

Clinton Township Board of Trustees – Regular Meeting  
February 27, 2023 – 7:00 p.m.

All Board members answered roll call – Trustee Dan Schmitz, Trustee Dennis Baugher, Trustee Jim Distel, and Fiscal Officer Jennifer Bates.

Guests: Steve Welter, Chris Hafley, Sharon R., and Pat Bishop.

Correspondence: Seneca County Township Association – meeting invitation

The minutes of the regular meeting held February 13, 2023 were read and approved.

Fire Chief Chris Hafley reports that he received a proof of loss from OTARMA for Engine #32 and is unsure if he should sign it. Trustee Distel says we should check with Joe Worland.

Chief Hafley also reports that Bascom Communications gave him 2 different quotes to get internet installed in the new fire station building. The first quote is for us to purchase all the new equipment for \$2,208 plus our monthly \$84 service fee. The second option is to lease the equipment for a total monthly service fee of \$101. The Board agrees that leasing the equipment is a better option because Bascom Communications will replace equipment that is obsolete or not working.

Chief Hafley says he went to Keller's and talked to Jim about Engine #32. They are working on finishing and straightening the roof and hope to get the roof and hood painted this week. Trustee Baugher says they are trying to have everything done by Friday except for the roll up doors.

Chief Hafley also reports that he went out to 475 Huron St. today and spoke to Walter Fitch about the open burning. Mr. Fitch claims he is being harassed and says if it continues he will get a lawyer and sue the Trustees, the fire chief, and everyone else involved. Chief Hafley also told him that he would send him a letter with all the details of the law. He also pulled a form with the sheriff's office so they have it on record that he talked to him about open burning. Chief Hafley also says Tiffin's chief says there is no law saying they cannot burn within a mile of the city limits. However, resident Sharon R. says on the Ohio EPA's website there is a chart indicating that for a municipal corporation with a population of over 10,000, open burning is not allowed within a 1-mile boundary outside of the corporation limits. Sharon also says she's within 150 ft. from Mr. Fitch's fire pit and the law says it cannot be within 1,000 ft. She is mainly concerned about the clouds of foul-smelling smoke coming into her and her neighbors' homes. Chief Hafley says the sheriff's office has a note that if the fire department is dispatched to Mr. Fitch's address that a deputy gets dispatched also because he is going to be even more upset than he already is.

Chief Hafley says Trustee Distel and he attended a meeting today about the solar eclipse happening on Monday, April 8, 2024, that is expected to bring an influx of 200,000 people to Seneca County. They asked State Representative Gary Click if the State is going to provide any money to help. Chief Hafley says Tennessee was blindsided by a prior eclipse where roads were blocked with traffic and emergency vehicles were unable to get through to respond to calls. Trustee Distel says they said at the meeting that people will turn a 2-lane road into a 4-lane road and drive anywhere including farmer's land to get to where they want to be. Problems will likely be worse when everyone tries to leave at the same time. Officials are also saying that internet will probably crash. Chief Hafley says schools are already closed on Monday and Tuesday and Trustee Distel says we may want to reschedule our Monday night township meeting. Trustee Distel says officials are going to invite and encourage people to come for the whole weekend to help alleviate traffic problems and Chief Hafley says the State's slogan is "Come early, stay late." Chief Hafley says retailers who receive their normal shipment of water will be out in no time. Area officials are going to break into groups to help plan for specific areas like public safety. Seneca

County is within a 24-hour drive from pretty much anywhere in the country. The entire eclipse event will last 4 hours, with 4 minutes of total blackness.

Chief Hafley reports that the fire department has had 76 runs year-to-date, compared to 72 runs last year.

Resident Sharon R. says to follow up on the recording studio, she checked online and the LLC business is registered to Mr. Fitch's address.

Resident Pat Bishop alleges that someone is still talking about Fred Bishop's dismissal from the fire department and says if they did not agree with how it was handled, they should have stood up for him. She says this is a private matter and should not be being discussed publicly. She says people are asking questions about what is happening in the township and on the fire department and suggests that we publish a newsletter. She also says it is unethical for one public official to bash another public official over the matter of the guardrail that was installed on township property. Her and her family just want it to stop. Trustee Distel says he has not heard anything being discussed and apologized for whatever she has heard. Trustee Schmitz agrees that it needs to stop.

