

The Board of Trustees of Sugarcreek Township, Greene County, Ohio, in Regular Session on December 5th, 2022, at 7:00 PM.

- 1) **Mr. Cramer called the session to order at 7:00 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, Louie Schatzber, Jenn Leclair, Nadine Daugherty, and Brian VanVlies.
- 3) **All in attendance stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.**
- 4) **Appointment and Swearing in of Police Department Staff – Gregory J. Staten – 2022.12.05.01**

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

WHEREAS, a vacancy exists within the classification of full-time Police Officer; and,

WHEREAS, the vacancy has been posted for application in accordance with township policy and the current labor contract; and,

WHEREAS, an assessment center was conducted which included testing in basic exercises, review board and personal interviews with the Chief of Police; and,

WHEREAS, after a review of all the candidates, Police Chief Michael A. Brown recommends this appointment, and confirms that there are funds available for this position in the 2022 operating budget,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Gregory J. Staten is hereby appointed as full-time Police Officer effective December 5, 2022, at a pay rate of \$28.11 per hour, payable on a bi-weekly basis, and subject to a one (1) year probationary period ending December 5, 2023.

Mrs. Destefani made a motion to approve Resolution 2022.12.05.01, 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

5) **Public Hearing**

Purpose: To consider forwarding a request to the Greene County Board of Commissioners asking that all unincorporated area of Sugarcreek Township be designated a restricted area prohibiting the following: an economically significant wind farm, a large wind

farm, and a large solar facility pursuant to Section 303.58 of the Ohio Revised Code. -
2022.12.05.02

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of Sugarcreek Township desires to maintain the rural, scenic, and open character of Sugarcreek Township; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of Sugarcreek Township desires to have our established zoning codes and processes control any land use changes in Sugarcreek Township; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of Sugarcreek Township held a public hearing on December 5, 2022, to solicit input from the community on whether the Board of Trustees should request that the Greene County Board of Commissioners take the steps necessary to declare the unincorporated portion of Sugarcreek Township a restricted area for large scale wind and solar facilities; and,

WHEREAS, the Township has also received input outside of the public hearing and has received support to request that Sugarcreek Township be made a restricted area as it relates to large scale solar and wind facilities, including support from the Little Miami River Watershed Network.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Trustees of Sugarcreek Township that the Board of Trustees is formally requesting the Greene County Board of Commissioners to take the necessary actions to declare the totality of the unincorporated portion of Sugarcreek Township a restricted area for economically significant wind farms, large wind farms, and large-scale solar facilities pursuant to the authority granted by R.C. 303.58.

Mr. Cramer stated that the public hearing is formally opened. Mrs. Tilford gave some background information: Senate Bill 52 became effective back in October of 2021 and shortly after that effective date of that bill, the township trustees did send a letter to the board of commissioners requesting that Sugarcreek Township be a restricted area for area for economically significant wind farms, large wind farms, and large-scale solar facilities pursuant to the authority granted by R.C. 303.58. Greene County responded that they wanted the court case related to senate bill 52 to be decided before they took any action. On October 10, 2022 Sugarcreek Township reached out for an update where Greene County was on designated the whole unincorporated portion of Sugarcreek Township as a restricted area. Cedarville Township has been designated as a restricted area by Greene County. The county administrator did respond, and the commissioners are requiring that each township hold a properly noticed public hearing for the purpose of gathering information from residents regarding declaring unincorporated portions of their townships as restricted areas. The legal notice for this hearing did run on 11/23 in Greene County Daily and was also posted on the website. Senate Bill 52 basically gave the local communities a voice in the deciding process of these large solar and wind projects. Large solar facilities are becoming more prevalent in the State of Ohio. It is important to note that they are not talking about solar panels on residential roofs, ground mounted solar arrays providing energy to a single home, or wind turbines providing electricity to a single costumer. To declare an area off limits, the county must hold their own public hearing

and pass a resolution. If approved, it would become effective 30 days from that approval date. The Little Miami River Cleaners submitted a bunch of information, and they are concerned about the environment impact of these large solar and wind applications as well as the removal of productive agricultural grounds to this other use.

