

The Chester Township Board of Trustees met in regular session Thursday, June 28, 2007, in the Town Hall Meeting Room at 7:00 p.m. Chairman Charles R. Stevens presided.

All Trustees and the Fiscal Officer were present.

Audience: Paul Kepchar, Anita Philpott, Kurt Feigle, Judy K. Zamlan-Spotts, Doug and Pat Brown, Josh Echt, Mia Moore, Joan Rusek

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

The Board led the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Are there any questions or additions from the Board on tonight's agenda?

Mrs. Caputo said she has a question on the approval for Rock's Farm & Garden and also the number of people to be on the Steering Committee. These matters will be addressed later on the agenda.

Questions and Public Input

There were no questions or public input from the audience.

Public Hearing of the Chester Township 2008 Tax Budget:

Mr. Stevens opened the public hearing of the 2008 Tax Budget at 7:05 p.m.

2007-536. Mr. Stevens moved to waive the reading of the legal notice. Mrs. Caputo seconded. Vote: Unanimous. Motion passed.

The Fiscal Officer gave an overview and summarized the proposed Chester Township Tax Budget for the Fiscal Year 2008.

The Board of Trustees welcomed input from the public on the proposed Chester Township Tax Budget for Fiscal Year 2008.

A question was asked from the audience for an explanation of the millage for the levies.

Mr. Stevens explained the law that was passed by the State of Ohio in regards to millage. The legislators in Columbus passed a law a number of years ago that said when a levy is passed by a township or a city its proceeds are frozen at the amount of the levy in that year's dollars, and as you go forward, there is no appreciation. It affects all levies that are put on by any taxing authority. Inside millage doesn't work like levies everyone pays all across the state and it gets divided up in a very specific way. An emergency levy resets the levy to that current year even though it may be a renewal of an emergency levy. Taxes will go up if it is a renewal of an emergency levy.

There were no questions from the audience.

Mr. Stevens closed the public input portion of the hearing.

Mr. Stevens asked the Fiscal Officer to make the corrections that have been noted so that the Board can review the changes and possibly approve the budget at next week's meeting.

On health care, the Board's decision is that the entire cost be reflected in each Department's funds for 2007 and 2008. The General Fund will be adjusted accordingly.

On Heath Road, the Board would like the Road Dept. to stay as close to the operating expenses, not emergencies, and leave it in the General Fund for this year instead of manipulating dollars which would make it more difficult in future years to review and compare the money.

2007-537. Mr. Stevens moved to recess the Public Hearing of the Chester Township Tax Budget for Fiscal 2008 until Thursday, July 5, 2007 at 7:05 p.m. Mr. Cotman seconded. Vote: Unanimous. Motion passed.

New Business:

2007-538. Mr. Stevens moved to approve up to \$1,230.00 payable to Rocks Farm & Garden, 10935 Chillicothe Road, Kirtland, Ohio 44094 for the purchase of flowers for the hanging baskets in support of the Chesterland Chamber of Commerce Beautification Project. Mr. Cotman seconded. Vote: Unanimous. Motion passed.

Mrs. Caputo said she has reviewed the total invoice from Rocks Farm & Garden. According to the invoice received from the Chamber of Commerce, the cost was \$1,027.00. There is a difference of \$203.00 after her review of the associated paperwork.

Mr. Stevens explained the history of the request from the Chamber of Commerce. Mrs. Caputo will discuss the discrepancies with Rocks Farm & Garden as to the differences she has noted.

2007-539. Mr. Stevens moved to amend motion 2007-538 to \$1,027.00, versus \$1,230.00. Mr. Cotman seconded. Vote: Unanimous. Motion passed.

2007-540. Mr. Stevens moved to accept the bid from The Shelly Company at cost of \$565,055.00 as recommended by the County Engineer and the Road Superintendent. Mrs. Caputo seconded. Vote: Unanimous. Motion passed.

2007-541. Mr. Stevens moved to enter into a contract with The Shelly Company, 8920 Canyon Falls Blvd., Suite 120, Twinsburg, Ohio 44087 for the asphalt resurfacing of various roads in Chester Township for the amount of \$565,055.00. Mr. Cotman seconded. Roll call vote: Mrs. Caputo, yes; Mr. Cotman, yes; Mr. Stevens, yes. Motion passed.

2007-542. Mr. Stevens moved to amend board motion 2007-541 to add the wording “per bid opened by the Chester Township Board of Trustees on June 21, 2007, and accepted by the Board.” Mrs. Caputo seconded. Vote: Unanimous. Motion passed.

Discussion was held on the recommendations for the Master Planning Steering Committee Members as submitted by the various community groups.

Mr. Cotman read the listing of Township organizations and their respective recommendation for the Master Planning Steering Committee. The Planning Commission did not support Planning Director David Dietrich being named a full fledged member of the committee, but they did say Mr. Dietrich as well as his Planning Commission people would be a resource for the Township to work with on this endeavor.