Zoning Inspector Welter reports that he issued a fence permit on 8<sup>th</sup> Ave. He had a call from a resident at Honeycreek about stoning an easement for Ohio Power and did not know if it was on his property or not. He is actually looking for access to a pole building he wants to build on his property, and Zoning Inspector Welter told him he would need to apply for a driveway permit with the County, but they usually only allow one driveway per property. Zoning Inspector Welter also spoke to Herb Faber who says he has a topographical map showing where the floodplain is, and says that house is not on it. Mr. Faber is selling the house to the resident on land contract and the resident wants to build a garage for storage. Zoning Inspector Welter says a variance would still be needed because of the setbacks.

Trustee Distel reports that we did receive the OSS grants for fencing at both recycling drop-off locations and received fence permits from Zoning Inspector Welter. Lucius Fence tentatively thinks they can get to it by the end of April. The grant requires it to be completed by August 1<sup>st</sup>.

Trustee Distel also reports that he attended the joint EMS meeting and says they are primarily working on job descriptions, legal paperwork, and disaster planning. He says everyone is getting along and working together, and he will plan on continuing to attend each month.

Trustee Distel says he needs a proxy to attend the NCOR-COG meeting on March 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am at NCOESC. He will be on vacation and cannot attend. Trustee Schmitz says he will attend. Trustee Distel also says he will not be at our March 13<sup>th</sup> township meeting.

Trustee Distel made a motion to approve the 2023 permanent appropriations as presented by Fiscal Officer Bates. This was seconded by Trustee Baugher. Mr. Schmitz – yes, Mr. Distel – yes, Mr. Baugher – yes.

Trustee Baugher tells Chief Hafley that Joe Worland agreed to serve on the Firefighters dependency board. He also reports that he spoke to Chris Hemminger last Friday, and the new push-button locks are going to have to get sent in and replaced. He also spoke to Steve Bell at M&B Asphalt who asked if we still want to pave the township house parking lot. They are currently scheduling for the end of April. The Board agrees they still would like to pave it. Trustee Distel says we should talk to Chad Everhart about striping it and Chief Hafley says he tried to call him today to get a quote including striping in the bays for the trucks.

Trustee Distel also says with the building complete, he thinks we should send thank you letters to the people who served on the building committee.

Trustee Schmitz says he talked to Brian at the county ODOT garage again and he has not heard anything from the district about signs at the fire station entrance.

Regarding the building, Trustee Distel says to let him know when we are ready to have the cameras installed. Chief Hafley says they need Clouse to move the semi-trailer closer so they can unload cabinets and the pool table. He also says the fire department is working on assembling tables in the training room and putting up the TV and smart board.

Bills were presented to be paid:

12675	Christopher Hafley	wages	\$284.30
12676	Andrew Kimmet	wages	\$1295.43
12677	James Lang	wages	\$136.47
12678	Stephen Welter	wages	\$242.40
12679	Dennis Wilkinson	wages	\$45.00
12680	AEP Ohio	road lights	\$442.12
12681	Columbia Gas of Ohio	station #2	173.61
12682	Delta Dental Plan of Ohio	road worker dental premiums	\$27.14
12683	Sound Solutions of Ohio LLC	Kenworth batteries	\$302.40
12684	Staples	printer toner	\$46.89
12685	John Deere Financial	supplies	\$32.46
12686	Colonial Life	accident & disability insurance policies	\$137.88
16-2023	OPERS	January withholding	\$2341.85

There being no other business to come before the Board at this time, Trustee Distel made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m., seconded by Trustee Baugher. Mr. Schmitz –yes, Mr. Distel – yes, Mr. Baugher – yes.

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Dan Schmitz, Ch., Trustee

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Dennis Baugher, Trustee

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Jim Distel, Trustee

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Jennifer Bates, Fiscal Officer