

# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of **MIFFLIN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES** Meeting

**Held**

**APRIL 7,**

**2008**

Chairman Spanovich called the Regular Staff Meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. with Mr. Angelou, Mrs. Stewart and the Fiscal Officer, Nancy White, present.

Also present were:

Jim DeConnick	Fire Chief
Michael Pocock	Police Chief
William Price	Police Lt.
Calvin McKnight	Service Director
Steve Blake	Code Enforcement Officers

Guest Speakers: Jim Schimmer – Franklin Co. Economic Development & Planning  
David Conley, Robert Johnson & Dennis Schwallie – Ohio CAF

Mr. Spanovich asked to dispense with the Pledge and Prayer.

## **Res. 88-08: Approve Minutes of March 18, 2008 & March 29, 2008**

Mr. Angelou moved to approve the minutes of the March 18, 2008 and March 29, 2008 meetings. Mr. Spanovich seconded. All voted yea. Motion carried.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

The Fiscal Officer presented the following correspondence to the Board:

1. MORPC Transportation Connections Publication giving information on major transportation studies, roadway safety and regional transit plans.
2. A letter from an attorney that her client David White who owns property at 1793 Stelzer Road has filed an annexation petition to annex two parcels from Mifflin Township to the City of Columbus.
3. Franklin County Board of Commissioners notice of rezoning hearings scheduled for Tuesday, April 8, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. There were no cases for Mifflin Township.
4. A Notice to Communities within the SWACO Franklin County District of a SWACO Re-Track Software System Training Session. Reservations to attend must be made no later than April 18, 2008.
5. Ohio EPA Citizen Advisory Release inviting the public to comment on the Lockbourne/Big Walnut Creek Project. The public comment period ended 4/3/08.
6. Notice from the City of Gahanna to save the date of May 1, 2008 for the public dedication ceremony of Creekside Gahanna at 11:30 a.m. followed by lunch.
7. Memo from Isobel Sherwood, Clerk of Council, that Student Government Day will be on Wednesday, April 23, 2008. Counterparts are to be picked up at City Hall at approximately 9:00 a.m. Lunch will be at the Jefferson Country Club for \$20.00 per person. Notice of attendance and reservations for lunch are due by April 14, 2008.
8. Notice from City of Gahanna that a Motion Resolution to approve Municipal Fire Inspectors was approved March 17, 2008. Fire Chief DeConnick was approved for Mifflin Township and Fire Chief Ingram was approved for Jefferson Township for the period of April 1, 2008 through March 31, 2009.

Mrs. Stewart said she received an e-mail from the President of City Council, Nancy McGregor, that she read in our minutes that we have a dumpster at the Police Station but we do not allow our residents to use it. She said that Gahanna residents can use any City or municipal park dumpster. This probably saves money rather than paying people to pick up trash that is dumped everywhere so we may want to rethink our policy. Steve Blake said that if a resident contacts us and states they are doing a project and need someplace to dump something we would allow them to use the dumpster with proof that they are a resident of Mifflin Township.

## **PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS (NEW BUSINESS)**

### **ADMIN**

**Maintenance Renewal on Compellent Equipment (\$12,113)** – The Fiscal Officer said she presented this to the Board for review as the current agreement does not expires until 7/10/08.

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### SERVICE

**Estimates for Storm Water Drops Repair** – Calvin McKnight said we finally received an estimate from the County to repair four storm water drops for \$8,540.48. He said he asked Cyrus Concrete Construction Co. who just completed work for us at Sta. 134 for an estimate and they quoted a price of \$8,550.00 to repair six storm water drops. Mr. McKnight recommended that the Board approve Cyrus Concrete Construction Co. to do the work per their quote to be paid from the 3-A-06 account.

### **Res. 89-08: Approve Six (6) Storm Water Drop Repairs as Quoted by Cyrus Concrete Construction Co. for a Total of \$8,550.00**

Mrs. Stewart moved to approve six (6) storm water drop repairs as quoted by Cyrus Concrete Construction Co. for a total of \$8,550.00. Mr. Angelou seconded. All voted yea. Motion carried.

