, Fiscal Officer Stacey McKenzie, Fire Chief Jim Snyder, Road Supervisor Bryan Stastny, Township Administrator Rhonda Ledford.

Announcements: Clark County has elevated the area to a Level 3 drought. As a result, all open burning is strictly prohibited until further notice.

The township has been contacted by McAfee Heating & Air Conditioning to attend the ribbon cutting and open house for the new facility located on Dayton-Lakeview Rd. This is the stated to be the largest indoor temperature-controlled facility in the country. Dates will follow.

Thursday, September 26th is the Clark County Township Association meeting. It will be held at the Windy Knoll Banquet Center at 6:00pm.

Monday, September 30th is the joint board meeting between Bethel Township, The City of New Carlisle and Tecumseh High School. This event will be at Tecumseh High School at 6:00pm in the Arrow Conference Room. Trustees did not have anything to add or discuss at the time of the meeting.

Citizens Comments Related To The Agenda: None

Trustee Ashbaugh moved to accept the agenda. Seconded by Trustee Crowley. R/C: All ayes.

Trustee Crowley moved to pay the bills, check numbers 68255 through 68278, and ACH deductions 1303-2024 through 1351-2024 in the amount of \$52,837.54. Seconded by Trustee Ashbaugh. R/C: All ayes.

Trustee Ashbaugh moved to dispense with the reading and accept the minutes from the regular meeting of September 10, 2024. Seconded by Trustee Crowley. R/C: All ayes.

OLD BUSINESS:

Administration:

Trustee Ashbaugh motioned to accept the quote from Victory Electric for \$1,938.00 to install outside lighting on the Bethel Township Community Center. This will be paid for from the ARPA fund. Seconded by Trustee Crowley. R/C: All ayes.

Road:

Trustee Ashbaugh stated that the ongoing crack – seal project had slowed briefly due to much needed rain.

Police:

Nothing to report with the exception of the cruiser information included in New Business.

Fire:

Nothing to report.

NEW BUSINESS:

Administration:

Trustee Ashbaugh asked Fiscal Officer McKenzie if she could provide a monthly status overview report to better project budgeting concerns. F.O. McKenzie replied that she could absolutely provide a Revenue & Appropriations Status Report, as she had previously submitted when she submitted payment listings to the Trustees. She had stopped submitting the reports several months ago.

Trustee Ashbaugh stated that he would like an ongoing discussion regarding the budget to implement framework with what we are spending, specifically where Road Funds are concerned. Trustee Ashbaugh suggested a Preliminary Appropriations review before the first of the year. F.O. McKenzie again stated that the Revenue & Appropriations Status Report would adequately satisfy the request but suggested that the second week of January would be more appropriate to evaluate, after everything had been paid for the year. Trustee Ashbaugh agreed.

Fire:

Chief Snyder introduced Lt. Peake, and Firefighter Printz who wished to discuss a planned beggars night event at the fire station. They would like to have games in the bay and possibly a haunted house, as well as candy, contests, safety table and other activities. They were hoping for support from local deputies and Ohio State Patrol, who had expressed interest in being involved. They asked if the Trustees would assist in donations for prizes and activities. Trustee Crowley said he would assist in any manner needed and would attempt to get his Rangers to attend as well. F.O. McKenzie and Trustee Ashbaugh also agreed to contribute to prizes and assistance. Firefighter Printz said they would like to advertise the event on social media, to include the Bethel Township Facebook page. Administrator Ledford and Trustees agreed to do so when dates and times were finalized. Administrator Ledford informed that the Township has plenty of tables to assist with activities and contests.

Trustee Crowley made a motion to submit an order to purchase a 2027 Ford 550 4x4 Braun Chief XL medic unit at a cost of \$368,879.00. It will take approximately three years for production to be completed, and cost does not include decals, lettering or radios. Seconded by Trustee Ashbaugh. R/C: All ayes.

Police:

The Deputy's 2021 cruiser is currently in the shop for repairs. A quote from P&R Communications for the push bumper had been approved, but there will be an additional quote for the pit bumper. Trustee Crowley explained that the push bumper is required for the additional of the pit bumper.

