

## UNION TOWNSHIP – WARREN COUNTY

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES – Regular Meeting – March 2, 2020

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**CALLING THE MEETING TO ORDER:** The regular meeting of the Union Township Board of Trustees was called to order by President, Fred Vonderhaar on Monday 3/2/20 at 6:00 p.m. at the Union Township Municipal Building. The meeting was opened with the fiscal officer, Shelley Lamb, taking roll call of the trustees: Fred Vonderhaar, Tony Ledford, and Jamie Allen. All were in attendance. Prayer was led by Mr. Ledford. Mr. Vonderhaar led everyone in The Pledge of Allegiance.

**CITIZENS IN ATTENDANCE (IF KNOWN):** Jim Elkin, Art Perong, Nathan Smith, Mark Solsman.

Mr. Solsman stated he is unhappy with the speed limit increase on Dry Run Road. He stated it needs to be lower than 40 MPH. Mr. Vonderhaar commented that he contacted Greg Carmack at the Warren County Engineer's Office to see if the previous speed study could be appealed to possibly lower the speed limit in that area. Mr. Carmack said they would try, but is not sure it will be possible. Mr. Vonderhaar is now waiting on a response back from them. Mr. Solsman said he looked on District 8 ODOT's website and found the last study on Snook Road was in 1975 from Shawhan Road to Bishop Drive. ODOT lowered the speed limit on Bishop Drive to 25 MPH and Snook Road was set at 35 MPH. Since this study, there are now 2 subdivisions in this area, Aberlin Springs & Shepherd's Way. According to the Ohio Revised Code (ORC) some properties on Snook Road would qualify to be classified as minor subdivisions as they are less than 5 acres and split from their original properties, allowing the Township Trustees to regulate speed limits in that zone if they foresee any problems. Per the website, there has never been a speed study on Dry Run Road. There are already two properties on Dry Run Road classified as subdivisions (Woodhill Estates) which are owned by Blaine Bowman & James Farquer. Mr. Vonderhaar stated the speed limit from Shawhan Road to the bridge is already supposed to be listed at 35 MPH and he hoped they would continue that speed from the bridge down Snook & Dry Run Roads to the hotel. Again Mr. Vonderhaar stated that Greg Carmack said he will try to do something about it. Mr. Vonderhaar said he didn't think the Township could override them due to the fact the county already made them take down their signs because if the police were to cite someone for speeding, which would really not be the case, the Township could be in trouble. That's when the Township requested the original speed study, hoping it would come back at 35 MPH, but that did not happen. Mr. Solsman then brought up the fact that there is still farming equipment that goes up and down this road too, but there are no "Farm Machinery" warning signs up anymore. Mr. Perong stated he thinks the main issue with that area of Dry Run, is the road isn't wide enough in the first place and most drivers will not adhere to any speed limit signs whatever they are. Mr. Elkin also agreed that the posted speed limit is too high. Mr. Ledford stated he feels the speed limit should be 35 MPH especially as curvy as it is. Mr. Vonderhaar brought up the idea if ODOT doesn't lower the limit, maybe the Township could post a "Curve" sign with a lower speed limit posted beneath it, at least for the "S" curve area. Mr. Vonderhaar will let everyone know the outcome as soon as possible following an answer from the County.

**POLICE SUMMARY:** Sergeant Boylan & Deputy Pangallo had nothing to report other than Sergeant Boylan asked to see the speed study as he had not seen it. He wondered if it was a "tube study" and if not, maybe that should be done. Mr. Ledford thought that could be worth a try. Mr. Vonderhaar will check on that with Greg Carmack.

**CHIEF'S REPORT:** Chief Napier stated the new fire truck might be ready sometime in July 2020. He is waiting on the new equipment from the grant to come in. He also saw the preliminary plans for new apartments that could be built on Mason-Morrow Road next to the bike trail. 8 buildings at 4 stories high and 2 having underground parking resulting in a possible 416 additional residents. This complex, combined with the new school bus garage in the same area, could result in more traffic issues. Mr. Perong asked if anyone has heard what exactly was going on close to this area on Columbia Road. No one is sure if this property is still for sale or has sold recently.

**ROAD SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** Road Superintendent Josh Sandlin was not in attendance due to illness.

**FISCAL OFFICER'S REPORT:** Shelley Lamb stated the approved meeting minutes for 2020 have been posted on the Township website as had been requested.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Mr. Allen made a motion to pay the bills, seconded by Mr. Vonderhaar. The motion was carried by all "yeas".

Mr. Ledford stated he had received a quote on the road striping from AA Safety for \$7,641.42, but it is not the same material as the County will use and has used in other areas. The County striping bid, which is over \$2,000 more, includes a raised material with glass particles in it and in the lower bid, the striping would be flat. Mr. Vonderhaar will check with the County to see if there are any guarantees that this raised striping will not scrape off and if there are any warranties with the product. Mr. Ledford then made a motion to go with the County's bid for the road striping, seconded by Mr. Allen. The motion was carried by all "yeas". Mr. Ledford made a motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting on February 18, 2020, seconded by Mr. Vonderhaar. The motion was carried by all "yeas".

Mr. Vonderhaar said Road Superintendent Josh Sandlin would be installing 18" tile for the Snook Road repair. He would be letting it settle first with just gravel covering, then coming back to black top. Mr. Solsman stated there could be a phone line buried in that area, so we will check and have that marked. Mr. Vonderhaar stated he will talk to Josh about doing the work possibly during spring break so not to interfere with school buses, as the road will be closed. The Township received a phone call complaining about garbage at 3314 Trovillo Road. Mr. Vonderhaar stated the homeowner was contacted and asked to clean up their yard in the next week or two. Mr. Vonderhaar stated there was a phone call about West Turtlecreek-Union Road concerning a construction company leaving mud & tearing up the side of the road. He went out and made contact with the construction crew who stated they would sweep & clean it up. The Warren County Engineer, Neil Tunison, agreed to let this construction company make a temporary entrance into a field to reach some power lines & poles, but they had not let the Township know about it until Mr. Vonderhaar contacted their office.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, Mr. Vonderhaar made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ledford to adjourn the meeting at 6:42 p.m. The motion was carried by all "yeas".

The next meeting will be Monday, March 16, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.