**OPWC Grant Revisions** – Mr. McKnight said we had to revise our OPWC Small Government Program application to score more points giving us a better chance to receive the grant. The revised application reflects a commitment by Mifflin Township to assume an 11% local share (\$14,000) plus a 30% loan (\$33,000) of the OPWC request. The Trustees agreed that if we receive this grant, we should do a press release stating that the road work we will be able to do is not from taxpayers money but money from the Township including a loan which we must repay. We would have been able to do the much needed road work years ago if the Road Levy which failed six times had passed. (See Referral File for Revised Application)

### **Res. 90-08: Approve Revised OPWC Small Government Program Application Reflecting a Commitment by Mifflin Township to Assume an 11% Local Share Plus a 30% Loan of the Total OPWC Request**

Mrs. Stewart moved to approve the revised OPWC Small Government Program Application reflecting a commitment by Mifflin Township to assume an 11% local share plus a 30% loan of the total OPWC request giving us a better chance of receiving the grant by scoring more points. Mr. Spanovich seconded. All voted yea. Motion carried.

**Proposal for Broadleaf Weed Control for Both Cemeteries** – Calvin McKnight said that he has a proposal from Turf Club Professional Lawn Care to spray Mifflin Cemetery for \$835.00 and Riverside Cemetery for \$435.00. They did this for us in 2006 and it did a very good job keeping the weeds down so we were able to do less mowing and trimming. The Trustees approved this expense on the recommendation of Mr. McKnight and Mrs. Stewart signed off on it.

Mrs. Stewart asked Mr. McKnight to check into charging for the concrete backers for veteran markers and come up with a recommendation to present to the Board.

### POLICE

Chief Pocock said he has the following items before the Board for approval:

### **Res. 91-08: Accept Resignation of Part-time Reserve Police Officer Lori Swanson**

Mr. Angelou moved to accept the resignation of Part-time Reserve Police Officer Lori Swanson per her request as recommended by Chief Pocock. Mrs. Stewart seconded. All voted yea. Motion carried.

### **Res. 92-08: Approve Hiring Part-time Unpaid Reserve Police Officers Heath Henkalin and Greg Woclott**

Mr. Angelou moved to approve hiring Part-time unpaid Reserve Police Officers Heath Henkalin and Greg Woclott as recommended by Chief Pocock who said these Officers will not cost Mifflin as the Limited Corp. is paying for their salary and uniforms. Mrs. Stewart seconded. All voted yea. Motion carried.

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Chief Pocock said it is time to renew our agreement with the Franklin County Sheriff's Office to dispatch Police calls. They notified us that the cost per call will increase from \$5.41 to approximately \$6.36 making a yearly increase to us of about \$1831.00 based on the number of calls from last year. Mrs. Stewart said the Trustees should have the backup information for items on the agenda to review. The Chief said he will make copies of the information he received from Franklin County for the Board and agreed that it should be placed on the agenda for the regular meeting on April 15, 2008 for approval.

**Leonard Park Water Situation** - Mr. Spanovich turned the meeting over to one of our guests, Jim Schimmer, at this time. Mr. Schimmer is the Director of the Franklin County Economic Development and Planning Department and was asked to attend this meeting to discuss the Leonard Park Water situation. Mr. Schimmer said he recognizes that this is a real problem that has gone on for too long, but he is not here today to tell us that he can solve it because it is not going to be easy to do and it will cost money. The residents are probably going to have to pay a little bit more and he doesn't know what a little bit more is. Mr. Schimmer said there is a solution out there and he has spoken with the Board of Commissioners who say they will give as much assistance as possible to help what is really a tough situation. He said he agrees that these people in Leonard Park should not be in this situation and he will continue to work with Tom Shockley who is the expert in this area. Mr. Schimmer said he will try to pull together some funding but to be blunt, money through CDBG is extremely limited and we may be looking at 2009 – 2010. So he said he will have to try to look at other sources. In the meantime, we will need to talk to the City of Columbus again regarding their view and our view of annexations.

