

A regular meeting of the Newbury Township Board of Trustees, was called to order on Wednesday, September 2, 2020 at 7:00 p.m., with Bill Skomrock and Greg Tropf were present at the town hall. Meeting was also available via Zoom. Mr. Quigley was not in attendance.

Mr. Skomrock advised those in attendance that per Ohio Department of Health guidelines, in person attendance would be limited to 10 persons in the town hall. He then opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Newbury Fire Chief Ken Fagan reported that there were 4 calls already in September, 51 calls in the month of August, and 396 calls Year to-Date.

Mr. Fagan submitted his request for COVID-19 PPE and specialized disinfecting equipment, along with the Letter of Assertion of Necessity, detailing expenses totaling \$12,621.15. Per Federal CARES Act guidelines, the township tentatively approved a sub-grant to the Newbury Volunteer Fire, Inc. The fiscal officer will prepare a sub-grant agreement, to be executed by the Newbury Township Board of Trustees and Chief Fagan. Should the Fire Department incur additional expenses prior to October 15, 2020, a second sub-grant can be discussed.

Mr. Fagan spoke regarding a proposed Fire Station addition. He would like to schedule a meeting with the trustees to decide how to go forward. Mr. Fagan had figures estimating a 10,000 square feet two-story addition at no more than \$260 per squarer foot, for total cost of \$2,600,000. He would like to discuss how to finance the project. Any decision needs Township Board approval to go forward. He has no figures for full time staffing. Fiscal officer will work on Bond Levy estimates.

Eagle Scout candidate Ben Terrill presented his proposal for his Eagle Scout Project. He proposed building 2 bocce ball courts at Oberland Park. He presented a list of materials as well as drawings. Project would be funded by donations. Total cost is expected to be about \$2,711. He asked for approval of the project and assistance from the Road Department to excavate the area. Will need to coordinate with Mr. Zimmerman, on availability of workers and equipment.

Mr. Tropf moved to approve the project. Mr. Skomrock seconded.  
Voice vote: two ayes.

Fiscal Officer presented:

**Supplemental Appropriation Resolution 20200902-01**

Increase appropriation in Gas Tax Fund  
2021-330-360-0000 by \$40,000.00

Mr. Tropf moved to approve the resolution additional appropriations. Mr. Skomrock seconded.  
Voice vote: two ayes.

Renewal Agreement with Middlefield Bank as deposit holder for the Township was presented. This is a standard renewal agreement for a period of Five Years. Middlefield Bank has been good to work with, and no reasons are apparent to change banking institution.

Mr. Tropf moved to approve renewal agreement. Mr. Skomrock seconded.  
Voice vote: two ayes

Agreement was signed. Fiscal officer will deliver to bank.

Doug Zimmerman gave an update for Road Department.  
2022 future project to include larger sections of Pekin Road, Bass Lake to Auburn and Auburn to Sperry.

He would like to meet with Shane at the Engineers office to apply for OPWC grant funds to offset costs of larger paving projects. Bill and Doug will set up a meeting with the Engineer's office.

Jim Stefancin, with the Park Board was in attendance. He stated that the Park Board would take care of installation of the benches at Veterans' Park. Wayne Mansfield took out a dead tree on the walking path. It was ready to fall and presented a potential cause of injury.

Trustee Tropf gave an update of the Suddenlink internet issue. Residents have been experiencing poor services, outages and broken lines. Mr. Tropf sent letters to the FCC and PUCO. He received replies from State Representative Diane Grendel's office as well as Senator Sherrod Brown's office. He included copies of those responses with his correspondence.

Sheriff's office update: 178 calls in the month of August.

Portlew update:

Letters were re-emailed in three groups, with certified letters mailed on August 17, 18 and 19. Per Ohio Revised Code 505.86, any parties in interest are entitled to a hearing, if the party in interest requests a hearing **within twenty days after the notice was mailed**. The Board must make an order deciding the matter within 30 days after a hearing, or 30 days after mailing notice to parties in interest. September 16, 2020 is last day to make order regarding property.

Mr. Skomrock opened discussion of zoning appointments. Two positions have expired terms. Both members are interested in continuing with their positions. Agreed to continue the following in their current positions.

Board of Zoning Appeals - Mary Lee Brezina  
Zoning Commission - Ed Deillus

Newbury Kiwanis Club historical marker: Carole Drabek will present a draft of proposed inscription. In her capacity with the bicentennial committee, she discovered a lot of interesting Newbury history.

AA group is asking for permission to return meetings to the town hall. Still limit of 10 person in attendance at one time. As soon as that restriction is lifted, the board will contact them to let them know.

Newbury School Property Task Force update: Kimya Matthews presented information that had been discussed at their last meeting.

Soccer club with 300 members is interested in using football field. Theater Guild/Curtain 440 is interested in using the auditorium. Task force has prepared a list of questions to be presented to West Geauga task force.

With regard to the Intermediate Building, what are the needs of the township? Zoning offices, meeting spaces, storage space.

Mr. Tropf asked how much are interested parties willing to pay for use of the facilities.

Ms. Matthews said that Dave Gifford, with the task force, is working on a cost analysis. He is working backwards to determine how much of the cost can be offset. Committee is looking into what type of financing might be available. How can the township and businesses both benefit. The Geauga County Library has interest in coming back once ownership of the building is established.

Greg Tropf stated that by leasing to Curtain 440 and soccer league, the township becomes a landlord.

Ms. Matthews stated that Curtain 440 is willing to share the auditorium space, for township activities such as Memorial Day, Fourth of July or other holiday presentations

What would be the cost to refurbish the building to township administration use? How much to create a community center?

Greg Tropf moved to go into executive session at 8:33 p.m. for the purpose of discussing employee wage compensation. Mr. Skomrock seconded

Out of executive session at 9:05 p.m.

Road Workers to receive 3% pay increase. First since 2017.  
Cemetery/Maintenance increase to \$16.00/hour. First since 2017.  
Zoning Secretary increase to \$18.00/hour. First since hired.  
Zoning Inspector increase to \$19.00/hour. First since hired.

Mr. Tropf moved to approve pay changes for zoning secretary effective for August 16, 2020. All other pay rate changes are effective September 1, 2020. Mr. Skomrock seconded.

Voice vote: two ayes

John T. Mansfield requested a residential rate for the purchase of a cemetery lot. Mr. Mansfield is a resident of Russell Township, and has not lived in Newbury Township in many years. The request was not approved.

**Payments approved prior to or at this meeting:**

217-2020	8/25/20	\$	166.08	Medical Mutual Of Ohio	C
34786	9/2/20	\$	82.33	Han's Freightliner of Clev	O
34787	9/2/20	\$	11,338.04	Cuyahoga Asphalt Materials	O
34788	9/2/20	\$	10,278.59	Cuyahoga Asphalt Materials	O
34789	9/2/20	\$	300.00	Patsy Keyes	O
34790	9/2/20	\$	110.78	John Boksansky - v	O
34791	9/2/20	\$	132.13	Dominion East Ohio Gas	O
34792	9/2/20	\$	928.40	Arms Trucking Co., Inc.	O
Total payments		\$	23,336.35		

Mr. Tropf made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Skomrock seconded, with a unanimous affirmative vote

Meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

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William Skomrock, Jr. - Chairman

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Glen Quigley - Vice Chairman

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Greg Tropf

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Beverly Sustar – Fiscal Officer