Road:

Trustee Ashbaugh made a motion to approve the purchase of a 2012 Chevrolet Silverado 2500-HD with 102,000 miles and a snowplow attached from local businessman, Michael Stute for \$15,000.00. Seconded by Trustee Crowley. R/C: All ayes.

Trustee Ashbaugh stated that he had requested an additional quote from Victory Electric to update the previous quote submitted for the road garage. They have responded that they will provide a revised quote within the next few days.

Special & Work Sessions:

Trustee Crowley stated that he will be unavailable next week. Trustee Ashbaugh said that with the absence of Trustee Brown and Crowley, there was no need to schedule a work session for Tuesday, October 1st.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

Trustee Ashbaugh commended the donated fence and work of the students from ROTC, FFA and Jr. Optimist Club. He said they did a fantastic job removing the fence from the posts and stacking the wood. Trustee Ashbaugh asked Road Supervisor Bryan Stastny if his crew could remove the existing posts and remove the stacks of wood. Supervisor Stastny said they already had started working on it.

Resident Sam George with "Support of Better Bethel" said he had been trying to set up a social media account for the organization and hoped to get flyers produced and distributed this week. Mr. George said he wanted to get signs made, but a local sign company proposed \$10.00 per sign, and that expense was out of their budget. Likewise, large signs, which cost \$300.00 plus where too expensive. Trustee Crowley suggested we contact the High School to inquire if we could get student participation to produce larger signs.

Wes Wagner, the new president of the former MedLake Ball Association introduced himself and briefly discussed their frustrations at the actions and subsequent public reactions to the previous association president. Mr. Wagner stated that the previous president had taken the money from the association and had not returned any of it to date. Additionally, donated items within the concession stand, such as a refrigerator, had been removed. (Although the disabled mower was returned that day.) Mr. Wagner discussed the fact that they were aware that the electric bill (paid for by the Township) was excessive, and that they had made every attempt to turn off any air-conditioning units and unused appliances to reduce that bill. He inquired if the name of the association could be changed in an attempt to rebuild trust with the community and Trustee Crowley addressed the question to say that would take paperwork, but that it was not a decision that could be made or advised by the Trustees. Administrator Ledford reminded the new president and Trustees that a new connecting walk path would be completed by next year, which would enhance the appearance of the park. Trustee Crowley also suggested contacting the Deputy to address potential legal avenues that Mr. Wagner and the association may want to pursue.

Road Crew employee had questions regarding the Bethel Township Employee Handbook. Administrator Ledford advised that Trustee Brown had been working on the revision and could address his questions at a future meeting. The employee continued to point out several discrepancies within the Handbook that had not been addressed or adequately revised to comply with State and Federal Law, to include the definition of full time and part time employee status, vacation and jury duty policy. Trustee Crowley and Trustee Ashbaugh attempted to explain that the Full Time and Part Time Guidelines are Federally mandated and that they would have to review the discrepancies with Trustee Brown. Additionally, they informed the audience that employee Heath Jones had been assigned to review the known discrepancies and was in the process of re-writing the handbook.

Road Supervisor Bryan Stastny mentioned that the required Fraud Training had not yet been completed, as the crew had been unable to access the training from the Road Garage. F.O. McKenzie suggested that if employees were unable to access the training at home, they could come into the front office and use the computer in there. Trustee Crowley also reminded the audience that the training was accessible from their smartphones.

Supervisor Stastny requested permission to use the Township dump truck to deliver donated gravel for the ball park, in coordination with Mr. Wagner. Trustees agreed, stating that the park is technically the property of the Township and therefore would not present an issue of Township equipment or manhours.

Supervisor Stastny discussed other issues to include additional arm mower quotes and the removed boards from Funderberg Cemetery. Trustee Crowley said that it was not necessary to discuss all of these items within the township meeting, and that they could be addressed during operational hours.

Trustee Crowley moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:49pm. Seconded by Trustee Ashbaugh.
R/C: All ayes.

Absent

Nancy K. Brown, Chairperson

Alec R. Ashbaugh

Alec Ashbaugh, Vice Chairperson

Chris Crowley

Chris Crowley, Member

Stacey L. McKenzie

Stacey L. McKenzie, Fiscal Officer

Minutes taken and transcribed by Stacey McKenzie, Fiscal Officer