Mr. Angelou discussed the problems we have had in the past with Columbus and asked if it would be possible to determine where the dead end to this problem lies now. Mr. Schimmer said he does not know for sure if that area is annexed into Columbus to receive water if the children must attend Columbus schools (which they do not want to happen) or can they still go to Gahanna schools. He said the issue for him is to get to the point where we get Columbus to agree to a master meter situation. The next situation would be to find the funding to run the water. Mr. Spanovich said he doesn't understand why people are denied water in this day and age when water is available and Columbus controls it. He said he knows there would be a cost to the residents but something could probably be worked out as it was when the County put in the sewers. Mr. Schimmer said the whole problem is that Columbus has an annexation policy which they have not been willing to change. Mrs. Stewart thanked Mr. Schimmer for coming here today and asked if he and his people could steer us in the right direction as to who to talk to and what steps we can take to solve this problem that has been ongoing for many years to no avail. Mr. Schimmer said he will do what he can to help us in his framework which would be the functional side of things. On the political side of things, it would be up to us to decide the type of pressure we put on Columbus through the media.

Mrs. Stewart asked what our first steps should be to address this problem at this time. Mr. Schimmer suggested working with Tom Shockley and to gather all the facts such as the scope of the problem and how many households would be serviced, would there be commercial property to be serviced and would we be willing to work out a joint economic development agreement. A water service agreement would need to be worked out with Columbus without annexation and lastly funding for the project would need to be addressed. Mrs. Stewart suggested a Leonard Park Water Committee be formed to gather facts and determine how to get permission for water from Columbus with the cooperation from the County. Mr. Spanovich suggested two Leonard Park residents be asked to serve on the committee also.

### **Res. 93-08: Approve Forming a Committee to Address and/or Find a Solution to the Leonard Park Water Situation**

Mrs. Stewart moved to approve forming a Leonard Park Water Committee to try to find a solution to the lack of water situation in that development consisting of two residents, three people from the County, the Fiscal Officer, Calvin McKnight, Steve Blake and someone from the Fire Department. Mr. Angelou seconded. All voted yea.

Mr. Spanovich asked for a three minutes recess at this time.

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Mr. Spanovich asked that we continue the regular meeting with the continuation of the Police reports.

Chief Pockock said the Prosecutor's Office released a Court Order that he gave to the Fiscal Officer stating that the Police Department can now keep the unclaimed amount of \$30,000 that was lawfully seized as evidence. This money will go into the General Fund until it is determined if there are any stipulations for repayment regarding the funds that were transferred to the Police Department from the General fund back in November of 2007.

The Chief said the vehicle replacements request will be held for the April 15<sup>th</sup> meeting after a meeting is held with Mr. Angelou and the Fiscal Officer.

### **CODE ENFORCEMENT**

Steve Blake said he wants to once again thank the Fiscal Officer for helping with the house on Rankin that will be torn down with a new one put in it's place. The Miracit purchase of vacant homes in the unincorporated area is going well. Through negotiations, there will be a total of 14 new homes and 1 remodeled home which will reach their goal of 15 total units for the unincorporated area. Mr. Blake said the Rhema Church contacted him regarding a project they have for home improvements for some of the residents from \$3000 to \$7000 based on income and need. They will be interviewing some Mifflin residents.

**Replacement of Code Enforcement Laptop Request** - The Trustees asked that this be tabled and placed on the agenda for the April 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **FIRE**

Chief DeConnick said that at the March 18, 2008 meeting he did not include Fire Department pay increases for the IT tech, Secretary, Fire Prevention Officers and Mechanic. Mrs. Stewart suggested 2.5% for the increase including the increase in the PERS pickup.

### **Res. 94-08: Approve Additional Fire Department Pay Increases to Include the IT, Secretary, Fire Prevention Officers and Mechanic for 2.5% Including Increase in PERS Pickup**

Mrs. Stewart moved to approve additional Fire Department pay increases to include the IT, Secretary, Fire Prevention Officers and Mechanic for 2.5% including the increase in the PERS pickup as recommended by Chief DeConnick. Mr. Spanovich seconded. All voted yea. Motion carried.

