

# **LEROY TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE MEETING MINUTES**

The Leroy Township Trustees met in regular session on Monday, February 1, 2021 at 7 p.m., via a Zoom.

Present were: Chairman Chuck Klco, Rich VanPelt, Heather Shelton and Julie Himmelman, Fiscal Officer.

Guests: Assistant Zoning Inspector, Douglas Facemyer, Attorney, Ron Graham, Zoning Inspector, Noell Sivertsen, and Fire Chief, Mike Shoff.

Audience: Al Erickson, Dan Himmelman, Scott Kranstuber, Jamie Coulter, Vickey Doles, and Mark Molder.

Correspondence: The Lake County Health Department will hold their annual meeting in March through Zoom.

Lake County Land Reutilization Corp requested the Chair to review a list of properties on the Land Bank list. The school was the only property on the list from last year. Other properties were discussed.

An email was received from Pat Green regarding the grade of her driveway.

A letter awarding our NOPEC energy grant for \$6,073 was received. Discussion of its use will be made in new business.

**Minutes:** The minutes from the January 4, 2021 meeting was read. Heather made a motion to accept the minutes as read. Rich seconded and all were in favor.

## **Departments:**

**Zoning:** There was 1 permit issued for a garage on Painesville-Warren Road. The next court hearing for Mr. Mahr will be on Wednesday, February 3, 2021. Noell stated that she reached out to the attorney for Mr. Mahr a couple of times to set an inspection time. She has not heard from him. The Rasch case was reset for April 27, 2021. The storage container has been sold and Mr. Rasch asked if the court would allow them until then to have it removed.

The horse stable on Vrooman is for sale and Noell has been getting a lot of calls regarding the property. There may be another new home on Monte Drive Noell has been going in for office hours, and she has been working with Douglas. Dan has offered to help them learn the iWorQ software.

Noell has heard from a resident who would like to be the alternate for the Board of Zoning Appeals. Heather asked that the information be forwarded and she would reach out to him or her. The fiscal officer asked to be kept informed so that she can invite them to a BZA meeting if they are able to.

**Fire:** Chief reported that year-to-date there were 40 calls. There were 27 calls since the last meeting. 16 EMS, 1 Fire, 2 Service calls, 7 Good Intent, 1 False Alarm.

The department received a \$10,000 grant to upgrade some of their radios from the Ohio Fire Marshall.

Mike Brewer is being processed and should start Full-time on February 20, 2021. Firefighter Conte is going to work as a dependable part-time every A shift which will help with the schedule.

Chief Shoff would like a follow-up of raises for the firefighters and requests an effective date.

**Road Dept:** We have had one driver for about 10 days due to health issues. We were fortunate that we did not have any bad storms come through. Thompson Road Dept helped us out on Valentine, and Hambden helped out with part of Radcliffe as well. We are back to two people now.

**Parks & Recreation:** Heather spoke with Rec Board Coordinator, Brandi regarding the Bicentennial + 1. The committee will be meeting on the second Wednesday of each month at the community center with proper spacing of members and via Zoom if members would like to do so. She will get with Dan to coordinate if there is interest in zoom call-ins.

Brandi is working on a plan and will get with the Health Department for approval. Once that is complete, she will put information on the web page as well.

There is a board in place for softball this year. Heather spoke to Billy Averson about the softball program and Improvements to the fields and concession stand. The committee is working on the plan for the health and safety of the everyone, which will be reviewed by the Lake County Health Department. The concession stand is in need of some intense plumbing repairs which will cost approximately \$2,200 to \$2,500. They have the funds available to cover the costs. The committee is also considering a piece of equipment to take care of the infield.

**Cemetery:** Rich needs to get with Sharon regarding the columbarium niches. He will then get in touch with Jones Surveying.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Chuck met with an architect regarding improvements to the Town Hall. The estimate will include the costs to draw up plans for bathrooms on the north side that is handicap accessible from the inside and another accessible on the outside for road department use. He is looking for a CDBG grant for that. Chuck will meet with the County Health Department and EPA regarding the feasibility of either a septic system or holding tank.

#### **New Business:**

The fiscal officer presented updates to the budgets for approval.

It was noted that the funds carried over from year to year for the Softball program was from the monies collected from their program and not funded by the township. The committee had informed the fiscal officer of upcoming expenses and she added them to the budget for their use. Repairs \$3,500; Advertising - \$200; Miscellaneous - \$500; Equipment - \$4,500.

The health insurance for the Fire department was underfunded in error when the initial budget was presented and was increased to cover all 3 months in the temporary budget. The full amount was approved but a lesser amount was inputted and therefore needed to be corrected.

Chuck made a motion to accept the Fiscal Officer's recommended movement of the funds. Heather seconded and all were in favor.

Resolution 21-09: Rich made a motion to increase all the firefighter's wages by \$2 per hour, beginning with the pay period starting February 6, 2021. Heather seconded. Discussion was made. This is necessary to be more competitive with all other local fire departments. We are close to the bottom as it stands and will still be near the bottom with the increase. This increase will hopefully make it more attractive to cover all shifts and allow response times to stay up. The cost will be approximately \$52,500 for the year. Poll of the vote: Heather, aye. Rich, aye. Chuck, aye.

Resolution 21-08: Chuck made a motion that the NOPEC energy grant be accepted and that the funds be used in part for energy efficiency needs of the new bathroom project if we can get enough funding. Heather seconded and all were in favor.

Chuck made a motion to accept Resolution 21-07 where we request an advance on the Real Estate taxes collected by the county to cover expenses until the first payments for calendar year 2020 collected in 2021 can be collected and dispersed in March of 2021. Heather seconded. This is just a formality as the advance has always been given, but this requested resolution became necessary last year at the request of the Auditor's office. Poll of the vote: Shelton, aye. Klco, aye. VanPelt, aye.

Chuck stated that he had spoken to the Health Department regarding COVID-19 vaccines and gave an update. If you are in a group that is eligible for the vaccine, it is encouraged that you register for the vaccine and sign-up wherever possible.

Chuck would like to open the bidding process for the mowing of ballfields and cemeteries between April 15 and November 1, 2021, as needed and as weather allows and the maintenance of the flower beds at the Veterans' Memorial. The fiscal officer will advertise the bidding and create a page with details.

It was reported that the biggest need of the flower bed maintenance is regular watering. A suggestion was made to ask the community for volunteers to water once a week as needed. A few buckets and an old wagon could be obtained to carry water from the spigot to the beds if a few people could sign-up to regularly check on the plants.

The replacement of the mulch under the fire department sign with decorative stone and the condition of the South Meeting Hall door were discussed.

Chuck made a motion to pay all bills. Heather seconded and all were in favor.

Chuck made a motion to go into Executive Session with the township lawyer, Ron Graham.

**Audience:** No comment from the audience.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julie Himmelman