

Minutes of the Board of Licking Township Trustees, Regular Meeting held at Licking Township Fire Station #600 at 7:30p.m., on 02-19-2024.

Mr. Holman called the meeting to order with the following members present: John Cormican, John Holman, & Dave Miller. Andrea Lynch attended via telephone due to COVID.

Others Present: Chris Powell; David Moraine; Darrin Lewellen; Sandra Strickling; Evelyn Varrasso; Sherry Armstrong; Barbara Brown; Glynis Spencer; Mike Wilson; Doug Howell (\*)  
(\*) Present but did not sign in.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.  
The meeting was not recorded.

Minutes were read, 1 change noted, approved, and signed by the Trustees.

Mr. Miller made a motion to approve expenditures totaling \$28,217.42  
Mr. Cormican seconded the motion.  
Roll Call: Cormican, yes; Holman, yes; Miller, yes.

There are funds on hand or in the process of collection to pay the attached listed bills. \_\_\_\_\_, Fiscal Officer.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- 1) Senator Tim Schaffer letter re: Capital Funds for Significant Community Projects
- 2) Email Ms. Keefe re: Newark Historical Society

A discussion took place regarding the email from Ms. Keefe. The Board agreed with the Fiscal Officer in wanting to contact the LCPO for advice regarding Ms. Keefe's request to obtain historic LTWP public records for display at Newark Historical Society.

Chief Wilson gave the Fire Report as follows:

- 1) Distributed run total sheet for 2023
- 2) Reviewed contract #s
- 3) Update on recent maintenance of vehicles - G601 brakes & rotors; gathering estimate for tires

Doug Howell gave the Zoning Report. There were two permits issued since the last meeting:

- SMZ Development - Jacksontown Road - pole barn - \$518.30

- Enos Miller - National Road - sign - \$136.00

Members of the audience spoke about solar panels. Mr. Cormican thanked the group for providing information on solar panel storms. Mr. Lewellen and Ms. Brown addressed the Board regarding solar panels and resolutions needed to restrict solar panel and wind turbine farms. A fluid discussion with the Board and public took place.

Mr. Cormican reported that the Road Department did a great job on recent snow removal. Mr. Houston assisted the Road Department.

Mr. Cormican reported that the LC Water Department said that the Harbor Hills water project should begin in March/April. Avondale is done so we can look at paving projects in that area.

Mr. Miller complimented the Road Department for their recent snow removal efforts and reported that he will be submitting the mileage certification with the county on Wednesday.

Mr. Holman reported having received the resignation letter from Dale Wise from the LTWP Zoning Commission Board effective 1/22/24.

Mr. Holman read into the minutes, an appreciation letter that he drafted to Mr. Wise. Mr. Cormican said that Mr. Wise has done a great job for the township and Mr. Miller concurred.

A discussion took place regarding the recent Cannabis legislation.

Mr. Holman made a motion adopting the following:

#### **RESOLUTION 2-19-2024**

#### **IN THE MATTER OF PROHIBITING THE OPERATING OF ADULT USE CANNABIS OPERATORS IN LICKING TOWNSHIP O.R.C. 3780.25**

**WHEREAS**, on November 7, 2023, voters in Ohio approved State Issue 2, which enacts new Chapter 3780 of the Ohio Revised Code, effective December 7<sup>th</sup> 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, Chapter 3780 authorizes and regulates recreational adult use cannabis in the State of Ohio; and

**WHEREAS**, O.R.C. 3780.25 authorizes townships to prohibit or limit the number of adult use cannabis operators (as defined in R.C. 3780.01) within the unincorporated area of the township; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Licking Township Trustees finds it to be in the best interest of the Township to prohibit adult use cannabis operators licensed under Chapter 3780, including cultivators, processors, and retail dispensaries within the unincorporated area of the township;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:**

The Board of Licking Township Trustees hereby states that it is the intent of the Board to prohibit adult use cannabis operators, as well as cultivators, processors, and retail dispensaries of adult use marijuana from operating within the unincorporated area of Licking Township.

The Board of Licking Township Trustees hereby approves the prohibition of operations of adult use cannabis operators, as well as cultivators, processors, and retail dispensaries of adult use marijuana to the maximum extent permitted by O.R.C. 3780.25, and any other applicable provisions of state law. This resolution shall be construed in a manner that gives maximum effect to that intent.

The Board of Licking Township Trustees hereby provides that all terms used in this Resolution shall be defined in the same manner as O.R.C. Chapter 3780, as it pertains to adult use cannabis. All terms used in this Resolution but not defined in those chapters shall be construed, for purposes of this Resolution, in a manner to be consistent with the use of such terms in that Chapter.

Mr. Cormican seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Cormican, yes; Holman, yes; Miller, yes.

A discussion took place regarding the presentation from Crossroads Community Planning pertaining to updating the LTWP Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Cormican made a motion that the LTWP Board of Trustees enter into a contract with Crossroads Community Planning to update the current LTWP Comprehensive Plan and to assist LTWP with zoning.

Mr. Holman seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Cormican, yes; Miller, yes; Holman, yes.

Mr. Holman reported having read a recent article in the Columbus Dispatch pertaining to the Building Industry Association (BIA) proposing the elimination of all township zoning. Mr. Holman said that article further indicated that the Ohio Township Association (OTA) has voice opposition to this proposal.

A discussion took place regarding restructuring of the Zoning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals members. The Board asked that anyone interested in filling current vacancies submit a letter of interest. The Fiscal Officer indicated that she currently has one LOI on file from Bonnie Price Miller and that she had a recent conversation with a resident who has expressed an interest. Mr. Moraine said that he would submit a letter.

Mr. Cormican made a motion that the LTWP Board of Trustees transition Mr. Christopher Powell from the LTWP Board of Zoning Appeals to the LTWP Zoning Commission to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Dale Wise effective immediately. Mr. Miller seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Cormican, yes; Miller, yes; Holman, yes.

Mr. Holman reminded everyone of the Budget Meeting to be held on 3/4/2024 at 10:00 a.m. with the regular meeting to follow.

Public Comment:

- **Barbara Brown** - Requested that the Trustees consider passing exclusionary language for mega watt solar farms. Expressed that she wants to see our rural land protected and cited that there is no proof that the land can be reclaimed for tillable farming after solar farms are dismantled.
- **Evelyn Varrasso** - Agreed with Ms. Brown's statements and said she too wants to see solar panel farms prohibited in LTWP.
- **Sandra Strickling** - Supports the previous public comments from Ms. Brown and Ms. Varrasso and wants to see our rural farm lands protected and preserved.
- **Sherry Armstrong** - Supports our commodity farmers and wants to see solar panel farms prohibited in LTWP.
- **Glynis Spencer** - Stated that she supports the prohibiting of solar panel farms. Wants to see this included in the updated LTWP Comprehensive Plan. Asked the Board to consider the following: who cleans up once the farms are defunct? How are the dismantled pieces remediated? What does the township receive from having such farms in our jurisdiction? Where's the health and safety studies? Does the vision of our zoning support such farms?
- **Darrin Lewellen** - Provided details regarding the solar panel farms and said it appears that many of the vendors are rushing to buy land and develop these farms before townships can get their arms around the zoning.

The Board held another open discussion with the public regarding the topic of solar panel farms and wind turbine farms. The Board agreed to consider the public's comments and request to consider prohibiting. The matter has been tabled for future discussion.

Mr. Miller made a motion to adjourn the meeting @ 8:54 p.m.

Mr. Cormican seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Cormican, yes; Holman, yes; Miller, yes.

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February 19, 2024

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Attest