

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
HAMBDEN TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES

Minutes of

Regular Meeting

GOVERNMENT FORMS & SUPPLIES 844-224-3338 FORM NO. 10148

Held March 20, 2024

The Hambden Township Trustees met in Regular Session at the Hambden Town Hall on Wednesday, March 20, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. with the following members present: Keith McClintock, Catherine Wolcott, and Dave Johnson. Also present was the Fiscal Officer Mike Romans, Zoning Inspector Richard Acquaviva, Fire Chief Scott Hildenbrand, and those on the sign in sheet.

Chairman McClintock called the Regular Meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:30 p.m.

Mr. McClintock reported that there was a quorum.

HAMBDEN RESIDENTS

Sharon Madger asked the board to consider issuing a resolution banning cannabis production and distribution within Hambden Township this evening. Companies are already looking for locations in Geauga County to open retail locations for sales of recreational marijuana. She reported on the speakers and information reported at the City of Chardon meeting held last Thursday.

Mr. Romans spoke regarding transparency in government. It refers to the availability of information to the public and clarity about government rules, regulations, and decisions. It is often associated with democratic accountability and is used as a means of holding public officials accountable and fighting corruption. Transparent procedures include open meetings, financial disclosure statements, Freedom of Information legislation, budgetary review, and audit. Mr. Romans feels that there are few Hambden residents that are aware of a potential decision to be made banning cannabis production and distribution in the township.

Dean Carlo of Chardon stated that he had the privilege of working with Chardon and Hambden Youth for the past 25 years. In 2012, in the Chardon Municipal Court building, there was a meeting called for with the leaders of Geauga County. In that meeting, undercover Cuyahoga County law enforcement officers expressed their concern that there were many Geauga County license plates driving out to their Cuyahoga County parking lots to buy drugs. These officers then expressed that as of that meeting, the drug dealers had not set up shop in Geauga County yet. That was a warning given to us in 2012 to combat the use of drugs. He partnered with the juvenile court system throughout these past 25 years, doing service hours with school age youth, including athletes guiding them away from these addictive substances. In 2012, Geauga County formed a task force team to fight these addictive substances from getting into the hands of our Chardon and Hambden youth. In the task force meetings, we grieved in the courtroom gallery with mobs of parents in our county because their children were now addicted to substances that were brought here into our county. Some moms shared in those meetings through tears that they had to kick their addicted child out of the house because their children were stealing money from the family and raiding the medicine cabinets of their house and their family members houses. I can't tell you how gut wrenching it is to officiate a Chardon raised young person's funeral. A mom and dad and sisters grieving because they're boys no longer with us and hearing from their friend who stepped up to the podium saying that it started with smoking weed when they were younger. Not thinking it would lead to harder drugs that would take his life, but it. We're asking you, our Hambden Township leaders, and our sharing leaders, to heed the warnings of those in 2012 in the Chardon Municipal Court building a proposed, as they call it, profitable tax revenue via cannabis dispensary is not worth endangering our community, our families, and our future.

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Cutts Road resident Tim Albright, stated he agreed with what was discussed. He didn't know if people are aware of it, but Chardon already passed an ordinance that prohibits medical dispensaries. Yesterday was voting day, no more than 30% of the community voted. He has been told that if you don't read the newspaper or pay attention, things happen. We should consider the law enforcement people that know are on the legal side of what happens when things like this are in a community. He was told that Colorado law enforcement is saying that they had to learn different things about being under the influence and automobile tragedies are happening more because of people under the influence. Did anybody plan on being a heroin addict? No

Old State Road resident Susan Stevenson stated she worked for the Geauga County Board of Education, and had a program that dealt with juvenile delinquents, and many of them had drug abuse problems. Finding services in the community is hard to find these days, and it's very costly. If we're talking about transparency, you look at the DEA and you look at some statistics, these percentages for marijuana usage are anywhere from 18% to 89%. Some of these gummies that you see, but we're not talking about medicinal right now, but just the gummies alone for recreational are up to 89%. There were 3 youths in Lake County that were apprehended that were using marijuana. It was so strong that the police person that stopped him had to ask for another officer to come in and help him with these youths because it was affecting him. The medicinal lab work that you see, the labs that you see, do you think it takes very much of a diagnosis to be sanctioned so that you can take medical marijuana? Many times. No. And do you want that kind of person driving on the highway? Like Mr. Albright mentioned that in Colorado, the number of accidents were caused by marijuana.

Chief Hildenbrand stated that Mr. Romans mentioned transparency by the Board. There is a provision allowing townships to pass resolutions banning the growing and dispensing of marijuana in the law. Chief Hildenbrand stated the problem in Colorado was that they sold that to the public by stating that this was going to generate all this tax money, and the cities were going to make out on it, and people are going to grow it and sell it out there. Their homeless rate went up and the problem was it was taxed so high that it is cheaper to buy it on the black market. The only thing that accomplishes is that it can be regulated as to the THC levels. Ohio law permits local government to restrict the sale of marijuana within their legal boundaries.