2007-543. Mr. Stevens moved to approve the following appointees as members of the Chester Township Master Planning Steering Committee to serve a one year term beginning July 1, 2007 and ending June 30, 2008:

- 1) Bill Laditka, Jr. – Resident and Architect
- 2) Jack DeChellis – West Geauga Kiwanis
- 3) Bob Somrak – Chester Rotary

- 4) Joe Mazzurco – Chester Lions Club
- 5) Tom Basista – Chesterland Chamber of Commerce
- 6) Bruce Becker – Association of Churches
- 7) Geraldine Fisco – West Geauga Senior Center
- 8) Tim Todaro – West Geauga School District

Mrs. Caputo seconded. Vote: Unanimous. Motion passed.

2007-544. Mr. Cotman moved to approve the appointment of Jeff Huntsberger from the Rotary as an alternate to Bob Somrak for participation in the Master Planning Steering Committee also to serve a one year term beginning July 1, 2007 and ending June 30, 2008. Mrs. Caputo seconded. Vote: Unanimous. Motion passed.

2007-545. Mr. Stevens moved to approve Ron Cotman to be the Chester Township Board of Trustees member to the Chester Township Master Planning Steering Committee for the period July 1, 2007 to December 31, 2007. Mr. Cotman seconded.

Discussion ensued regarding the length of this appointment.

2007-546. Mr. Cotman moved to amend motion 2007-545 to read: The Chester Township Board of Trustees member to the Chester Township Master Planning Steering Committee for the period July 1, 2007 to March 31, 2008. Mr. Stevens seconded. Vote: All those in favor, Mr. Cotman, yes; All opposed, Mrs. Caputo, yes Mr. Stevens, yes. Motion fails.

Vote on the main motion **2007-545:** Unanimous. Motion passed.

2007-Mr. Stevens moved to approve the recommendations of the Chester Township Fire Chief for increases to the Fire Department personnel that are eligible for pay increases based on the pay scale approved by the Township Board of Trustees effective the beginning of the pay period following their anniversary date:

| NAME | DATE OF HIRE | CURRENT PAY RATE | NEW PAY RATE | YEARS OF SERVICE | CERTIFICATION |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|------------------|---------------|
| CURRENT | | | | | |
| NAGY, ANDREW | 2/22/1999 | \$12.15 | \$12.94 | 8 | FF/EMT-P |
| KOG, ALAN | 6/23/2004 | \$11.43 | \$12.15 | 3 | FF/EMT-P |
| SANDVIDO, NICHOLAS | 6/23/2004 | \$11.43 | \$12.15 | 3 | FF/EMT-P |
| ANNIVERSARY IN NEAR FUTURE | | | | | |
| DOBRZENIECKI, MICHAEL | 7/10/2006 | \$10.73 | \$11.43 | 1 | FF/EMT-P |
| LATESSA, REID | 7/10/2006 | \$10.73 | \$11.43 | 1 | FF/EMT-P |
| PICCIRILLO, ANGELO | 7/10/2006 | \$10.73 | \$11.43 | 1 | FF/EMT-P |
| STEELE, BRIAN | 7/10/2006 | \$10.73 | \$11.43 | 1 | FF/EMT-P |
| VOIGT, STEVE | 7/10/2006 | \$10.73 | \$11.43 | 1 | FF/EMT-P |

Mr. Cotman seconded. Vote: Unanimous. Motion passed.

All Trustees and the Fiscal Officer will participate in the Kiwanis July 4th Parade together.

2007-548. Mr. Stevens moved to approve the Gas Well Closure article prepared by the Citizens' Advisory Committee on behalf of the Board of Trustees and forward it to the Chesterland News for immediate release. Mr. Cotman seconded. Vote: Unanimous. Motion passed.

Trustee Reports:

Ron Cotman:

- A Certificate of Appreciation was received from the Geauga Trumbull Waste Management District for Chester's participation in the Great American Clean-up. There was great participation in this endeavor.
- On Monday, July 2nd, a juvenile work group that's assigned by the Juvenile Court to do community service will be in the Township for clean up purposes. They will be coming on a weekly basis to perform community service work.
- The matters regarding the diesel spill at Chester School is resolved.
- EA Group is coordinating to get the excavated area backfilled and get the contaminated dirt removed from the site for proper disposal.
- The Baumann change order for closing the well will cost another \$1,100.00. The EA Group has not yet reviewed this but will likely recommend that the Board deny the request for a change because originally the thought was there were two wells. It turned out there was only one well. Mr. Bowen will check with Baumann to see what the reasoning was for this change order.
- The second disbursement prepared by EA Group will be reviewed by July 12th.
- He and the Road Superintendent will have a proposal addressing the site for seeding and some grading and culling that goes beyond what the bulldozer did, ready for next week.
- Ron encouraged his fellow Trustees as well as the Zoning Inspector to read the changes that are proposed in Article 5, especially Section 5.00.06 in the Zoning Amendment Z-2007-1. There is new language which will prohibit the storage of anything in the front yard. He would like the Zoning Inspector's input as to implications for him if this becomes Township law.
- The proposal for the hiring of an Architect/Engineer for the Fire Station I exterior renovation will be ready for next week.

