

## **Record of Proceedings – April 24, 2017**

### **Washington Township Trustees, Warren County, Ohio**

The regular meeting was held with Schaefer and Williams present. President Schaefer opened the meeting and we recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Minutes from the last meeting were read and approved. Receipts of \$165,436.76 since our last meeting were reported and were filed for audit. Warrants 10233 – 10245 and Vouchers 20, 21 and 22-2017 totaling \$12,274.39 were presented for approval. Williams made motion, seconded by Schaefer to pay bills as presented. Motion carried.

#### **FROM THE FLOOR:**

- Michael Kobes of Corwin Road wished to discuss the noise issue at Little River Café. He brought a petition with 18 names of others who cannot enjoy their homes due to the excessive noise. Calling the sheriff's office to complain has not been that effective as it takes so long to respond. He also mentioned speeding in that area, and understands that is strictly an issue for the sheriff's office. He presented a piece of proposed legislation on Noise Disturbances to the Trustees, which he said was based on ORC 505.172. Trustees said they would forward to the Prosecutor's office for a legal opinion. Mr. Kobes stated that when the Café was owned by the previous owner, that he did not have these noise issues. He also feels that the music has never been this loud.
- Todd Holmes, owner of the Little River Café, spoke up and admitted that he previously had an employee issue regarding the outside noise, but that has been remediated. The Café is endeavoring to be a good neighbor, and the business has been there a long time. Outside music is shut off at 10pm. The sheriff's office has made it clear that they can be called at any time regarding disturbing the peace. Mr. Holmes also pointed out that there is often noise even in rural areas, citing farm equipment, etc.
- Mark Florence, attorney for Mr. Holmes, spoke up and is concerned about the vagueness and enforceability of a possible noise control ordinance.
- Mike, manager of a business in Lebanon, visits Little River Café quite often. They have hung up acoustic blankets in an attempt to keep the sound from traveling. They are cleaning up the surroundings and maintaining them.
- Charles Lang of Ross Road made a point about decibel levels. Decibels drop off rapidly with distance. It was made clear that if a noise ordinance is instituted, it would only affect businesses with a "D" liquor permit, not private households.
- Mark Burris, previous owner, spoke up and said that he felt music has been at a reasonable level and was reasonable on Saturday evening when the sheriff's office was called.

#### **ROADS REPORT:**

From our Roads Supervisor, Allen Stanforth:

Allen has been busy berming on Strout Road, where the road is closed. He is widening about a foot. He will need to replace two culverts. A resident asked if he could contract with the township to fill cracks in his driveway when Allen is crack sealing. Unfortunately, the answer is no, as we are not allowed to do so.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Nothing at this time.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

We received the first half real estate taxes in the amount of \$155,113.

As there was no further business, Williams made motion, seconded by Schaefer to adjourn. Motion carried.  
Meeting adjourned at 8:42pm.

Paul Schaefer  
Trustee President

Karen Doney  
Fiscal Officer

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