



Hambden HIGHLIGHTS

Summer 2023

Hambden Mourns the loss of Trustee Paul Molan

It was with deep sadness we learned of the unexpected passing of our own Paul Molan



on May 3, 2023. Paul was an outstanding trustee, citizen and friend and will be deeply missed. Paul loved serving in his role as Township Trustee and truly loved representing the residents of Hambden Township. I was truly moved by the Memory card from Paul's calling hours at The Behm Family Funeral Home and reprinted it as follows:

**In Memory of
Paul A Molan**

July 23, 1964 – May 3, 2023

Afterglow

I'd like the memory of me
to be a happy one
I'd like to leave an afterglow
of smiles when life is done
I'd like to leave an echo of
whispering
softly down the ways
Of happy times and laughing
times
and bright and sunny days
I'd like the tears of those
who grieve,
to dry before the sun
of happy memories that I
leave, when life is done.

From the Fiscal Officer - Mike Romans

We hope this newsletter finds you well. As Election Day in November approaches, we want to draw your attention to two levy renewals that will be up for a vote. These levies, namely the Roads and Bridges 0.8 mil levy and the Roads and Bridges 1.0 mil levy, are for the resurfacing, repair, and maintenance of our township streets. Maintaining our township roads is a responsibility we take seriously. Over time, inflation has significantly increased the cost of materials and equipment required for road maintenance. The renewal of these levies will allow the township to continue providing the necessary resources to uphold the quality and safety of our streets.

Every year, our dedicated team of three full-time employees and two part-time summer workers strives to extend the lifespan of our township roads. Their efforts involve sealing cracks on road

surfaces - the result of winter freezing temperatures. Crack sealing is a critical preventive measure that greatly enhances the longevity of our road surfaces. It not only saves money in the long run by avoiding more extensive repairs but also ensures smoother and safer driving conditions for everyone in our community.

We understand the financial strain that inflation has placed on households, and we are sensitive to the economic challenges many of you may be facing. That is why

the Trustees are not asking for an increase in these levies at this time. Instead, we are seeking to renew the existing 0.8 mil and 1.0 mil levies to maintain the current level of funding for our road maintenance efforts. Your vote matters, and we encourage you to participate in the Nov. 7 election. Thank you for your attention.



Welcome New Trustee: Bob Kandra!

Following the sudden passing of beloved Trustee Paul Molan on May 3, a hiring committee interviewed a pool of qualified candidates to replace Paul's vacancy, appointing Bob Kandra.

Bob is retired from a distinguished career serving our country in the CIA, FBI and in conflict war zones across the world. Bob moved to Hambden Township with his wife Beth in 2020, to be close to family. Among many attributes, Bob is fluent in governmental finances, grant writing and has a strong legal background, having served as Public Defender early in his career. Bob previously served on Hambden

Township Zoning Board. He works part-time with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources at Bristolville Rifle Range, is an outdoor enthusiast and a member of the Weslaco Sportsman Club.

Bob is passionate about this new role, stating "I believe in good governance and faithful service to the community one represents. Being a good steward of our resources and helping the community steer through the ropes of larger government is a challenge where I believe I can contribute."



From the Desk of Fire Chief Scott Hildenbrand



The members of the Hambden Fire Department have been very busy so far this year. We have continued to keep learning while also responding to ever increasing calls for service. If you are following us on Facebook, you will see much of this information. Our 2022 Annual Report was published in March for all to read. You can read more about it online.

We had a great turnout for the Hambden Fire Department sponsored Easter Egg Hunt at the Township Park. I want to thank everyone that helped and attended. We had several members attend a symposium put on by University Hospitals on tactics and treatments related to mass casualty incidents. Captain David Baird obtained his Ohio Fire Officer credential from the Ohio Fire Chief's Association. In May we started our 4th Citizens Fire Academy with our own Hambden Township Trustee Keith McClintock attending.

