

The regular meeting of the Green Township Board of Trustees held on July 14, 2014 was called to order at 5:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Chairman Rosiello, present; Trustee Linnenberg, present; Trustee Callos, present; Fiscal Officer Straus, present.

Chairman Rosiello moved to approve the minutes for the regular meeting of June 23, 2014. Trustee Callos seconded the motion. All voted Aye.

RESOLUTION #14-0714-A

Chairman Rosiello moved to pass a resolution to amend the previously approved minutes of June 9, 2014 in order to correct the number of each resolution. Trustee Linnenberg seconded the motion. Trustee Callos: Aye; Trustee Linnenberg: Aye; Chairman Rosiello: Aye.

Gary Dressler, Sidney Road, asked what the correction to the minutes was. Trustee Rosiello answered his question.

Bill Grafe from Integrys Energy and Spence Faxon from Energy Alliances were present to discuss the savings from the winter period of usage for Green Township's Natural Gas Aggregation Program. Mr. Faxon reported that Green Township residents saved over \$412,000 over the four winter months from January 1, 2014 to April 30, 2014.

Trustee Rosiello stated that in Green Township there are approximately 12,300 homes participating in the Green Township Gas Aggregation Program. He encouraged residents who wish to join the program to call the Green Township Administrative Complex.

Pat Gunn, President of Green Township Firefighters Local 2927, stated that the International Association of Firefighters is in Cincinnati at this time for their conference.

Mr. Gunn reported on the Annual Golf Outing that was held by the Green Township Firefighters Local 2927 on July 11, 2014. He stated that the Golf Outing was a huge success and that Chris Godfrey will have a full report for the Board when all of the numbers are finalized.

Mr. Gunn commended the Board for convening a Financial Review Committee to review the Township's finances and receive an independent perspective on the need for a Safety Services Levy. Mr. Gunn stated that he is in favor of a 3.6 mil levy in order to raise the necessary funds to keep staffing levels at fire stations at a safe level. Mr. Gunn offered the "messaging service" available from the Firefighters International Association to help spread the word to Green Township residents as to why a Safety Services Levy is necessary.

Chairman Rosiello thanked Mr. Gunn for his comments and stated that safety of Green Township residents is a number one priority for him and will certainly consider all factors when considering a Safety Services Levy.

Trustee Linnenberg thanked the Fire Department, Police Department and Public Services Department for accepting three years of no pay increases so that the Township did not have to cut services or lay off personnel.

Trustee Callos thanked each of the departments for their service and commitment to Green Township. In order to better understand Township operations, he stated that he has met with all Fire Department personnel and with all Public Services Department personnel. He plans to meet with Police Department personnel in the near future.

RESOLUTION #14-0714-B

Chairman Rosiello moved to pass a resolution accepting and approving the financial reports as submitted. Trustee Linnenberg seconded the motion. Trustee Callos: Aye; Trustee Linnenberg: Aye; Chairman Rosiello: Aye.

RESOLUTION #14-0714-C

Chairman Rosiello moved to pass a resolution accepting and approving the Appropriations Amendment for 2014. Trustee Linnenberg seconded the motion. Trustee Callos: Aye; Trustee Linnenberg: Aye; Chairman Rosiello: Aye.

RESOLUTION #14-0714-D

Chairman Rosiello moved to pass a resolution setting a public hearing regarding the Harrison Green Project on August 25, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. at the Green Township Administrative Complex, 6303 Harrison Avenue, for purpose of considering the creation of a Joint Economic Development District under Section 715.70 of the Ohio Revised Code. Trustee

Linnenberg seconded the motion. Trustee Callos: Aye; Trustee Linnenberg: Aye; Chairman Rosiello: Aye.

RESOLUTION #14-0714-E

Chairman Rosiello moved to pass a resolution to hire Marc Nie as a Part-Time Computer Maintenance Technician at \$8.50 per hour beginning July 15, 2014. Trustee Linnenberg seconded the motion. Trustee Callos: Aye; Trustee Linnenberg: Aye; Chairman Rosiello: Aye.

Gary Dressler, Sidney Road, asked if Marc Nie is related to Firefighter Mike Nie. Attorney Hyle stated that they are related. Mr. Dressler asked if the job opening was posted in a newspaper. Administrator Celarek stated that the opening was posted internally within Township facilities and that there was only one applicant. Attorney Hyle stated that the Township policy on nepotism applies to the elected officials and that if the Trustees deem an applicant satisfactory for the position then the hiring is appropriate and acceptable.