Judy Caputo:

- Judy will be passing out information on internal audit committees which she obtained at a seminar she recently attended. Chester was ahead of the times when the IAC was put into effect.
- One letter has been received for the unexpired term on the Zoning Commission. Have anymore letters of interest been received for the open positions on the Internal Audit Committee and the Citizens' Advisory Committee? Mr. Stevens said there had not been anymore letters received for the open positions.

Charlie Stevens:

- Charlie asked his fellow Trustees to review the information on House Bill 694 which was passed and is now in effect. This is additional legislation on the Campaign Finance Law that states that as a political entity, every purchase of \$500.00 or more by this Board must have the vendor sign an Affidavit every time we make a purchase over \$500.00, that they (the vendor) had not contributed to any one of the Board of Trustees and/or their committees. This covers all elected officials in the Township.

Financial Items:

2007-549. Mr. Stevens moved to approve authorization for transfer of funds within the General Fund in the amount of \$761.54 from appropriation #1000-930-930-0000 Contingencies to appropriation #1000-110-599-8000 Other Expenses – Real Estate Taxes for 2nd half taxes on parcel #11-358100. Mrs. Caputo seconded. Vote: Unanimous. Motion passed.

2007-550. Mr. Stevens moved to approve and sign Purchase Order #153-2007 in the amount of \$1,413.00 payable to Nolan's Maintenance Co., 8179 Mayfield Rd., Chesterland, Ohio 44026 for repair of Police Dept. 2nd floor air conditioning unit by replacing the AC compressor from appropriation #2081-760-730-0000 Improvement of Site. Mr. Cotman seconded. Vote: Unanimous. Motion passed.

2007-551. Mr. Stevens moved to approve and sign Purchase Order #154-2007 in the amount of \$848.40 payable to Signations, 10 East Main St., PO Box 155, Orwell, Ohio 44076 for lettering and installation of signage for the front exterior of the Police Department from appropriation #2081-760-730-0000 Improvement of Site. Mrs. Caputo seconded. Vote: Unanimous. Motion passed.

2007-552. Mr. Stevens moved to approve and sign Purchase Order #155-2007 in the amount of \$2,500.00 payable to Podojil Excavating Co., 1337 Lawnsbury Dr., PO Box 95, Chesterland, Ohio 44026 for various projects from appropriation #2031-330-360-0000 Contracts. Mr. Cotman seconded. Vote: Unanimous. Motion passed.

2007-553. Mr. Stevens moved to approve and sign Voucher Warrants #VW53282 to 53344. Mrs. Caputo seconded. Vote: Unanimous. Motion passed.

Fiscal Officer's Note: The last check # used on 6-21-07 was #53281; the beginning # used on 6-28-07 is #53282.

2007-554. Mr. Stevens moved to approve and sign EMS Vouchers #1058 and #1059. Mrs. Caputo seconded. Vote: Unanimous. Motion passed.

Fiscal Officer's Note: The last voucher #1057 was used on 6-15-07.

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes:

If there are no objections, Mr. Stevens waives the reading of the minutes dated May 12, 2007. A draft was provided to all. Are there any omissions or corrections?

2007-555. Mr. Stevens moved to accept the Board of Trustees minutes dated May 12, 2007, as presented to the Board and as corrected. Mr. Cotman seconded. Vote: Unanimous. Motion passed.

If there are no objections, Mr. Stevens waives the reading of the minutes dated May 24, 2007. A draft was provided to all. Are there any omissions or corrections?

The approval of the minutes dated May 24, 2007, were tabled to the next meeting.

If there are no objections, Mr. Stevens waives the reading of the minutes dated May 31, 2007. A draft was provided to all. Are there any omissions or corrections?

The approval of the minutes dated May 31, 2007, were tabled to the next meeting.

Minutes:

A digital recording of this meeting is kept at Township Hall and is available on request.

Communications:

The Board of Trustees doesn't read or list all communications received since their last meeting during their meetings, except those noted under Trustees Reports or elsewhere in these minutes.

Adjournment:

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Stevens adjourned the meeting at 9:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles R. Stevens, Chairman

Karen M. N. Austin, CPA
Fiscal Officer

Ronald N. Cotman, Vice-Chairman

Approval Date

Judith Caputo, Trustee

BOT\mlf