A resident stated that we all know Tony the tiger on Frosted flakes boxes. He showed a picture of a box selling marijuana gummies that has Tony the tiger on it. Yet they say it's not catered to the kids. How can we expect a 17- or 18-year-old working the cash register to confront the kids trying to purchase the gummies.

Mr. McClintock stated that the Board has been doing our research from our end. One of the items that trustee Wolcott did was go down to the Board of Elections to see how Hamdben voted, we were talking about taking a poll of the residents to see where everyone lies on the issue. After some thought, if we put a poll out, you're going to hear the polar ends of both sides of the issue.

Mrs. Wolcott reported last year's election results of the 4 precincts. 1014 residents voted yes, and 1044 residents voted against. By 30 votes in Hamdben, it was voted no.

Mr. McClintock stated that the resolution was written up tonight for consideration on the moratorium, which would allow us additional time to gather information and to seek guidance from the County Prosecutor's Office and from law enforcement. However, the wrong resolution was drafted, unfortunately, so we will have that for our next meeting in exactly 2 weeks. This will allow for greater exposure. They are going to be seeing it from Chardon. Mr. McClintock spoke with Chris Grau at the health meeting regarding the meeting and what went down at their Council

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meeting and the issue that was brought up by the dispensaries was all the tax money that bring to the city.

Mr. Grau informed him that with his discussions with his lawyer is that they think there's a loop on the loophole in the law that will prevent that from occurring with the flow through to the local municipality. He said he certainly wanted to do more research on that as well, because that's one of the biggest selling points they try to make too local municipalities and governments. I hoped we would be voting on it this evening. We will have the appropriate resolution drafted, that will be up for a vote at the next meeting. The temporary moratorium will be in effect for 6 months.

MINUTES

Mr. McClintock asked the Board if there were any comments or corrections regarding the regular meeting of February 21, 2024. There were no corrections or changes to the minutes and Mr. Johnson recommended that they stand as approved and waive the reading.

MOTION 2024-44: made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mrs. Wolcott to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on February 21, 2024. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Mr. McClintock asked the Board if there were any comments or corrections regarding the special meeting of February 26, 2024. There were no corrections or changes to the minutes and Mr. Johnson recommended that they stand as approved and waive the reading.

MOTION 2024-45: made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mrs. Wolcott to approve the minutes of the special meeting held on February 26, 2024. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Mr. McClintock asked the Board if there were any comments or corrections regarding the special meeting of February 28, 2024. There were no corrections or changes to the minutes and Mr. Johnson recommended that they stand as approved and waive the reading.

MOTION 2024-46: made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mrs. Wolcott to approve the minutes of the special meeting held on February 28, 2024. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Mr. McClintock asked the Board if there were any comments or corrections regarding the special meeting of March 4, 2024. There were no corrections or changes to the minutes and Mr. Johnson recommended that they stand as approved and waive the reading.

MOTION 2024-47: made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mrs. Wolcott to approve the minutes of the special meeting held on March 4, 2024. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

ZONING INSPECTOR

Mr. Acquaviva addressed the letters he and the Board received from Mr. Grey. Mr. Acquaviva will speak with him to try to rectify the situation but will make it clear that he would not pursue enforcement since it is not an issue governed by zoning.

Mr. Acquaviva stated a couple of permits were issued and several are currently pending. A variance hearing is scheduled for tomorrow evening. He had several meetings with a couple different parties related to upcoming variances.

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Mr. Acquaviva stated that he has spent a substantial amount of time working on the manufactured home park complaints. He has met with Assistant Prosecutor Susan Weiland, spoken with the owner of the property, and has spoken with the owner's attorney. He is currently waiting on some documentation from the park owner that will allow him to finalize his answer and hopefully put this to rest.

Mr. Acquaviva reported that the McNish property has been given 18 months to clean up the property that was in violation of zoning and little work has been done. Geauga County Assistant Prosecutor Susan Weiland has requested updated pictures of the property prior to filing a case with the courts.

Mr. Acquaviva stated a variance hearing is set for tomorrow.

ZONING

Mr. Acquaviva stated the Zoning Commission is working on the amendments relating to the manufactured home parks. His suggestion to the zoning board is that the township defer to the state on mobile home park issues.

Mr. Acquaviva stated he left copies of letters from the prosecutor's office regarding Mr. Colombi's commercial property. He has until the 29th to comply. If Mr. Colombi is not in compliance by then, he will have a resolution prepared for the board to sign off allowing the prosecutor's office to take it to the next step. Mr. Colombi's personal property violation court date is set for April 5th.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief Hildenbrand added that the Easter egg hunt is scheduled for Saturday March 30, 2024 at 10:00 AM in the Township Park.

FINANCIAL

Mr. Romans reported that mid-month payroll and taxes totaling \$15,861.60 were issued.

Mr. Romans reported that vendor warrants #14240 through and including #14263, totaling \$163,152.17 were submitted to the Board for approval and signature. Backup was attached to the checks. He asked the Board if there were any questions or discussion regarding the bills. If not, they will stand as approved. There were no questions from the Board.

Mr. Romans reported that purchase orders #49-2024 through #51-2024 were submitted to the Board for signature and approval.

Mr. Romans reported that no blanket certificates were issued.

