

RECEIPTS

2 <sup>ND</sup> HALF REAL ESTATE TAX DISTRIBUTION	\$ 867,610.21
ZONING INSPECTOR	25,020.60
PARK RECREATION FEE (PULTE HOMES)	7,200.00
PARK RECREATION FEE (DREES HOMES)	7,200.00
CEMETERY	5,525.00
CULVERT PIPE	<u>500.00</u>
 TOTAL	 <u>\$ 908,055.81</u>

FISCAL OFFICER:

  
Mandie Andrews

APPROVED:

  
Mark C. Cunningham, Chairman

  
Dick Heidecker, Vice Chairman

  
Tony Manning, Trustee

Chairman Mark Cunningham called the August 15, 2022 regular meeting of the Board of Trustees to order in the Columbia Town Hall at 7:00 p.m.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, Fiscal Officer Mandie Andrews took roll call attendance and Trustees Mark Cunningham, Dick Heidecker and Tony Manning were present.

Fiscal Officer Mandie Andrews sent all meeting reports to the Trustees electronically.

Minutes from the regular meeting on July 18, 2022 were presented for approval.

**Motion Heidecker to approve the minutes as written. Seconded Manning. Vote unanimous.**

Minutes from the regular meeting on August 1, 2022 were presented for approval.

**Motion Heidecker to approve the minutes as written. Seconded Cunningham. Vote unanimous.**

Mandie Andrews presented bills and payroll totaling \$51,649.02 for approval.

**Motion Heidecker to pay bills and payroll totaling \$51,649.02. Seconded Manning. Vote unanimous.**

#### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

Post card from the Farm Bureau about their Annual Meeting on September 10th at 6:00 p.m. and the Fall Farm Tour on September 24<sup>th</sup> from noon to 5:00 p.m.

#### **SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT:**

Deputy Brandon Bargaheiser reported the Sheriff's Department responded to 164 calls during the month of July. These calls were mostly for self-initiated activities such as traffic stops and premises checks. From August 1st to today, they have responded to 65 calls, including one burglary. Bargaheiser recommended residents light up their homes.

#### **ZONING INSPECTOR:**

**Permits** – For August 1 through August 15<sup>th</sup>, Zoning Inspector Bob Eichenberg reported issuing 20 permits for five patios, one deck, one shed, one pond, one pool and 11 single-family homes. Year-to-date, he has issued 143 permits for new homes.

**Violations –**

**26224 Royalton Road**

Eichenberg reported the court ordered the property owner to remove the mobile home by August 15<sup>th</sup>. As of today, the mobile home is still there. Eichenberg will call Assistant Prosecutor Tom Mangan tomorrow.

**9955 Bryant Avenue**

Eichenberg explained this home was totally destroyed by fire. A neighbor took it upon himself to demolish the garage. Eichenberg told the neighbor that he needs to have the pile of rubble from the garage removed.

**Board of Zoning Appeals** – The BZA will meet on Monday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 6:30 p.m. to hear a request for a 7 ft. side yard variance for a pool house on West River Road.

**Zoning Commission** – The Zoning Commission's next regular meeting is on Thursday, September 1, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. During their August meeting, they discussed having a new Comprehensive Plan and rezoning Royalton Road to commercial from SR 252 to the Strongsville border.

**Subdivision Status** – Nothing new reported.

**MS4'S** – No complaints or problems reported.

**ROAD DEPARTMENT:**

**Equipment** – Service Director Bob Rundle reported all fire department and road department equipment up and running. There is a problem with the pump on Engine 212. They are still waiting for delivery of the packing. The repair will be completed as soon as it arrives.

**Issue I Status** – Once the Ohio Public Works Commission makes the final payment to the contractor, the South Boone Road Resurfacing Project will be complete. The Township's portion is paid in full.

Rundle will be submitting two projects for 2023. The first is to repave North Marks Road and adjust the elevation of the sewer manhole covers. The second project is repairing and resurfacing Redfern Road.

**Motion Cunningham to authorize Bob Rundle to submit an Issue I application for an OPWC loan to repair and resurface Redfern Road. Seconded Heidecker. Vote unanimous. 8-15-2022-93**

**Motion Cunningham to authorize Bob Rundle to submit an Issue I Application for repaving and adjusting the manhole covers on North Marks Road. Seconded Heidecker. Vote unanimous. 8-15-2022-94**

The road crew installed a new crossover pipe on Crocker Road and will finish the project tomorrow. Next, they will return to the Redfern Farm Subdivision where they will do more concrete road repair.

