

UNION TOWNSHIP – WARREN COUNTY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES – Regular Meeting – May 4, 2020

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 5/4/20 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): None

POLICE SUMMARY: Deputy Staverman was in attendance with nothing to report.

CHIEF’S REPORT: Chief Napier stated they just got done with their hose testing and they will need to replace some as it runs from 20 to 40 years old. He didn’t have an exact dollar figure yet, but roughly around \$6,000. He stated there was a crash involving the F350 EMS on Cox-Smith Road on April 26, 2020. They hit a mailbox, which has since been replaced by Road Superintendent Josh Sandlin. The mirror on the truck was also destroyed which has also been replaced. He stated total cost will be around \$700 and was not turned into the insurance company. All paperwork was done including drug testing & Warren County Sheriff’s crash report. He also said he was working on the U.S. Census Report concerning the Township’s boundaries and is almost completed with it. Firefighter Ryan Hurley woke up recently with a sore throat, etc. and was sent to be tested for the coronavirus. He was also set up to stay in a hotel until test results came back. All results came back negative as it was a sinus infection. He was at the hotel for 2 days. This hotel in Mason was approved by the state of Ohio for essential personnel up to 14 days for this purpose. Mr. Hurley is now back to work. The National Day of Prayer (May 7, 2020) is now online due to the COVID-19 and those interested may watch on YouTube. Chief Napier’s recommendation concerning the annual Memorial Day parade held by the Township should be canceled due to COVID-19. This was agreed to by all trustees, so the parade is canceled. Currently, the new truck for the fire department is still on a July 2020 delivery date. At this time, there are 4 positive coronavirus cases reported in the Village of South Lebanon and 1 in Union Township. There are higher totals in some surrounding areas and these areas have a much higher number of nursing homes. This virus seems to affect the elderly more than others.

ROAD SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT: Josh Sandlin reported the tile was done on Snook Road and was ready for blacktop. He stated he needed to do the repairs at King’s Way as per the county’s request so Barrett Paving can blacktop. Mr. Vonderhaar stated a catch basin on St. John’s in Riverwalk has some holes that need repaired as the county said Josh could handle, so they need to check it out to see what needs done for sure. Mr. Vonderhaar also wanted to mention that Josh did a great job with the grindings on Glosser Road. Mr. Vonderhaar also mentioned no one bid on the County’s Chip & Seal project, so they will be sending it back out.

FISCAL OFFICER’S REPORT: The Fiscal Officer presented the bills to pay, fund status, cemetery deeds, etc. thru May 4, 2020. All were signed and approved by the Board of Trustees.

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

Mr. Ledford made a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting on April 6, 2020, seconded by Mr. Allen. The motion was carried by all “yeas”. The quorum was not met for April 20, 2020, so there was no meeting.

Mr. Vonderhaar asked Road Superintendent Josh Sandlin if the cemetery had been sprayed yet this year. Josh responded that he was not aware if so. He will call Poff’s to get it done as they normally have it sprayed in the spring and fall.

Mr. Allen wanted everyone to know that he and his family thought Josh and the road department did a great job at the cemetery during the burial for his mother.

Mr. Vonderhaar wanted to make a motion, seconded by Mr. Ledford, that any grave opening/closing fees at Fellowship and Deerfield cemeteries would be waived for any current or retired Union Township employee.

Mr. Sandlin mentioned there was a cremation paid for by the Village of South Lebanon for an indigent person. He wanted to know if the Township was waiving the burial fees for a woman that was donating the plot. Mr. Vonderhaar stated the Village of South Lebanon needs to address the situation with the plot owner, as she is not living in this area.

Mr. Ledford brought up that the Township should have some cremation burial plots set aside for indigents in the future. It was stated that there are some plots available that could be used for this purpose. Attorney Bruce McGary should be included in further discussions to come to a conclusion on what needs to be done.

Mr. Vonderhaar said he sent the letter to Neil Tunison, Warren County Engineer, concerning the road damage on Cox-Smith Road from a previous waterline that was installed by the City of Cincinnati with approval through the Engineer's Office. He is requesting that needed road repairs be taken care of before warranties expire. He has not yet heard back, but will try to contact him again if he gets no response.

Mr. Vonderhaar presented estimates (3 different solutions) concerning the Phillips Road tile replacement. This is in conjunction with Salem Township (Trustee Ralph Blanton) and the cost would be split. Mr. Vonderhaar says we should wait on Salem Township to hold their next meeting to see what is discussed about the situation, but requested Mr. Ledford & Mr. Allen to check it out and see what they think.

Mr. Vonderhaar presented other areas' cemetery fees as compared to Union Township's. He brought up the need to raise the prices. Below are the agreed upon new fees that will take effect on July 1, 2020. The fee for a cemetery deed will remain \$35.

GRAVE

RESIDENT - \$750 NON-RESIDENT - \$1,500

OPENING/CLOSING

MON-FRI BEFORE 3PM - \$900 MON – FRI AFTER 3PM - \$1,200 SAT/HOLIDAYS - \$1,200

INFANT OPENING/CLOSING

MON-FRI BEFORE 3PM - \$250 MON – FRI AFTER 3PM - \$450 SAT/HOLIDAYS - \$450

CREMATION

MON-FRI BEFORE 3PM - \$250 MON – FRI AFTER 3PM - \$450 SAT/HOLIDAYS - \$450

DISINTERMENT

\$1,500

FOOTERS

\$.65 PER SQUARE INCH

Mr. Vonderhaar commented the new traffic signs looked good on Dry Run Road. Mr. Ledford commented that they can be seen really well at night.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, Mr. Vonderhaar made a motion, seconded by Mr. Allen to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 p.m. The motion was carried by all “yeas”.

The next meeting will be Monday, May 18, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.