Mr. Romans reported that three re-allocations of appropriations were made.
 \$2, 500 from 2231-330-420 to 2231-330-750 for down payment on new Ford F-350
 \$812.00 from 2021-330-599 to 2021-330-211 for OPERS payment
 \$800 from 2031-330-599 to 2031-330-211 for OPERS payments

ROADS

Mr. McClintock stated two quotes were received for spraying of vegetation in the park. They are waiting for one additional quote.

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Mr. McClintock stated truck radio quotes have not yet been received.

Mr. McClintock asked the board to make a motion to declare the F550 as surplus equipment and list on the Gov Deals auction site.

MOTION 2023-48: made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mrs. Wolcott to declare Ford F-550 pickup truck as surplus equipment and list on Gov deals auction site. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

TOWNSHIP HALL

Chief Hildenbrand was thanked for helping get the 911 phone system fixed for the town hall. Chief Hildenbrand stated that the township address is the same as another address in Wood County. When Windstream entered the information into the 911 system the Wood County address was selected. The issue has been c0

Mr. Johnson reported that new requests for quotes were sent out for the new door replacement. No response to first requests. New request for quote due date is March 29th

Mr. Johnson reported that as everyone has been informed a bird was found flying around the Old Town hall. As soon as the weather permits, inspection will be made on the building to find where the bird entered the facility period.

SAFETY

No Report.

PARK

Mr. McClintock stated that Mrs. Edelinsky placed a call to the playground installers for an update.

Mr. McClintock stated the Park Board has hired someone working on a plan for revamping the Veterans Memorial in the park.

CEMETERY

Mr. McClintock stated that a cemetery deed was submitted for approval and signature for Evelyn Stone.

Mr. Johnson stated that the removal of Christmas decorations from the park were made prematurely. A request for quotes were sent for new signs in the cemetery.

MISCELLANEOUS

Chief Hildenbrand stated that Mike Warner has agreed to be our Memorial Day speaker.

Mr. McClintock stated that per his request Mrs. Dottore has assembled a list of Memorial Day speakers and parade marshals from 2007 to the current. This list will aid in planning in future years.

Mr. McClintock as the Board to approve increasing the amount paid to the Geauga Highlanders fee for performing in the Memorial Day parade to \$400.

MOTION 2023-49: made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mrs. Wolcott to increase the amount paid to Geauga Highlanders for the Memorial Day parade to \$400. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

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Mr. McClintock stated that he will contact the Geauga County Fair Band and invite them to participate in the Memorial Day parade.

Mr. McClintock reported that since the last trustee meeting the following correspondence was sent to the board.

- Snowplow route logs
- Park inspection reports
- March 8th and 15th weekly work log
- Vehicle inspection reports
- Dominion Energy bought by Enbridge gas Ohio
- March 8th legislative alert
- March 11th and 18th Township news break
- OTARMA property appraisal program

There were no questions from the board. The correspondence will be filed in the office.

Mr. McClintock announced the next Board of Trustees' meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 3, 2024 at 6:30 pm.

Mr. McClintock asked if there was any further business or questions to come before the Board. There was none.

Mr. McClintock stated that after a short recess the board will be entering executive session.

Mr. McClintock stated he would like to get an approval to submit an appropriation request from David Joyce's office for a new road garage and to Senator O'Brien's office. The deadline for David Joyce's office is March 24th and Senator O'Brien's office is April 8th. The requests seek funds for the construction of the facility and associated fees. Mr. McClintock stated he is currently waiting on an update from an engineer manufacturer to get updated pricing.

Mr. McClintock stated David Joyce was able to assist in getting fire department money for a new fire station. It is a federal appropriation request. Mr. McClintock stated it would be a new place to house our trucks, with pull through bays. All the pipes that are underground buried in the concrete are all starting to go bad. It's an aging facility. There was some roof work that needed to be done. The layout is not ideal, especially as we've grown from the time it was built to now.

MOTION 2023-50: made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mrs. Wolcott to submit an appropriation request from David Joyce's office for a new road garage and to Senator O'Brien's office. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Mr. McClintock stated that the idea is to build adjacent to the new Fire department building. That way it is a shared road going in and out with a shared septic system. Hopefully it could be attached with an alcove with a shared locker room and restroom facility, saving taxpayer money.

I think it's a good time and I think it's a good argument for funding in that it is wise use of taxpayer's money. There are many fees that are duplicated when you build two different buildings.

MOTION 2023-51: made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mrs. Wolcott to enter executive session for the purpose of interviewing potential road employees. Motion carried by unanimously vote.

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Open session resumed at 8:47 p.m.

MOTION 2023-52: made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mrs. Wolcott to offer the Road Superintendent position to Dan Welker and the Road Worker position to Adam Babic with a start date of April 8, 2024. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

There being no further business to come before the board at this time, the meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

ATTESTED TO:

APPROVED BY:

Mary Ann Dottore
Mary Ann Dottore

Keith McClintock
Keith McClintock

DATE APPROVED:

Catherine Wolcott

June 5, 2024

Cow
Catherine Wolcott
D. Johnson
Dave Johnson

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