RESOLUTION #14-0714-F

Chairman Rosiello moved to pass a resolution for permission to travel for Fire & EMS Chief Douglas Witsken to attend the International Association of Fire Chiefs Conference from August 13 - 16, 2014 in Dallas, Texas. There is no cost to the Township. All conference, travel, lodging and meal expenses will be paid by Chief Witsken. Trustee Callos seconded the motion. Trustee Callos: Aye; Trustee Linnenberg: Aye; Chairman Rosiello: Aye.

Trustee Linnenberg stated that Chief Witsken traveling at his own expense to the International Conference of Fire Chiefs is a great example of how Green Township employees are helping the Township.

Ken Sponaugle, 6787 Verde Ridge Drive, asked why the Township is not paying for the Fire Chief to attend the conference. Trustee Linnenberg stated that the Township does not have the extra funds to pay for out-of-state travel. Chief Witsken stated that he did not ask for the Trustees to pay for the Conference expenses and volunteered to cover those on his own.

RESOLUTION #14-0714-G

The following properties were declared as nuisances. The Township Attorney was directed to notify the owners of the properties listed below of this resolution:

1. 3385 Bellehaven Court (550-0162-0075), Motion made by Chairman Rosiello and seconded by Trustee Linnenberg. All voted Aye.
2. 5730 Biscayne Avenue (550-0171-0386), Motion made by Chairman Rosiello and seconded by Trustee Linnenberg. All voted Aye.
3. 4282 Boudinot Avenue (550-0064-0133), Motion made by Chairman Rosiello and seconded by Trustee Linnenberg. All voted Aye.
4. 4292 Boudinot Avenue (550-0064-0131), Motion made by Chairman Rosiello and seconded by Trustee Linnenberg. All voted Aye.
5. 3601 Edgebrook Drive (550-0171-0345), Motion made by Chairman Rosiello and seconded by Trustee Linnenberg. All voted Aye.
6. 6835 Taylor Road (550-0290-0050), Motion made by Chairman Rosiello and seconded by Trustee Linnenberg. All voted Aye.
7. 5565 Woodhaven Drive (550-0162-0127), Motion made by Chairman Rosiello and seconded by Trustee Linnenberg. All voted Aye.

The Board discussed a proposed Safety Services Levy for the November, 2014, General Election. Chairman Rosiello stated that three levy amounts were sent to the Hamilton County Auditor for certification. Chairman Rosiello reported that a 2.95 mill levy will generate approximately \$3,162,542 annually; 3.3 mill levy will generate approximately \$3,537,759 annually; and a 3.65 mill levy will generate approximately \$3,912,975 annually. Chairman Rosiello stated that currently the Township millage rate is 8.7 mills and with the passage of any proposed levy amount the Township would still have the lowest effective millage rate of any local community. He stated that many factors are being taken into consideration as this decision is made. The Trustees have received recommendations from the Financial Review Committee as well as many phone calls and e-mails from residents regarding the proposed levy.

Trustee Linnenberg stated that due to loss in revenue from the Local Government Fund, Estate Tax and Tangible Personal Property Taxes the Township has been hit hard financially. In addition, he recognizes the need for a seventh police beat to patrol within the Township, as well as the need to address the increasing amount of emergency runs by the Fire/EMS Department. Therefore, he is in favor of a levy amount that will last for a minimum of five years and feels that the 3.65 levy amount would

be appropriate. Trustee Linnenberg stated that raising taxes is never easy but the sooner an amount can be chosen, the sooner the Township can begin to spread the word as to why the Levy is necessary.

Chairman Rosiello stated that Green Township shares ten miles of border with the City of Cincinnati and is concerned about problems encroaching from the City. His greatest concern is the Police Department being able to adequately protect the citizens of Green Township. Chairman Rosiello stated that he, as well as the Financial Review Committee, have looked over the numbers several times and the need for the Levy is evident.

Trustee Linnenberg stated that he also has concerns about parts of Colerain and parts of Delhi that border Green Township. Some of those areas are having drug and crime problems as well.

Trustee Callos stated that with the potential loss of some Sheriff's Department deputies in early 2015, the Township needs to have the funds to replace those deputies. Trustee Callos stated that he recognizes the need for additional personnel at the Fire Station on Harrison Avenue, however, he is in favor of phasing those changes in over a couple of years. Trustee Callos stated that the long term effect on property values and quality of life in Green Township starts with Safety Services. He wants to make sure that the Township is proactive and is looking out for the best interests of Township residents.