Mr. Cramer stated this is something they have discussed and decided to move forward with before, so his feelings have not changed, and he wants to keep finalizing this. Mrs. Destefani stated as far as she is concerned there is precedent as Cedarville Township did get permission to restrict it in their township. She also stated that the Little Miami Watershed network has shared some valid points as far as the concerns and they have heard a lot of those concerns from others as well at some of the public meetings they have attended regarding this matter. Mr. Moeller stated he has heard all the pros and cons.

Mr. Cramer asked for those wishing to speak in favor to speak now. Hearing none he asked for those wishing to speak against to speak now. Donna Hellman stated at this point in time she agrees. She feels this is similar to when satellite dishes first came out and were huge. She feels they should wait until they get smaller, and technology evolves and reconsider later. Brian VanVlies stated he is also against this. He added the development plan they put together years ago really emphasized keeping the rural areas of Sugarcreek as large acre residential and agricultural to try and keep with the intentions of the community. Mr. Cramer asked for those wishing to speak neutral speak now. Hearing none, Mr. Cramer made a motion to close the public portion of the meeting. Mrs. Destefani seconded. Upon call of the roll, the vote resulted in the following:

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

Mr. Cramer made a motion to approve Resolution 2022.12.05.02, which was seconded by Mrs. Destefani. Upon call of the roll, the vote resulted in the following:

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

6) **Reports**

Administration

Mr. Tiffany had nothing to add to his report. Mr. Cramer stated regarding the I-675 improvement project, he was told by Vanessa that Mike Turner has earmarked \$3,000,000 and ODOT has approved \$3,000,000 so although a long time coming, they are making progress.

Mrs. Destefani stated the court has approved the transfer of property for the veteran's memorial which is more great progress.

Mr. Cramer stated they have final interviews for a fire chief 12/19/22 and will hopefully name a new fire chief 1/1/23.

Zoning

Mrs. Tilford had nothing to add to her report.

Fiscal Officer

Mr. Demko stated they have finalized the temporary appropriations and will be getting with the department heads and will provide those on 12/19/22. He adds they made their large principal payment on the new lease of the fire truck. Mr. Cramer asked if they have a date where they will be reviewing the audit. Mr. Demko stated yes, they met Thursday and went through the initial report and there were some management and administrative items that they do have answers to that they asked for. He stated he thinks within the next week or two they will have their final report.

Fire

Ms. Zimmerman was not present had nothing to add to the report. Mr. Cramer asked if the kitchen renovations were complete, to which Mr. Tiffany replied yes. Mr. Cramer asked if Mr. Moeller and Mrs. Destefani would like to schedule a time together to go and see the renovations together while they bring over the Christmas gifts. They decided to schedule it after the next meeting on 12/19/22.

Police

Chief Brown had nothing to add to his report.

Roads and Service

Mr. Owens was not present and had nothing to add to his report. Mr. Cramer stated he is happy that now Greene County dispatch has a preferred list to call when a deer has been struck. Some discussion followed.

Information Technology

Mr. Tiffany had nothing to add to his report.

Trustees

Mr. Moeller stated he attended the workshop the other day and it was informative and there was good turnout.

Mrs. Destefani stated she was also at the planning workshop and attended regional planning recently. She added they are getting ready for the veteran's memorial presentation on 12/7/22 at 6 pm. She added there is a perspectives 2040 long range use plan meeting on 12/6/22 that she will be attending. They have spoken with local HOA communities, and they are hosting an open house regarding long range use plans for Sugar Creek Township on 12/13/22 at 5pm at Sugar Valley Golf Club that is open to the public.