Chief DeConnick presented the following requests to the Board for approval:

### **Res. 95-08: Approve Service Credit Bonuses for Firefighters Mauger, Wiggers, Troyer & Crotty and Dispatchers Wass & Higgins**

Mr. Spanovich moved to approve Service Credit Bonues for Firefighters Michael Mauger and Galen Troyer in the amount of \$700/each; Albert Wiggers in the amount of \$900; Matthew Crotty in the amount of \$500 and Dispatchers Tami Wass and Keith Higgins in the amount of \$700/each at the discretion of the Board and funds permitting as recommended by Chief DeConnick. Mr. Angelou seconded. All voted yea. Motion carried.

### **Res. 96-08: Approve Hiring Steven Fagen, Darrin O'Bruba and Clifton Reynolds as Part-time Firefighters on Probationary Status Effective When Fiscal Officer Receives New Hire Paperwork**

Mrs. Stewart moved hiring Steven Fagen and Clifton Reynolds as Part-time Firefighters at the rate of \$9.33/hour and Darrin O'Bruba as a Part-time Firefighter at the rate of \$9.88 on probationary status effective when Fiscal Officer receives new hire paperwork as recommended by Chief DeConnick. Mr. Angelou seconded. All voted yea. Motion carried.

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### **Res. 97-08: Accept Resignation of Part-time Firefighter Jason Welsh Effective 4/17/08**

Mr. Spanovich moved to accept the resignation of Part-time Firefighter Jason Welsh effective April 17, 2008 per his request due to his accepting a full-time position with the Norwich Township Fire Department as recommended by Chief DeConnick. Mr. Angelou seconded. All voted yea. Motion carried.

Mr. Spanovich signed off on the following training requests:

Lt. Mauger & FF Snyder to attend Building Construction for Fire Service course for \$632.00.  
FF Wiggers to attend Ohio Association of EMS 2008 Summer Conference for \$225.00.  
FF Kinder to attend Fireground Size-up Operations for \$70.00.  
Lt. Hendricks to attend Managing Company Tactical Operations Preparation for \$50.00.

**Credit Card Usage** - Chief DeConnick gave the Trustees a memo with his request for two Township credit cards issued for training expenses and his guidelines for their use. Mrs. Stewart said that looking at past credit card purchases she noticed some of the receipts do not show what the expense is for. She said she feels the whole policy for charging on the Township credit cards needs to be reviewed. Chief DeConnick said we have been doing this for a number of years and he is not sure what the issues are but he is willing to do whatever is needed. The Fiscal Officer said that not only credit card usage but cell phones and vehicle usage was questioned by the Auditors at our last audit. She said we probably need to address the whole package in order to address the questions that they have and then include them in the Employee Handbook. Mrs. Stewart said she agrees with the Fiscal Officer that we need to have some workshops to address all of these issues so we can finalize the Employee Handbook.

Chief DeConnick reported that Dispatcher Joe Shirey is in the hospital in stable condition being treated for a health issue. He also reported that the Ladder Truck should be completed by the middle to the end of April and he will be sending three personnel to pick it up in Wisconsin. The Creekside Event Center invoice for \$50.00 was discussed. Mr. Spanovich signed off on it but as the Fiscal Officer said these types of expenses need prior approval.

Chief DeConnick advised the Trustees that when our Ladder is out of service for repairs we have to borrow one. The one we are using now from Orange Township is going to be for sale and he plans to look into purchasing it as we are in need of a backup Ladder. He said he will bring the information to the Board when he has it for consideration. The Chief said the Fire Department is in need of storage space and are looking at the cost to rent space in the industrial area.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Mrs. Stewart made a motion to approve Purchase Request #03.06.08 for the 2008 All-terrain/EMS Rescue Vehicle which was tabled from the last meeting. The motion failed due to lack of a second.