**Subdivision Status** – Nothing new reported.

**MS4'S** – No problems or complaints reported.

#### **FIRE DEPARTMENT:**

Chief Anthony was absent so Chairman Cunningham read his report.

**Personnel** – The Fire Department has 39 members on file and 36 members on call.

**Runs** – To date, they have responded to 473 calls.

**Transport Billing** – July transport receipts totaled \$9,111.58, Year-to-date receipts total \$80,483.45.

**Mutual Aid** – Mutual aid was provided 39 times and requested 27 times.

#### **CEMETERY:**

Rita Plata reported the receipt of \$1,625 for four burials, \$3,500 from the sale of four graves, and \$400 for one footer.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Shooting Ranges** – Since a large crowd was anticipated, officers from the Columbia Township Fire Department counted people as they arrived. A total of 119 people were in attendance.

Chairman Cunningham explained that since there were a lot of people present and the Trustees wanted to give everyone an opportunity to comment, he asked that comments be limited to 3 minutes or less. He requested comments and questions be brought to the Board. Cunningham also asked the audience to keep it civil.

State Representative Dick Stein was present. Cunningham asked everyone to be respectful.

Residents were present from Akins Road, East River Road, Mitchell Road, Osborne Road, Royalton Road, Root Road, Station Road, the Sandstone Ridge Subdivision and Royalton Road. A Station Road property owner, Brian Lanckiewicz, who is shooting on his own property was also present.

There were numerous proponents of the shooting being done on Brian Lanckiewicz's property and they stressed that safety is #1 on his property. They also emphasized their 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment right to shoot on private property and many said they shoot on their own properties. Lanckiewicz believes people shouldn't move to the township if they don't like the shooting.

There were numerous opponents who live near Lanckiewicz's Station Road property who stressed fear for their safety and the safety of their children, the noise nuisance, the devaluation of their properties and the danger from high caliber weapons being shot near their homes. Residents in the Stone Ridge Subdivision spoke of not being able to have company and being afraid to be outside when there is shooting going on. They complained about being told to go to their basements by law enforcement.

A number of residents complained that their rights are being overruled by the right to discharge firearms.

There was discussion about the many residents throughout the township who are shooting on their properties. Some residents who live near the Station Road property acknowledged they knew shooting was permitted on private property when they moved to Columbia Township. Those same residents are complaining about the noise and danger from the high-caliber military style weapons being used by Lanckiewicz. Some complained that the weapons are being fired in the direction of their homes.

Regarding the bullet that pierced an umbrella on Springfield Circle, Stein said the range in question, Brian's, is 1200 ft. from the home and that bullet could have come from 2 to 3 miles away.

An Osborne Road resident complained about the use of military-grade weaponry in a residential area. She said it is decreasing her enjoyment, safety, and value of her property. She said one person is doing this to a lot of people.

There were complaints about the amount of shooting going on throughout the township. A Royalton Road resident complained that bullets have hit their home. They have a barn and people are taking their horses elsewhere.

A Root Road resident said on Sundays there can be 15 people shooting at a time and it is excessive.

Some believe Brian Lanckiewicz is taking the brunt of it when a lot of other residents are shooting in the same area.

Representative Stein listened to the comments. He also explained the legislative process. Legislation has to be passed by the Ohio Senate and the Ohio House of Representatives and then sent to the Governor for signature. Out of 1,000 pieces of legislation, only about 20 percent is passed. He said it sometimes takes 5 to 6 years to get a piece of legislation passed.

Stein discussed the decibel limit of 90 decibels for one hour or less and 85 decibels for 8 hours or less measured at the property line of the owner. ODNR has to do the decibel investigation. Stein will find out through his office what the process is.

During the discussion, Mr. Stein explained that there is nothing the Trustees can do to limit shooting. He acknowledged it is a very passionate, heated issue and it would take a monumental consensus to pass a law. Stein said state law mirrors NRA safety.

Cunningham explained the under the ORC the Trustees cannot regulate the discharge of firearms. The Trustees can pass resolutions, but not laws. Representative Stein said the state legislature is the only party that can change the outcome of this situation.

