

Record of Proceedings – February 26, 2024
Washington Township Trustees, Warren County, Ohio

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by President Scott Hagemeyer. With Trustees Jason Fisher and Dale Settlemyre, Fiscal Officer Sharon Coffman, and Road Supervisor Allen Stanforth present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The minutes of February 26, 2024 were mailed to the Trustees prior to the meeting for review. Warrants 12239 through 12244 totaling \$5,347.25 were presented for approval.

A motion was made by Mr. Fisher to approve the minutes for the February 26, 2024 regular meeting, Mr. Settlemyre seconded.

Hagemeyer, aye; Fisher, aye; Settlemyre, aye. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Mr. Fisher and seconded by Mr. Settlemyre to pay the bills as presented.

Hagemeyer, aye; Fisher, aye, Settlemyre aye. Motion passed.

Present for the meeting were: Tim Books and Don Rohdenburg

FROM THE FLOOR:

- Mr. Rohdenburg asked about the Vesper Energy Company that was referred to in past Washington Township Minutes. Mr. Hagemeyer explained that the company is looking into the possibility of renting 4500 acres in Washington Township to install utility grade Solar Energy Panels down Wilmington Road from Interstate 71 to almost the Hagemeyer Horse Farm. 1500 of the 4500 acres would have solar panels installed of 150 megawatts. This would be the only large-scale solar project in Warren County.

All these properties are personally owned and the owners would have to agree to lease their land for 30 years with an option for 2 more 5-year periods in order for the project to move forward. This project is subject to the governing board of the Ohio Power Sighting Board which is a state ran program. Once an application is initiated to the board, public meetings and public hearings are held. Senate Bill 52 allows a seat for the President of the Board of County Commissioners and the Trustee President on that board.

The BOCC have a host of abilities to interact with the project. One is to pass a Resolution that would restrict a solar company from existing in any particular place, or to have Vesper Energy to call a public meeting. Once they have said meeting the BOCC has 30-90 days to revise, restrict or limit the plan. This would happen even before the company could even put an application in to the Ohio Power Sighting Board.

Mr. Hagemeyer attended the March 5, 2024 Board of County Commissioners meeting as representation of Washington Township.

Mr. Bruce McGary from the Warren County Prosecutor's Office was also present at the BOCC meeting. He presented his opinion of Senate Bill 52, explaining the legal options that are available.

Mr. Hagemeyer stated that after the BOCC meeting on March 5th he along with Dale Settlemeyre, Dean Tharr, Cindy Meyer from the Warren County Conservation District, Greg Meyer from the Warren County OSU Extension Office, and Matt Nolan, Warren County Auditor visited a 610-acre Vesper Energy site in Clermont/Brown County. The tour was hosted by Lindsay Workman from Vesper Energy.

Mr. Rohdenburg asked if the project would generate any money for the Township. All tax districts currently receive Property Tax Revenue from the property owners. Vesper Energy stated that they plan to make PILOT payment in lieu of taxes) in the amount of \$162,000 to Warren County, \$63,400 to Washington Township, and \$11,000-\$12,000 per acre (based on the project scale of 150 MW) to property owners once construction is completed. All PILOT revenue would be paid annually.

Mr. Settlemeyre stated that Vesper Energy would not have eminent domain in this and could not lease the property without owner approval.

ROADS REPORT:

- Mr. Stanforth reported that the motor has been installed in the Alamo mower and he will be taking it to Rob's Equipment to have him go over the hydraulic system and see if any problems need addressed.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Mr. Fisher attended the Warren County Health Department Advisory Council Meeting on March 5th at 5:30 P.M. The Annual Report was given and they spoke about the Water Pollution Program that helps repair residents' septic systems. Information on this program is located on the website. They also reported 2 upcoming Tire Recycle Events coming up, One on April 13 from 8 A.M. until Noon at Franklin Township, and one on April 27 from 8 A.M. until Noon at Harlan Township. Tires with rims or metal will not be accepted and if anyone has more than 10 tires they must be a registered scrap tire transporter.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Mr. Hagemeyer stated that the Board of Elections will be dropping off voting equipment this Friday the 15th and picking the equipment on Friday the 22nd.
- Mr. Hagemeyer read a letter from Warren County Telecom concerning the 911 Final Plan asking for a Resolution to approve or not approve the final plan. A motion was made by Mr. Settlemeyre and seconded by Mr. Fisher to approve Resolution No. 2024-06 Approving the Countywide 911 Final Plan.
Hagemeyer, aye; Fisher, aye; Settlemeyre, aye. Motion passed.
- Ms. Coffman presented Resolution No. 2024-05 adding \$60,000 to the 2024 Annual Budget in case there are any road repair emergencies or truck repairs. A motion was made by Mr. Fisher and seconded by Mr. Settlemeyre to approve the Resolution.
Hagemeyer, aye; Fisher, aye; Settlemeyre, aye. Motion passed.
- Ms. Coffman presented Resolution No 2024-04 Final Appropriations. A motion was made by Mr. Fisher and seconded by Mr. Settlemeyre to approve the Resolution.
Hagemeyer, aye; Fisher, aye; Settlemeyre, aye. Motion passed.

- A motion was made by Mr. Fisher and seconded by Mr. Settlemyre to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 PM.

Scott Hagemeyer
Trustee President

Sharon Coffman
Fiscal Officer