Mr. Spanovich said he has received calls from Jim Mills regarding the status of the Mifflin/Clinton Partnership. This matter was addressed at a previous meeting. The Partnership was voted down and it is up to Clinton Township to decide what direction their Fire Department wants to go. The Chief said that he is still in favor of leasing space and moving Sta. 132 to the shopping center at the corner of Innis & Westerville because Sta. 132 is in need of some costly repairs, especially the roof. He said he thinks Clinton has some of the same issues with their Fire Station and they may want to do something with us and if not, we need to do something on our own.

Mrs. Stewart said that regarding the MECC relocation meetings, we are still in need of some missing signed documents which Chief DeConnick said he would get for us so the Trustees can sign the Lease Agreement. He said the Trustees should have already received a copy of the MECC budget which they requested.

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Deputy Chief Kauser joined the meeting at this time.

**Ohio Capital Asset Financing Program (OhioCAF)** – The Fiscal Officer said that it was discussed at a previous meeting that the OhioCAF program would be an option of funding the capital improvement projects the Fire Department would like to complete as well as including their lease contracts. Mr. Spanovich said he understands this program is a pool of money that political entities can borrow from at a lower rate than from a lending institution. The Fiscal Officer said it is the pooling of bonds of different political entities. This program started in Southern Ohio but is now State-wide. David Conley and that the Center for Local Government is the Sponsor and Robert Johnson is the Executive Director. Mr. Conley said he is the Managing Director of the Bond Underwriter, Robert W. Baird & Co. and Dennis Schwaillie is a Partner with Peck, Shaffer & Williams, who acts as Bond Counsel. Mr. Conley said they are present today to explain the program and answer any questions. He said the program is designed to borrow money using bonds, not using a lease and to give a fixed interest rate. It is only for governments with good credit and is safe, reliable and simple. The program is designed not to have a pool of money sitting around waiting for people to come and borrow but is a dedicated pool program where the pool of money doesn't exist until a group of governments get together and say they would all like to borrow at the same time. They share the expenses of the lawyers, the rating agencies and the banks. Counties, Cities, Villages, Townships and Joint Fire Districts are eligible to participate. The only down side to this is that they have to get a group together at one time who want to participate. The next financing period is June 19, 2008. When at least \$5,000,000 is reached, they would have another financing period. Mr. Conley said they usually do about four a year as they are getting more and more applications from entities who are looking ahead. Mr. Angelou asked if the bonds can be paid off early and was told only if the bond issue is longer than 10 years. Mr. Spanovich asked what was the bottom line the Fire Department wanted to borrow. Chief DeConnick said as shown on the printout the Trustees were given, the amount is \$3,775,000 (See Referral File). Mr. Conley said that based on our budget, this can be done without a vote from the taxpayers.

Interest rates were discussed. They change from week to week and are based on the number of years financed. We were told they will be lower than any other source from which we might borrow money. Mr. Conley said that once they know we are interested, we would be asked to complete the program application and pass a Resolution to participate in the program. This does not obligate us but gives Mr. Conley the ability to go forward with the bond sell. The day he gets the interest rate from the bond sell, our Fiscal Officer would be given the interest rates. He said he would come back to the Board for an update before he actually sells the bonds. All the rate information will be on the internet for all the participating group members. It was made clear we would only be responsible for our own obligations. The expenses vary but they are all shared by all participants. If we would choose to go forward, we would then accept the final rate and payment, sign and return the closing documents.

The Trustees said they will need to ask our Architect Rich Pontius to go ahead and establish a firm number for the building improvement projects. The Fiscal Officer asked what is the deadline and was told that for their timeline, legislation needs to be passed by May 22, 2008 with an effective date of June 4 or 5, 2008. The Fiscal Officer said she understands that if we don't do this for this round, it is available for the next round. Mr. Spanovich thanked them for the informative presentation and said we will work on putting our final figures together.

There being no further business, Mr. Spanovich moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Angelou seconded. All voted yea. Motion carried.

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Joseph F. Spanovich, Chairman

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Nancy M. White, Fiscal Officer

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The Trustees approved the April 11, 2008 payroll warrants for the period of March 23, 2008 through April 5, 2008. Copies are on file with the Fiscal Officer.  
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