Lieutenant Jon Porter and Firefighter/Paramedic Cal Henderson successfully completed the EMS Instructor course at the Auburn Career Center. Our own Firefighter/Paramedic Ella Rhodes also attained an associate degree in emergency medical services. This while she continued to work as a fulltime Dispatcher at the Geauga County Sheriff's Office and part-time at the Hambden Fire Station. Lieutenant Danielle Baird and Probationary Firefighter

Adam Varner both passed the National Registry Advanced EMT program.

We suddenly lost one of our dedicated Township Trustees Paul Molan. Paul was not only a friend to the Fire Department, always supporting us, but also a friend to us all. On a personal note, I miss my friend very much and wish the best to his family.

Your Fire Department

We continue to be a large part of our community. The Memorial Day event was very nice followed by the free pancakes at the Fire Station. We decided not to put on the Rib Dinner this year as we have for years on Mother's Day. The cost of the food and supplies has risen so much that we would have had to raise the price to the point that we did not feel comfortable with. We still intend to have two Clambakes again this year. They are the third Saturday in September and Third Saturday in October. We will also see you at the Hambden Township Picnic where we will be serving hamburgers and hot dogs. You will also see us around the Township this summer as we do the annual Dry Hydrant testing.

We have been very busy and like to keep our taxpayers informed. Please follow us on Facebook to see what is happening. You can also download an app called "Pulse Point" and receive real time notifications when we receive a call. We continue to apply for grants that will help us with the purchase of equipment.

Within the next year we will be replacing one of our ambulances, it has been on order for about a year and a half and should arrive next spring. We are also in desperate need of more room at the Fire Station and are exploring an addition. Hope everyone has a great summer.

Fall Trash Day

Fall Trash Day will take place on Saturday, September 30 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Hambden Township Park. The process remains the same: Please stay inside your vehicle, Have ID ready (Hambden residents only), soft-sided furniture and mattresses must be wrapped in plastic (no exceptions). No liquid paints, or hazardous materials, no fluorescent bulbs. **NO TIRE COLLECTION** on Fall Trash Day!



Hambden Community Picnic

The Hambden Township Community Picnic returns Sunday, August 13 from 1-5 p.m. in Township Park. Join us for fun, music, food, games, prizes, and the very popular chance auction!

Community Picnic Aug. 13





The deteriorating wood jungle gym was removed from the playground area several months ago to make way for the new slide structure. The slides that were removed from the old jungle gym will be attached to the newly manufactured structure. The projected installation is slated for October. New tot swings have recently been installed.

In the beginning of this year the Park Board applied for a pollinator grant through the Foundation for Geauga Parks. Using the landscape design created by The Nature Studio, along with native pollinator plants selected by Wiley Landscaping, the grant was awarded. The pollinator plants are an important part of the detention basin project which is to provide a habitat for insect pollinator species. The plant species will also help to stabilize the ground and prevent erosion. A seating area, along with information on the plants and pollinator species, will be added later as an educational resource to the community.

The Township Community picnic will be held on August 13 from 1-5 p.m. in the park. The picnic is a wonderful way for residents to come together while enjoying great food, music, and fun. The auction that is held at the end of the day always draws a crowd. Donations from local businesses and residents help make the picnic a yearly success. The picnic committee welcomes residents' participation to plan the events of the day. Further information can be obtained by contacting Trustee Pam Carson pcarson@hambdentownship.com.

The long-awaited dugout baseball mural is becoming a reality. Local artisan Elliot Miller is in the process of creating the mural on the baseball field dugout that faces the pavilions and play equipment. Elliot will be attending the community picnic in August and at that time the Park Board will hold an acknowledgement ceremony.

- Joyce Edelsky, Park Board Chair

From the Zoning Inspector

This section usually covers items that are regulated by the Hambden Township Zoning Resolution. While the resolution covers many topics that are considered "standard," there are several common items that are not covered. For the most part, these items are not part of the resolution because of legal limitations placed on townships. In other cases, the issue may be just too specific.