Trustee Callos stated that the Township is very conservative with its funds and is proud of the fact that the Board has kept expenditures down over the past four years while dealing with revenue losses exceeding \$3.4 million dollars. Trustee Callos stated that the Board must take action and put a Safety Services Levy on the ballot in November. Trustee Callos stated that he has trust, faith and confidence in the leadership team that the Township has in place as well as the Financial Review Committee. Trustee Callos stated that it was a unanimous recommendation of the Financial Review Committee that a Safety Services Levy for Police, Fire & EMS Safety Services is necessary. Trustee Callos stated that the Township has been very frugal and responsible with the use of its funds. He stated that true leadership has been shown by past Trustees in Green Township and that the quality of Township staff is phenomenal.

Trustee Callos stated that he is in favor of a 2.95 mill levy if that amount will last approximately 6 years. Asst. Administrator, Adam Goetzman, stated that he is confident that a 2.95 mill levy will last approximately 5 - 6 years as long as there is no further significant loss of funds from the State of Ohio. Trustee Callos stated that the number one priority is the safety of Township residents. Raising taxes is not an easy decision to make but it is one that has to be made.

Chairman Rosiello stated that he has met with each department head to see if a balance can be achieved between their needs and his desire to raise taxes as little as possible. He stated that he is in favor of the 2.95 levy amount and stated that he is confident that amount would provide needed services yet, raise taxes as little as possible.

Trustee Linnenberg asked Chairman Rosiello why he is in favor of 2.95 mills as opposed to 3.3 or 3.65 mills. Chairman Rosiello stated that he thinks the 2.95 will accomplish his safety goals for Green Township. He also stated that he thinks residents were shocked recently when they saw the increase from the recently passed Oak Hills School levy on their tax bills.

Trustee Linnenberg stated that one of the things the Financial Review Committee recommended was a five year levy. Trustee Linnenberg stated that he feels that any proposed levy should be a continuing levy. He stated that he would be in favor of a 2.95 mill levy as long as it is a continuing levy.

Trustee Callos agreed with Trustee Linnenberg and stated that he would be in favor of a 2.95 mill levy as long as it is continuing.

Chairman Rosiello stated that he would like for residents to know that they are going to pass a resolution to put a levy on the ballot in November, but we will need everyone's help and trust to get that levy passed in order to keep Green Township a safe community.

RESOLUTION #14-0714-H

Chairman Rosiello moved to pass a resolution declaring that the amount of taxes within the 10 mill limitation by levies on the current tax duplicate will be insufficient to provide an adequate amount for Township requirements, and so pursuant to Section 5705.19 JJ it is necessary to

levy a tax for Police and Fire Safety Services at a rate of 2.95 mills for a continuing period of time to be submitted to the electors of the Township at the General Election on November 4, 2014 with the tax to commence in 2014, first due in calendar year 2015 . Trustee Linnenberg seconded the motion. Trustee Callos: Aye; Trustee Linnenberg: Aye; Chairman Rosiello: Aye.

Administrator Celarek made the following announcements:

1. The Northeast Green Township Board of Zoning Appeals will hold a public hearing on July 15, 2014 at the Green Township Administrative Complex, 6303 Harrison Avenue, at 4:00 p.m., to hear the following case:
 - a. Case Green #2014-01, Michael Kempf, Pac-Van Inc., Applicant, Northwest Local Schools, property owner for approval of a Conditional Use to install a temporary/portable classroom accessory structure on subject property located at 3130 Jessup Road.

Development Director, Adam Goetzman, stated that Conditional Uses are those special uses that require additional attention prior to the issuance of a zoning certificate. A school located in a residential district is such a use. The proposal is for a second classroom to be installed on the White Oak Middle School property. It will be installed directly adjacent to an existing temporary classroom, so there should not be any issues with it, however, he stated that he cannot issue a zoning certificate because the Zoning Resolution states that anything requiring a zoning certificate on a Conditional Use must go through the conditional use process.

