

The Board of Trustees of Sugarcreek Township, Greene County, Ohio, in Regular Session on November 21st, 2022, at 7:00 PM.

- 1) **Mr. Cramer called the session to order at 7:05 pm.**
- 2) **Mr. Demko called the roll with Board Members**, Mrs. Destefani, Mr. Moeller, and Mr. Cramer were in attendance. Also, in attendance was Donna Hellmann.
- 3) **All in attendance stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.**
- 4) **Reports**

Administration

Mr. Tiffany had nothing to add to his report. Mr. Moeller expressed concern that the trustees do not have any updates on the 675-improvement project. Mr. Tiffany stated as far as he knows, they will be having another meeting in February with the trustees.

Zoning

Mrs. Tilford had nothing to add to her report. She stated they had a busy BZA meeting the previous week. One of the applicants that was applying for a variance for a cemetery was approved subject to some conditions. She added there were some residents who came out to speak about it, and most of their concerns were addressed except one resident who did not want it at all. But it was approved. Mrs. Destefani asked what the conditions were. Mrs. Tilford stated they must meet the Ohio Cemetery Dispute Resolution boards minimum maintenance standards, combine the parcels, and register the cemetery with the state. She added the BZA gave them the flexibility to put the cemetery behind the mosque if they determined that to be an okay spot since one of the neighbors was vocal about wanting to have it located behind the mosque. Mrs. Tilford stated she tentatively scheduled the public hearing on the large scale solar and wind on December 5th. She added she sent an email today to Brandon Huddleson. She wants to ensure Brandon does not think that this counts as their public meeting, because they must hold theirs with the board and we do not give 30 days' public notice for any meeting. She added she wants to ensure they are on the same page.

Mrs. Tilford stated they are working on the GCTA dinner and have received some sponsors.

Fiscal Officer

Mr. Demko stated he spoke with the lead auditor and the audit is in final review which is a good thing. Mr. Demko stated if he had to guess before year end. He also stated they are going to make a large principal pay down on the new fire truck lease and they have finally received some instructions on how to do that. Most importantly they are waiving the pre-payment partial pay down fee and it is going to save them about \$29,000 in interest for the lease term and knock down about 4.5 years. Mr. Demko added they are in the process of moving some of the funds to a hybrid account with Huntington. He added that with the changing in interest rates on the retail side, they could gain \$40,000-\$60,000 in interest based on their balance for a 12-month period. Mrs. Tilford stated it has been great to have Mr. Demko with his history in banking and his knowledge has been really helpful. Mr. Demko stated Huntington has been great and there is no comparison. They follow up and drove up

from Cincinnati last week to see how things were going and that is when they discovered the opportunity to do a hybrid type account. Mrs. Destefani asked if they would be eliminating some stuff from Key Bank and moving it over to Huntington. Mr. Demko replied yes, they are close to having it all over. Mrs. Destefani stated she did receive a notification from Key Bank stating records indicate that they had not completed the public notice attestation to which Mr. Tiffany replied he completed it.

Mr. Cramer stated he is excited to work with a bank that wants to work with us. He asked if they had a local bank. Mr. Demko replied yes, it is in Bellbrook at the top of the hill and the assistant manager there has engaged in all their meetings. He added they do not use that branch very often except the drive through, but they know who we are. Some discussion followed.

Fire

Ms. Zimmerman was not present had nothing to add to the report. Mr. Cramer asked if there have been any bids on the fire truck to which Mr. Tiffany stated it has not been listed yet.

Mrs. Destefani knows there was a fire on Feedwire Rd and asked if it was bad. Mr. Tiffany stated it was a large shed, but the challenging part was that it was back a private drive. The structure was a total loss. The owner was burning brush in the woods, surrounded by all the dry leaves which caused it to spread. Some discussion followed.

Police

Chief Brown was not present and had nothing to add to his report. Mrs. Destefani stated she was curious on November 11th there was a chase after the Kohl's incident, and she wondered if they had any details on how bad the cruiser was damaged. Mr. Tiffany stated it was not bad and no one within the township was hurt. Mr. Cramer stated to summarize this there was a shop lifting situation at Kohls, and they took 2 carts full of stuff which then pursued into a low-speed chase which ended up in Waynesville. Mrs. Destefani asked what the reporting procedures are. She stated what they had reported she would not have even know it was this significant. Mr. Tiffany stated he does not think it was listed. Mrs. Destefani asked why it was not listed. Mr. Tiffany stated he does not know. Mr. Cramer stated that is very significant. Mrs. Destefani stated it is, and she would encourage Chief Brown to bring something like that to their attention. Mrs. Tilford stated maybe they can add events of significance or something to the bottom of their report. Mrs. Destefani stated yes, if there is damage to their resources and possibly to a person then that is something they are going to want to be aware about.