Mr. Stein noted that he tried to do some background work. He said he has been here a couple of times over the last two weeks. He met with Brian Lanckiewicz at his property and found it to be very safe, one of the safest in Ohio. While he was there, he heard shooting going on somewhere else. Stein said Brian is willing to show anyone his property. He feels there is a disconnect here since he will show anyone his range.

Rep. Stein is looking for some solution that allows for a compromise. He said I understand the concerns about your safety and the safety of your families. Stein said we need to come up with some middle ground because it seems like it's all or nothing

for both sides. He said we have to determine what is fair for both sides. He suggested having three to four people from both sides sit down together with the Trustees to see if they can come up with a compromise that is fair for everyone and for both sides. Rep. Stein said he would be willing to participate in the discussion. Trustee Heidecker suggested inviting the Lorain County Prosecutor and a couple of deputies.

Representative Stein thanked everyone noting it is a difficult topic. He will see if he can get some involvement with Senator Manning. Stein will also work with the Trustees to try to make some progress.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**NOPEC – Resolution to opt out Township’s Electric Bills** – Chairman Cunningham explained that everyone who lives in Columbia Township should know what is going on with NOPEC. Their rates are double the rates charged by Ohio Edison. He said residents should stick with Ohio Edison at least until the next auction in January or February. There is no fee to opt out at this time. Residents have to call NOPEC at 855-667-3201 to opt out.

Cunningham advised against taking a variable rate. Residents should choose a fixed rate. Suppliers and their rates are available at <https://puco.ohio.gov>. A resident asked if they could get a refund on their overpayment. Cunningham suggested they call the PUCO.

**Motion Cunningham to opt out the Township’s electric bills from NOPEC.  
Seconded Manning. Vote unanimous. 8-15-2022-95**

**Approve MOU for Smith Ditch SWAC Project –**

**Motion Heidecker to approve the Memorandum of Understanding for the Smith Ditch SWAC Project. Seconded Manning. Vote unanimous.  
8-15-2022-96**

**Steering Committee Selection** – Trustee Manning explained the Trustees put a moratorium in place on single-family homes for up to 24 months to allow for the development of a new Comprehensive Plan. The Steering Committee was selected to begin work on the plan. Manning reported 21 people applied and the following 12 were selected: Mary Sullen, Robert Keane, Dave Cepis, Edward Walsh, Dominic Canitia, Jill Voigt, Bob Ponton, Katie Cooke, Edward Young, Peter Zwick, Bobby Petras and Greg Modic. Manning noted the committee is made up of new residents and long-term residents. Zoning Commission members Dave Frye and John Kelly will be the liaisons with the Zoning Commission.

The Steering Committee will meet for a “meet and greet” on Wednesday, August 17<sup>th</sup>, at 4:00 p.m. in the Town Hall. Only one trustee can attend these meetings, even if they are workshop meetings, so Trustee Manning will take the lead.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Cunningham** reported the Lorain County Township Association will not meet in August. Instead, they will be manning their booth at the Lorain County Fair. Cunningham had nothing new to report concerning the Rocky River Watershed Council. Cunningham will be at the fair booth on Thursday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The next RLCWA Board meeting is on September 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. RLCWA is having a difficult time getting the supplies necessary to install taps. This is affecting three subdivisions in Columbia Township. RLCWA does not want to commit to the taps until they can get the materials. This may put the burden on the contractors.

**Heidecker** reported the NEORSD sewer line going down Boone Road will start down SR 82 and will go as far as SR 252. They are doing an engineering study on SR 82. The sewers may be paid for by the TIF. Originally, they said it would be 5-7 years or 7-10 years and now they are looking at 2-3 years.

Heidecker asked each group from the earlier discussion about the shooting range on Station Road to email the Trustees with three people who can meet with the Trustees and the Lorain County Prosecutor.

#### **FISCAL OFFICER’S FINANCIAL REQUESTS:**

Mandie Andrews did not have any financial requests.

#### **COMMUNITY INPUT:**

Chairman Cunningham asked everyone to refrain from making any more comments about shooting in the Township. Everyone present was given the opportunity to offer comments and/or ask questions.

Due to Labor Day, the next regular meeting will be on Tuesday, September 6, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

**Motion Heidecker to adjourn the meeting. Seconded Manning. Vote unanimous.**

Minutes submitted by Rita Plata.