For example, Hambden does not have rules pertaining to grass that hasn't been mowed. While we can regulate junk or garbage on a property, placement of lawn waste is outside of our purview. Another common call we receive is about noise complaints. The township does not have the necessary equipment to measure noise or a rule that sets unacceptable noise levels. While the resolution does cover "offensive" noise, this is rather subjective and can be difficult to enforce. Another issue that regularly comes up is water drainage.

The resolution does not cover drainage which makes these situations a matter exclusively between neighbors. Even though there are not zoning rules pertaining to these items, it's still important to consider them and the impact they may have on your neighbors and their properties.

- Richard "RJ" Acquaviva, Zoning Inspector

From the Road Department



A friendly reminder to all motorists: PLEASE SLOW DOWN when entering a work zone. We try our best to keep you safe on the road – please help keep us safe as well. Thank you! To all residents living on a township road, please remember that if you are going to enclose your roadside ditch you must obtain a ditch enclosure permit from Hambden Township. Permit forms can be printed from the Hambden Township website.

You may have noticed the absence of American Flags lining our streets during the Memorial Day parade. Last year, the township received notice from the utility company that hanging anything from the utility poles is NOT permitted – with instructions to remove anything currently hanging from the poles. We discovered that a permit can be applied for to hang flags; however, due to the number of requests, it could take 12-18 months to consider and approve the permit. Hambden Township went through the lengthy process of providing the permit application and required documentation this spring. We hope to receive good news and will keep you posted with updates.

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Hambden Township Trustees
Pamela Carson, *Chair*
Keith McClintock, *Vice Chair*
Bob Kandra, *Trustee*

Fiscal Officer
Mike Romans

Administrative Assistant
Mary Ann Dottore

Road Superintendent
Steve Wolcott

Zoning Inspector
Richard (RJ) Acquaviva

Meeting Dates at the Township Hall

Trustees:
First & Third Wednesday of the Month
6:30 p.m.

Zoning Commission:
First Monday of the Month
6:00 p.m.

Hambden Resident

Taxes are Often a Sensitive Subject for All of Us

Many of us find Ohio's real estate tax laws and levies confusing. Often, we rely on the entities asking for the levies to tell us how much they will cost, but do you really know how levies work?

For those who do not know what a "mil" is; mil stands for millage – which is one dollar of tax revenue for every \$1,000 of assessed valuation. In Ohio we pay taxes on our assessed value which is 35% of our market value established by the Auditor's Office. If your property is valued at \$100,000 and the millage is 1, you take \$100,000 multiplied by 35% to get the assessed value. The assessed value of \$100,000 is \$35,000. 1 mil is expressed as .001. For example, $.001 \times \$35,000 = \35 .

When faced with figuring levy costs people often will say "who lives in a \$100,000 house these days?" If you live in an \$80,000 house – you can turn the \$100,000 value into a multiplier (or percentage). \$80,000 is 80% of \$100,000. If you have an \$80,000 property, the levy will cost $\$28 \times 80\% = \22.40 . Let's say you live in a \$175,000 property. \$175,000 is 175% of \$100,000. This means, $1.75 \times \$28 = \49 . Now that you have read this you may be wondering why levies passed prior to 2014 cost less than levies passed

after 2014. That is due to the value of our district at the time the levy was passed as well as potential tax credits. Levies prior to 2014 were subject to reductions due to tax credits for residential and agricultural properties.

Have you ever heard the terms "rollback" for non-business properties and the Owner-Occupied Credit? Prior to 2014 levy millage was reduced by the tax credits that residential and agricultural properties receive. After 2014, those reductions no longer apply to new or replacement levies. Prior to 2014 the tax credits were reimbursed from the state to the revenue receiving entities; however, since the reimbursement from the state no longer applies, levies passed after 2014 cost the taxpayers about 12.5% more than they did pre-2014. All existing levies that were passed prior to 2014 still are reduced by the tax credits and the state still reimburses the tax collecting entities; however, as levies expire or need to be replaced the cost of the levies is completely born by the taxpayers instead of being reduced by tax credits.