Mr. Cramer stated his neighbor came to him and thanked him for the nice work of the police. His neighbor was driving down Lower Bellbrook and he saw an officer pulled over on the side of the road, and the officer shot the deer that had been hit to prevent any suffering. The neighbor asked the officer if he could have the deer, and the officer said sure. Mr. Cramer thinks it was Officer Daniels and his neighbor wants to know if there is a list of people that they call if there is a struck dead deer/near dead. Mr. Tiffany stated there used to be, but he is not sure if there is now. Mr. Owens stated he will see about getting one. Some discussion followed. Mr. Cramer went on to say his neighbor was so impressed by this young officer and his professionalism.

Roads and Service

Mr. Owens had nothing to add to his report. Mrs. Destefani asked about the kitchen demos in both fire stations and what the service departments part in that was. Mr. Owens stated his guys went in and removed the old appliances, all the cabinets, countertops, everything. Mrs. Destefani asked what the time frame is. Mr. Tiffany stated they messed up all the measurements for the countertops at station 71 but are otherwise waiting for the new appliances. Mr. Cramer stated he would like to see it when it's finished. Some discussion followed.

Mrs. Destefani asked what the proof rule at Magnolia Meadows. She asked if it was to make sure for plowing that they can get their vehicles through. Mr. Owens stated it is a subgrade fir the roads. It tests the compactability of the roads to make sure it has got a good base before they lay the gravel and asphalt. Mr. Tiffany added they must ensure the base is compacted solid and won't move before they put the other stuff in. Mrs. Destefani asked why they are doing that instead of an inspector from Greene County. Mr. Tiffany replied that the Greene County inspectors were there, they just want more eyes there.

Mr. Cramer asked how it is looking with salt. Mr. Owens said it is looking good, they have used 22 tons already. Mr. Cramer asked if there was enough to get them through the winter. Mr. Owens replied if there is not much going on, then yes. He added that there is 2,000 tons on order as well. Mr. Tiffany added that we do not have to use the ordered salt, but it is there if we need to. Mr. Cramer stated so it is a firm planned order vs a planned order. Some discussion followed.

Information Technology

Mr. Tiffany stated there was a fire fighter whose email got compromised because he opened an email and attachment that he should not have. It probably came into his junk file and clicked on it, so they are working with the IT team to do a two-factor authentication to get into the email. Mr. Tiffany added he put it on is computer today and it is a pain in the butt because you must get an authenticator app on your phone and authenticate a code to get into your email. He added he is not sure what it is going to do though besides lock anyone out of the system who got in from this compromise. It will not prevent anyone from opening emails with hacking attachments. As of right now it is a defense thing, and they are unsure if they are going to put it into place for everyone.

Trustees

Mr. Moeller stated almost everything it turned in for the new residential package, so he hopes at the next work session they may be able to all take a look at it and see what they want to put in it so they can begin getting it out. Mr. Moeller also asked what is going on with the camera system. He feels they need to get moving on trying to record the meetings. He added they have been talking about it for about a year and have done nothing about it. He stated it would be nice to get it to social media so people can watch the meetings. Mr. Tiffany stated the question is do you want to broadcast live. Mr. Moeller stated he just wants to implement a way for people to be able to watch the meetings on their own time if they

can't be physically present for them. Some discussion followed. Mr. Moeller asked what the other trustees thought. Mrs. Destefani stated she has proposed it multiple times as well, and knows other townships and Bellbrook have this implemented and Sugarcreek is one of the last ones to do it, so she knows it will only be a matter of time since the technology has already been installed. Mr. Cramer asked Mr. Moeller if he is wanting it to be live or recorded. Mr. Moeller stated both, he just wants the meetings to be accessible to the community than they are right now. Mrs. Destefani stated as a trustee, transparency is always one of those issues that citizens want to have access to anything that is happening within the township, and she thinks this is something that they should do. She added she would be okay with recording them and showing them later. Mr. Tiffany stated they would have to store them somewhere and there would be a cost associated with that. Some discussion followed. Mr. Tiffany asked if they have watched the school board meetings to which they replied to no. Mr. Tiffany stated the people who look at it as an opportunity to make a grandstand and to be heard. Mr. Tiffany stated he is recommending they do not do live recordings and just record them so people can watch them later. Mr. Moeller stated even if there are grandstand people who watch, it is their right as a Sugarcreek township citizen to have their opinions heard and the trustees want to be transparent. Mr. Cramer asked what the capability is. Mr. Tiffany stated they press a button, and it records. He added they will have to find a host to post the recordings whether that be YouTube or the website server, but they need to look at the costs. Mrs. Destefani stated she had sent to both Mrs. Tilford and Mr. Tiffany over a year ago, a special expensive system someone had where it shows live voting, who says what, the meeting minutes as you go through, and you can go straight to different sections of it without having to listen to the whole meeting. Mrs. Destefani also added she thought the county commissioner also reported that they say something on their packets saying that they have the right to remove some content before it is posted. Mr. Tiffany stated he does not know, and they would have to get a legal opinion. Some discussion followed.

