

Record of Proceedings – June 28, 2021
Washington Township Trustees, Warren County, Ohio

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 PM by Scott Hagemeyer, with Schaefer, and Fisher present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The minutes of May 24, 2021 were mailed to the Trustees prior to the meeting for review. Warrants 11392 through 11424 totaling \$163,002.66 were presented for approval.

Mr. Schaefer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fisher to approve the minutes for the May 24, 2021 regular meeting. Hagemeyer, aye; Fisher, aye; Schaefer, aye. Motion passed.

Mr. Fisher made a motion, seconded by Mr. Schaefer to approve the bills. Hagemeyer, aye; Fisher, aye; Schaefer, aye. Motion passed.

Present for the meeting were: Tim Books, Tonya Lusby, Dale Lusby, Annette Parnell, Skyler Lusby, Layne Steele, Makayla Sechrest, Tabitha Reynolds, Alexa Stewart, Blaise Underwood, Dean Worley, Lori Worley, Michael Rutherford, Lynda Becker, Charles Lang, Casey Reynolds, and Trent Kotch. Also present were, Barry Riley and Sheriff Larry Sims (Warren County Sheriff's Office) and Bruce McGary (Warren County Prosecutor's Office).

Mr. Hagemeyer gave a little background on the last trustee meeting (May 24, 2021), stating that several residents had been present to voice their concerns about the volume of music, patrons parking and driving on the bike trail, false alarms, and the conduct of the customers at Little River Bar and Grill. He stated that since the last Trustee meeting he has gone by the business and observed, parking once to listen. The band was very loud at times, but very good, and patrons were relieving themselves in the parking lot and on the road. He thanked the owners of the bar and grill for attending the meeting and hopes that an agreement between owners and residents would be possible.

Dale and Tonya Lusby (owners of Little River Bar and Grill) along with Attorney Blaise Underwood were present to hear and address any concerns from residents and the board. Tonya stated that Porta Pots have been put out for patrons to use.

FROM THE FLOOR:

- Blaise Underwood 1682 Corwin Road, attorney for Little River Bar and Grill, stated that the owners are here to listen to concerns and that they are not above compromise. Up until a few weeks ago they did not know a problem existed. He states that the owners are trying to keep their business afloat during times of Covid. The Federal Government gave Little River Bar and Grill money to move the venue outside for public health benefits. They are not trying to be disrespectful of the neighbors, and cannot control what patrons do after leaving their establishment.
- Dale Lusby 4985 Oregonia Road, owner of the Little River Bar and Grill, stated that once they heard of the complaints, they decided to move Thursday night karaoke inside because they believed this to be the loudest event they have. They have live bands outside (weather permitting) Friday night from 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM and Saturday night from 7:00 PM to 11:00 PM. Their biggest events are the Hill Climb and Blue Grass Days, each occurs once a year.
- Mike Rutherford 1411 Corwin Road, stated that past owners held the music inside and was not as loud.