Mr. Cramer thanked Police for the update on their vehicles. He asked about the vehicle with over 120,000 miles while all the other vehicles have under 70,000 miles Chief Brown stated they are all up to date on services and they rest the vehicles which extends the vehicles life. He added he did put in to get a new vehicle for 2023 that would come around June, but they

are not obligated to take it if the budget does not allow. Mr. Cramer stated he also attended the planning workshop, and he was really impressed with the speaker from Bellefontaine. They have transformed it into a place with many restaurants, Airbnb's, etc. They have invited him to come speak and provide discussion for some of the things he recommends for Sugarcreek Township and Bellbrook. Some discussion followed.

The trustees discussed the annual reorganization and appointments. All board appointments will remain the same, with the addition of The Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Chamber of Commerce which will have Mr. Cramer sitting.

7) **Public Comments – Agenda Items**

Nadine Daugherty stated she has sat on both sides, and she wants to compliment everyone on how nice the meetings are as she knows how much work goes into them. She has heard some rumors going around and wants to clarify and ask from the source itself. Therefore, she asked if the meetings are being recorded and if so, what station are they on? Mr. Tiffany stated no. Ms. Daugherty stated she knows everyone runs on a campaign of transparency and she knows there is a camera there, so she has to ask herself why they are not being recorded, and she does not have a good answer to that. She stated knows Bellbrook and the school board record and post their meetings. Mr. Cramer stated as little as 2 hours ago they had this same discussion, and they absolutely are going to be recording both the township trustee meetings as well as the zoning meetings. He stated that they are going to be doing it in phases. Phase 1 will be just the recording and the link will be published to the website where people can watch the video recording. He added they need to purchase additional equipment as far as storage to handle the volume of videos they are going to collect. Some discussion followed.

8) **Old Business**

None.

9) **Consent Agenda Items**

A. **Payment of Bills**

B. **Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Moeller made a motion to approve consent agenda items. Mrs. Destefani Seconded. Upon call of the roll, the vote resulted in the following:

Mrs. Destefani-yes

Mr. Moeller-yes

Mr. Cramer - yes

10) **Discussion Agenda Items**

None.

11) **Public Comments**

Jenn Leclaire stated she is from the Bellbrook Sugarcreek Community Support Center, and they are having their first fundraising gala on 1/28/22 at 6 pm and she is here to invite the trustees and audience to come. She added that it will be at the Sugar Valley Golf Club and there will be entertainment, food, a silent auction, and more. Ms. Leclaire went on to add that they support over 1,000 families between Bellbrook and Sugarcreek Communities and that can include the food pantry, back to school supplies, classes, etc. Mr. Cramer and Mrs. Destefani both expressed that they plan on attending. Mr. Tiffany stated while she is here, Sugarcreek Township used to donate annually to the BSCS, and he asked if the trustees want to discuss supporting them with a monetary donation. Mrs. Destefani asked what the specific amount was. Mr. Tiffany stated some years it was \$1,000 while other years it was \$2,500. All trustees stated they are in support of donating \$1,000 out of the general fund to the BSCS.

Mrs. Destefani made a motion to donate \$1,000 to the Bellbrook Sugarcreek Community Support Center. Mr. Cramer Seconded. Upon call of the roll, the vote resulted in the following:

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

12) **Trustee/Staff Discussions**

There was Trustee discussion regarding what meetings they will be attending in 2023. .

13) **Executive Session**

Mr. Cramer made a motion to move into Executive session under section 121.22.G.1 To consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official, or the investigation of charges or complaints against a public employee, official, licensee, or regulated individual, unless the public employee, official, licensee, or regulated individual requests a public hearing. Mrs. Destefani seconded. Roll was called with the vote being as follows:

Mr. Cramer – Yes
Mrs. Destefani – Yes
Mr. Moeller – Yes

Mr. Cramer moved to come back from executive session at 9:00 pm.

Mr. Cramer made a motion to give the Township Administrator an 8% pay increase effective 1/1/23. Mrs. Destefani seconded. Upon call of the roll, the vote resulted in the following:

Mr. Cramer – Yes
Mrs. Destefani – Yes

Mr. Moeller – Yes

14) **Adjourn**

Mr. Moeller made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Mrs. Destefani. 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