

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Newbury Township was called to order at 7:01 p.m., February 21, 2024 at the Newbury Township town hall. Chairman Bill Skomrock, and Trustees Greg Tropf and David Lair, Jr. were in attendance.

Also in attendance:

Ken Fagan	Fire Chief
Thomas Retych	resident
Jim Lang	resident
Jeff Munn	resident
Allison Wilson	Geauga Maple Leaf
Tim Charvat	resident
Dennis Pearson	resident
C. D. Boyd	resident
Steve Boughner	resident
Theresa Boughner	resident
Carole Bates	resident

Mr. Skomrock opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Fire Department Update: 30 calls so far in February.

Fire Station update: waiting for dry weather to finish pouring concrete parking lot in front. In the mean time they are moving in furnishings.

Road Department Update:

Will get quote on Lucky Bell on repairs
 Replaced parking lot lights at town hall
 Electric in town hall garage has been repaired.
 No Engine Brake signs have been installed.

Two estimates for recycling site. Miller brothers 25,670.00, asphalt 27,000.00. contractors will hold price for 30 days. Trustees questioned if the decision to table until next meeting. Comparison of square footage. Dept of material. Trustee Tropf opined that asphalt may not hold up as well in summer heat with the recycling trucks picking up the dumpsters. Mr. Skomrock and Mr. Tropf would like to see the paving completed before the Community Clean UP Day in June.

Mr. Skomrock moved to accept the quote for concrete. Mr. Lair seconded.

Voice vote: two ayes. One abstain.

Mr. Lair will submit application for DIG (recycling site grant) to Geauga Trumbull Solid Waste.

Mr. Lair stated that the township also has \$7400 still available for the security cameras.

Service garage roof replacement.

Two estimates. Mr. skomrock said that he needed more information to make a decision.

Trustees will table until next meeting.

3 Service Department employees went to Excavator Pipeline awareness class.

Mr. Zimperman, Mr. Mansfield, Mr. Hollis. Certificates will go in their files when they are received.

There is an EPA Scrap Tire grant. Can be used for existing tires that the service department has picked up along roadsides.

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Mr. Skomrock's Updates:

Leadership Geauga asked for a sponsorship of \$300.00 from the township. This was discussed at the February 7th meeting, but placed on hold to check with prosecutor's office for legal authority to do so. Mr. Tropf received an email from Linda Applebaum. Per APA trustees do not have the authority to donate public funds.

Sheriff Report: 197 calls.

Resolution 20240221-01

Resolution of Convenience for various roads.

OPWC grant can only be used for Pekin as it is a "through" road. Country River and Bass Lake will be on the schedule for 2024 paving, but are not eligible for OPWC grant funding.

Mr. Tropf moved to pass the resolution. Mr. Lair seconded.

Voice vote: three ayes.

Gauga County Township Association meeting.

Mr. Tiber sent a letter informing that Kyle Brooks, Ohio Township Association's Director of Government Affairs will be the Key Note speaker at the next meeting in April to discuss the proposal to take away the authority of township to make zoning regulations for their own communities. Trustees should inform fiscal officer of their intent to attend.

Independent Tree submitted quote for fertilization and spraying for fungus in crabapple trees.

Mr. Lair will review and give further information at the next meeting.

Ohio Dept of Health - No Vaping is included in the No Smoking regulations.

Chagrin River Watershed Partnership. Looking for direct contact and alternate. Mr. Skomrock will be direct contact. Mr. Tropf will be alternate.

Several township signs are down. Mr. Skomrock proposed replacing the missing signs. Will get quote from Designs by Diana. Mr. Skomrock will locate where signs are missing.

Revising Policy Manual. Trustees have tentatively agreed to move payroll from in house to PayChex. They offer Employee policy manual review and updating as an additional service. Fiscal officer will touch base with PayChex rep to revise service agreement quote.

State Audit confirmed that uniform service and personal use of township vehicle for commuting are both taxable benefits. Reporting of mileage for personal use of township vehicle should be at IRS rate. Employees will be informed of this correction payroll processing, as it will affect the federal and state taxes withheld on service department payroll.

Issue II recreational cannabis use.

Motion to issue a moratorium until laws are finalized in State House.

Mr. Skomrock moved for a moratorium. Mr. Tropf seconded.

Voice vote: Three ayes.

Fiscal Officer's Report:

Minutes:

Presented minutes from February 7th regular meeting. Fiscal officer sent drafts to trustees for review, Mr. Tropf moved to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Lair seconded the motion.

Voice vote: Three ayes.

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Mr. Tروف and Mr. Skomrock discussed pay rate changes for Service Department personnel. CDL class price at \$6,500.00 - \$9,000.00. This would have a four-year return on investment. Mr. Tروف will reach out to Chester, Munson, Auburn and Russell Townships for their pay scales. He will also ask about paying for CDL training.

Mr. Lair suggested contracting with the County Engineer's office for roadside mowing. Mr. Skomrock is not in favor of shared services. No decision was made.

Mr. Skomrock will check with Christian Cline's company able handling recruitment.

Mr. Lair update

NOPEC Energizing grant has a balance of 12,574 for 2023, and \$11,473.00 for 2024. Lighting for Oberland and Veterans parks cost \$28,000.00. Trustee will submit invoice as proof of payment, for partial reimbursement.

NOPEC Community Grant in the amount of \$1,500.00 for 2024. Will use for Car Show and free community concert.

Wreaths Across America.

Local group in Chagrin Falls is interested to honoring Revolutionary War veterans. Within Newbury Township cemeteries, there are eight Revolutionary War veterans. Six are interred in South Newbury and two are interred in Morton Cemetery. The group will purchase the wreaths and place them on the appropriate graves. Trustees agreed to program and hoped they could be in place before Memorial Day.

Mr. Lair tried to make contact with scouts, without success, for Newbury Center iron fencing to be painted. He will continue to reach out.

Bates family was in attendance to request a residential rate for Robert Bates III to be interred at Newbury Center. Long time resident who recently relocated to work in Florida. Trustees were in agreement to grant residential status.

Mr. Tروف updates:

H & M Landscaping sent in a quote for work at Oberland Park soccer fields. Mr. Tروف will contact Impullitti Landscaping to see if they would like to submit a quote.

A question if Les Ober will be using the park for maple tapping. There is still equipment, but it doesn't appear to have been used for a while. Also is he still interested in haying the fields at Oberland Park.

Mr. Fagan wanted to express his appreciation of the efforts of Mr. Tروف in helping the Fire Station get Spectrum to install internet wiring. He said that Both the Fire Department and Infinity Construction had struggled to get Spectrum to schedule installation.