- Dean Worley 1503 Corwin Road, stated that the karaoke was really bad, but has improved since they moved it inside, but there are still noise issues.
- Alexa Stewart 5527 Oregonia Road, stated that it was Mr. Rutherford's horn that woke her up not the karaoke.
- Lori Worley 1503 Corwin Road, stated that they tried to approach the owners but they are not approachable.
- Mr. Hagemeyer stated that the Prosecutor's Office and the Sheriff's Office were asked to attend to explore the options of the board. He would like for all parties involved to work together to settle this matter.
- Mr. Riley, from the Warren County Sheriff's Office stated that the number of calls has reduced since the last Trustee meeting. He asked if there could be a noise level that is reasonable for everyone.
- Sheriff Sims, Warren County Sheriff's Office said that the Sheriff's Office does not wish to cause trouble for the owners, but they also want to support the neighboring residents. State statute states that their office can take legal action, if they ask the owners to turn the music down and they do not. If they have to come back again there may be charges. He stated that the neighbors have said that the volume has come down since the last meeting. He said it is hard to measure decibels of noise and that sound travels differently in different areas, but if he does a spot check and can't hear himself talking then it is too loud for the neighbors. He suggested that the owners stick to the hours stated here tonight for music and to try to reduce the noise level with curtains or some other form of noise reduction.
- Mr. McGary from the Warren County Prosecutor's Office stated that the "disorderly conduct" charge spoken about by Sheriff Sims, could be brought against the owner/owners. Or if they are not present the charges would be against whomever was in charge, for example the Manager on duty. He stated that in 2016 when this problem occurred the owner and the residents worked it out in a good neighborly way. The laws have not changed about this since 2016. If the board wishes they could adopt a sound resolution. At this time the Sheriff's Office can enforce a Disorderly Conduct (minor misdemeanor) charge, with fines applicable. If a resolution is created the charge would be a misdemeanor with fines and jail times. The resolution would not have to be based on decibels, which are hard to determine.
- Dale and Tonya Lusby stated that they will look into options to reduce the noise levels. They are constantly asking the bands to turn down their volume. They wish to keep their business alive and work with the neighbors to solve the problems.
- Mr. Underwood thanked the board for the way this matter was handled.
- Charles Lang of 6624 Ross Road stated that Mr. Stanforth checked out the drain pipes on Ross Road and asked if any progress had been made on the speed study.
- Mr. Fisher stated that the study had been done and is ready to send on to ODOT for review. A Resolution must be passed to request that the study be forwarded to ODOT. Mr. Hagemeyer presented Resolution No. 2021-06-01, A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION TO ESTABLISH A REASONBLE AND SAFE SPEED LIMIT ON ROSS ROAD.

A motion was made by Mr. Schaefer and seconded by Mr. Fisher to approve Resolution No. 2021-06-01.

Hagemeyer, yes; Fisher, yes; Schaefer, yes. Motion passed.

- Trent Kotch 1070 Ward Koebel Road stated that he had looked at the new website and suggests that we add Warren County to the home page due to there being several Washington Townships in Ohio. But the website is a big improvement. He asked if Mr. Stanforth striped Settlemyre Road. Mr. Schafer stated that the striping had been started by mistake by the surfacing company.
- Lynda Becker 6642 Ross Road asked if there was a process to opt out of the electric aggregation program. Mr. Hagemeyer gave her the number of the aggregate representative.

ROADS REPORT: NONE

OLD BUSINESS:

- The Trustees thanked Ms. Coffman for the work on the new Washington Township Website. And recommended that we update the meeting times, add the physical address of the meeting hall, and to make the update recommended by Mr. Kotch. Ms. Coffman will take care of these changes, and reported that the address to the website is WTWCOH.ORG or Washington-township.org.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Tim Books 2030 Middleboro Road asked about the phone for Washington Township. The Township does not have a phone. He suggested that the Trustees and the Fiscal Officer purchase phones for township use. Discussion followed.
A motion was made by Mr. Fisher and seconded by Mr. Schafer for the Fiscal Officer to purchase one administrative cellphone for the Township.
Hagemeyer, yes; Fisher, yes; Schaefer, yes. Motion passed.
- A motion was made by Mr. Schaefer and seconded by Mr. Fisher to return to conducting Trustee meetings twice a month, the second and fourth Mondays of each month, since the Covid threat is lessened.
Hagemeyer, yes; Fisher, yes; Schaefer, yes. Motion passed.
- Mr. Hagemeyer stated that he had been contacted by Mr. Schnipke from Warren County Economic Development concerning grant opportunities that may be available to expand internet services for rural areas. He will continue to work with Mr. Schnipke.
- A motion was made by Mr. Fisher to add the Juneteenth Holiday to the Road Supervisor's holidays. The official date for 2022 would be June 19th, but for this year Allen can use it on his current vacation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Schaefer.
Hagemeyer, yes; Fisher, yes; Schaefer, yes. Motion passed.
- Mr. Fisher reported that the CWJFD had 48 EMS runs and 24 Fire runs since the last meeting. And there had been two water rescues at Cowan Lake during the Memorial Day Weekend.

A motion was made by Mr. Schaefer and seconded by Mr. Fisher to adjourn at 9:45 PM.

Scott Hagemeyer
Trustee President

Sharon Coffman
Fiscal Officer