

Minutes of Leesburg Township Regular Meeting

Monday, October 2, 2023

The Trustees of Leesburg Township met in a regular session.

Members present: Chairman Bill Lowe, Vice-Chairman Jeff Robinson, Kevin Dotson, Fiscal Officer Mellisa Weigand and Zoning Inspector Nigel Pence

Others in attendance: Chief Merrick, Rod Goddard, Ben Laird, Keith Engel, Chuck Husted, Deputy Swayne, Chad Wilson, Jim Cox, Tracy Richardson, Chuck Jackson (Samsung) and Thayne Grey (see attached sheet for first half of meeting with public participation)

Bill called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The trustees reviewed the September 5, 2023 meeting minutes. Jeff made a motion, seconded by Kevin, to approve the September 5, 2023 minutes with correction of Darwin Clem spelling of last name. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

The meeting started in the bay area of the firehouse with Samsung answering questions from residents. There were more than 70 residents in attendance that showed up to voice their concerns and hear some answers. Many were looking forward to looking at the map of the properties that would be affected by the solar fields. Two representatives from Samsung were answering questions to the best of their knowledge. They informed the crowd there will be two public informative meetings at North Union High School on November 1st and November 8th 6-8 p.m.. These meetings will fulfill their obligation to the public before submitting their application to the Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB). There will be a final layout map and discussions of the benefits to the townships at those meetings. They answered questions regarding drainage and set-backs. The set-backs will most likely be 150' from the edge of a public road, 300' from residents house and 50' from the property line of a non-participating parcel. The solar panels will be fenced in with an agriculture fence that is wildlife friendly and 7' high. This is Samsung's first solar project in Ohio. They previously created solar fields in California and Canada.

Leesburg Township hosted an informational meeting September 25, regarding solar panel fields, for the residents to ask more questions. There were close to 200 people in attendance for the meeting. Kevin DeWine was the representative for Samsung at the time answering questions, he has since resigned from the Richwood Solar Project. There were also two members of the Ohio Power Siting Board in attendance to answer questions. Once there is a case number open for the project residents will be able to write letters and make public comments to the OPSB.

The sewer project in Magnetic Springs has a due date of January 1, 2024 for the plans on pump location.

Bill made a motion, seconded by Kevin, to accept the amounts and rates as determined by the budget commission and authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the county auditor. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Ben asked Deputy Swayne to patrol Maple Dell for speeding vehicles around the detour area. The Deputy said they have been trying to patrol the detour areas more frequently.

Jim Cox has headstones that are sinking at Hopewell Cemetery. Tom Chapman was the cemetery sexton at the time and poured the footers for the headstones. He is coming to the Trustees asking for a monetary reimbursement for the \$2172 he had to spend in repairs. The Trustees asked Thayne to check to see if the Township has any responsibility for this situation.

Fire Chief Merrick informed the Trustees of the number of calls for the previous month. He asked if the Trustees wanted to make any adjustments to the fire district contract before we locked in on the one-year anniversary.

Nigel said there is a BZA meeting October 5 for a variance of a pole barn for height. They want to build the pole barn over 2' taller than the zoning rules allow. Thayne is also going to research our next steps for the house on Sandusky with all the cars in the yard. He will send a letter from the prosecutor's office to the resident.

Tracy Richardson was at the meeting to discuss some of the state operating budget highlights. Chad Wilson, Village of Magnetic Board President, attended the meeting and shared that he created a website for Magnetic Springs and would be willing to do the same for Leesburg Township.

Mellisa went to the Auditors office and filed paperwork for the parcel of property the township owns, next to the firehouse, to receive property tax exemption. Mellisa is working on getting a quote from CIMS for cemetery software.

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

Leesburg Township Trustee

Leesburg Township Trustee

Leesburg Township Trustee

Leesburg Township Fiscal Officer