

## **Minutes of Leesburg Township Regular Meeting Monday, October 4, 2021**

The Trustees of Leesburg Township met in a regular session.

Members present: Chairman Jeff Robinson, Co-Chairman Kevin Dotson, Bill Lowe, Fiscal Officer Mellisa Weigand, Assistant Fire Chief Riley Hall and Zoning Inspector Ben Laird.

Others in attendance: Deputy Bell, State representative Tracy Richardson and Chris Richardson.

Jeff Robinson called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. The trustees reviewed the September 7, 2021 meeting minutes. Bill made a motion, seconded by Kevin, to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Old Business:**

Jeff reported there were approximately 80 people that showed up to the informational solar farm meeting. The meeting was very well received and Jeff was thanked for organizing the meeting. The majority of attendees expressed they were against solar farms.

The Ford 550 dump truck we ordered is ready for delivery. It will be delivered to the firehouse within the next few days. The cost of the truck is a little less than expected because the lift gate was cheaper than quoted.

### **New Business**

Mellisa reported the costs of having a full-time fire staff since August. The fire staff is getting paid from the ARP Fund right now. We discussed the cost from the fire fund going forward once the ARP funds are depleted. We need to factor these costs into a possible new levy.

Riley informed the board of a pig roast fundraiser the fire department planned on having in November. If they are not able to have it in November it may be in December.

Ben had two permit applications last month. He reiterated to the board he is retiring from his position as zoning inspector as of December 31, 2021. Nigel




Pence will start shadowing Ben to fill in the position. Ben appreciates the ball field progress and suggested new bleachers if there is extra money in the budget.

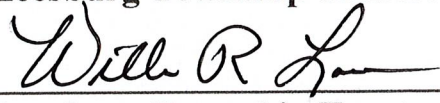
Tracy Richardson, State Representative, along with her husband Chris, attended our meeting after her son's soccer game. She wanted to stop by and touch base with the Trustees on any issues she can assist with. Jeff informed her of the happenings regarding the solar panel farm discussions. There were only three people that attended the solar panel meeting at the firehouse that had positive ideologies for the solar panel farms. Tracy questions why farmers in this area would want to spare their soil rich land for solar panels. Many of the farmers she has spoken with are willing to lease their property because they don't have anyone to take the farm over. The biggest concern of farmers with land surrounding solar panel farms are drainage issues. Tracy wants to be able to empower the Trustees more through HB52. The townships must be able to hold solar panel owners accountable with specific guidelines they need to meet according to township specifications. The conversations need to be had now to set parameters with the solar companies. Jeff suggested we allow one company to start a solar farm and observe the outcome before the state allows many to operate.

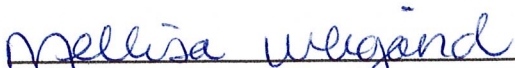
Bill asked Tracy why trading in a lawn mower for a new one has different tax parameters than trading in a car for a new one. When trading in a car the sales tax is based on the difference in cost. When trading in a lawn mower the sales tax is based on the full cost of the new mower. She will investigate and get back to Bill with an answer.

The F.O. circulated warrants, purchase orders, vouchers and receipts for trustee approval. Kevin made a motion, seconded by Bill, to adjourn the board meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Leesburg Township Trustee**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Leesburg Township Trustee**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Leesburg Township Trustee**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Leesburg Township Fiscal Officer**