Mr. Moeller stated he found out the City of Bellbrook put in 2 sirens that some Sugarcreek residents may be able to hear.

Mrs. Destefani stated as a reminder, there is a veteran's memorial open house December 7th at 6pm at Sugar Valley Golf Club. Likewise on December 13th from 5pm-6pm at Sugar Valley Golf Club, Perspectives 2040 is putting up all their long-range use plans for all of Greene County and it is open to the public. The survey is open for another month. She also added a fun event coming up at the air force museum on November 30th from 6pm-10pm the real Forest Gump and his wife will be there.

Mr. Cramer stated he had nothing to add. He stated they are hoping to have a new fire chief hired before the first of the year and they have a process in place to get down to 3-4 qualified candidates and on the December 19th meeting they will spend a lot of time in executive session interviewing those candidates.

5) **Public Comments – Agenda Items**

None.

6) **Old Business**

None.

7) **Consent Agenda Items**

A. Payment of Bills

B. Approval of Minutes

C. Resignation of Fire Department Staff – Stephen Jensen – 2022.11.21.01

WHEREAS, Part-time firefighter/Paramedic, Steve Jensen has indicated his desire to resign from the Sugarcreek Township Fire Department; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Jensen was hired as a member of the Sugarcreek Township Fire Department on May 23, 2022; and,

WHEREAS, Assistant Chief Joann Zimmerman recommends we accept the resignation of Mr. Jensen.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Sugarcreek Township Trustees officially accepts the resignation of Stephen Jensen effective November 27, 2022.

D. Resignation of Service Department Staff – Robert Jordan

WHEREAS, Full-time Service Worker, Robert Jordan has indicated his desire to resign from the Sugarcreek Township Service Department; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Jordan was hired as a member of the Sugarcreek Township Service Department on August 19, 2020; and,

WHEREAS, Director of Roads and Services, Dale Owens recommends we accept the resignation of Mr. Jordan.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Sugarcreek Township Trustees officially accepts the resignation of Robert Jordan effective November 27, 2022.

E. Appointment of Fire Department Staff – Todd Tignor

WHEREAS, the continuing need exists to maintain proper staffing within the Sugarcreek Township Fire Department; and,

WHEREAS, vacancies exist within the classification of Full-time Firefighter/Paramedic; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Tignor has the necessary qualifications to serve in the capacity of Full-time Firefighter/Paramedic for the Sugarcreek Township Fire Department; and,

WHEREAS, funds are available for this purpose within the Fire Department's 2022 Operating Budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Todd Tignor shall be appointed to Full-time Firefighter/Paramedic within the Sugarcreek Fire Department at the rate of \$21.57 per hour; and,

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, the above-mentioned appointment for Mr. Tignor will have an effective date contingent on passing the physical exam with a one (1) year probationary period.

Mr. Cramer made a motion to approve all consent agenda items which was seconded by Mr. Moeller. Upon call of the roll, the vote resulted in the following:

Mrs. Destefani-yes
Mr. Moeller-yes
Mr. Cramer – yes

9. Discussion Agenda Items

Mr. Tiffany stated OTA sent a letter about their elections for their Board of Directors. He stated there are 3 choices, and they can vote for two. The three choices include Philip Cox, Joyce Martin, and Bradly Hurr. Mr. Tiffany stated he knows one of the choices, Mr. Cox but does not know the other two. None of the trustees knew any of the candidates but stated they would take Mr. Tiffany's recommendations.

10. Public Comments

Mrs. Hellman stated she spoke a couple months ago about the AES utility boxes and was told at the last meeting she spoke about it at that they would check on it and get back to her. She stated she just needs help getting a name of who to contact and she will be the one to speak to them.

Mrs. Hellman also stated she spoke with the gentleman who was going around her development and painting the fire hydrants, and she was unsure if there was a plan to paint/replace the one at the corner of Little Sugarcreek and Feedwire since it is rusted. Some discussion followed.

Mrs. Hellman stated she has received feedback from her neighbors about the people from Metro-net tearing up lawns and she has directed them to the county not to the township.

11. Trustee/Staff Discussions

Mr. Cramer stated he is pleased with the process they have in place for hiring a new Fire Chief. Mr. Cramer asked Mr. Demko when his budgets need to be done and Mr. Demko replied and stated by the next meeting. Some discussion followed. Mr. Cramer asked all the trustees send Mr. Tiffany and Mrs. Tilford some potential interview questions they would like to ask.

Executive Session

None.

13. Adjourn

Mr. Cramer made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Mr. Moeller. Upon call of the roll, the vote resulted in the following:

Mrs. Destefani-yes

Mr. Moeller-yes

Mr. Cramer - yes

Richard J Demko, Fiscal Officer