Fiscal Officer, Tom Straus, reported that so far this year the Township has received approximately \$21.3 million dollars and expended approximately \$17.5 million dollars. The General Fund has received approximately \$2 million dollars and expended approximately \$2.3 million dollars. Fiscal Officer Straus reported that there was a recent article in the Ohio Township Association magazine by Senator Bill Seitz addressing all the issues that were discussed at this meeting and the cuts that the Township has received from the State of Ohio. Senator Seitz stated that he thinks the legislators in Columbus want Townships to become Cities.

Chairman Rosiello stated that he thinks the legislators in Columbus would like to see Townships be absorbed by the County.

Township Attorney, Frank Hyle, stated that he had nothing to report.

Township Administrator, Kevin Celarek, reported that the Township recently received notice from the Ohio Public Works Commission that grant money awarded for the Rybolt Road improvements has been increased by approximately \$50,000 and will now total \$3,557,140.

Director of Public Services, Joe Lambing, thanked Randy Ludwig, Police Chief Bart West, Fire & EMS Chief Doug Witsken and all the volunteers for their help with the July 3rd Concert and Fireworks event. The event was a big success and drew a very large crowd. Mr. Lambing reported that Harrison Avenue west of I-74 has experienced some major lane changes. The curb lanes are gone, and all traffic is down to the two center lanes while work proceeds on the curb and gutter area. Mr. Lambing stated that construction will continue the rest of this construction season and may continue into next season.

Trustee Linnenberg asked Mr. Lambing if a meeting has been set up to discuss installation of sidewalks along Bridgetown Road. Mr. Lambing stated that he has been waiting for people to get back from vacation to schedule that meeting.

Chairman Rosiello stated that he is happy to see that barricades are finally gone from the construction area on Glenway Avenue.

Fire/EMS Chief, Doug Witsken, stated that the Fire Department has received a \$2,500 grant from the State of Ohio for Emergency Medical Services Training and Equipment Grant for the 2014 - 2015 grant cycle. That money will be used for day long continuing education seminars for EMT's and Paramedics. The cost of those trainings are usually between \$50 to \$100. This grant allows the department to send anywhere from 25 - 50 employees to day long training sessions for continuing education. Chief Witsken also reported that they are anticipating delivery of the new aerial truck this week or early next week and will have that truck on display in front of the Administration Building prior to the next Trustees Meeting on July 28, 2014.

Police Chief, Bart West, reported that everything at the July 3d Concert and Fireworks Event went very well, however, there were a few parking problems that were due to the large crowd that attended. Police Chief West thanked everyone for the assistance and patience while they continue to work out some minor details at the event. Chief West also reported on a tragic shooting of a 13 year old boy that was killed by another 13 year old boy that was playing with a stolen gun. Police Chief West reminded residents to lock up all firearms and stated that the Police Department does have free gun locks available at the Police Department until they run out of them.

Director of Development, Adam Goetzman, stated that he had nothing to report.

Paul Bertke, 3940 Drew Avenue, addressed the Board in regards to late night teen mischief and large groups of teens gathering. Mr. Bertke stated that he has lived on Drew Avenue since 2002 and lately has been seeing large groups of teenagers gathering and roaming through the neighborhood late at night. Mr. Bertke stated that he would like to see a curfew put in place in the Township. Mr. Bertke stated that parents should know where their teens are late at night and if the teens are violating curfew the parents should be subject to fines.

Chairman Rosiello stated that the Board will discuss this matter with the Police Chief and discuss options. He also encouraged residents to call the Police Department when they see problems occurring.

Trustee Callos announced that Community Day will be held on August 2, 2014 at Veterans Park and Kids Fun Day will be held on August 23, 2014 at Veterans Park.

Trustee Callos reported that on Saturday, July 5, 2014 he attended the German Heritage Monument Dedication Ceremony at West Fork Park. He encouraged residents to stop by West Fork Park to see the monument and tour the German Heritage Museum.

Trustee Callos read several thank you letters.

Trustee Linnenberg reported that the property owned by Green Township on Harrison Avenue near Lee Ct. has been sold to Neyer Properties. Neyer recently announced that development of that property will include a Dewey's Pizza, First Watch and Tom + Chee. Neyer anticipates starting construction of the office building portion of the complex this year and they hope to have a groundbreaking ceremony sometime in early August.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on Monday, July 28, 2014 at 5:30 p.m.

Chairman Rosiello moved to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Linnenberg seconded the motion. Trustee Callos: Aye; Trustee Linnenberg: Aye; Chairman Rosiello: Aye. Meeting was adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

ATTEST: