

Chairman Swedyk called the meeting of the Hinckley Township Board of Trustees to order at 6:30 p.m. on March 7, 2023. Present were Trustees Swedyk, Augustine and Ascherl, Fiscal Officer Catherwood had an excused absence, Police Chief Centner, Road Superintendent Behary and Fire Chief Grossenbaugh. 11 people attended in person and three virtual.

All present pledged Allegiance to the Flag.

MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Swedyk made motions to approve the following:

- February 27, 2023 Special Meeting. Ms. Augustine asked that these minutes be amended to include her edit. Mr. Swedyk replied he did not feel the edit was pertinent to the minutes, Ms. Ascherl reminded the Board that the minutes are not a transcription of the meeting and referenced the availability of the YouTube recordings available on the Township website. Ms. Augustine feels this edit is pertinent to the topic. Trustees Ascherl and Swedyk did not agree. Ms. Augustine moved to amend the February 27, 2023 Special Meeting to include her edit. Swedyk second. Vote: ASCH- yes, S-yes, AUG - yes

- February 21, 2023 Regular Meeting. Ms. Augustine asked that these minutes be amended to include additional edits. Mr. Swedyk replied he agreed to edit the meeting start time, but did not feel the additional edits were necessary or valid. Ms. Ascherl agreed. Ms. Augustine moved to approve the February 21, 2023 Regular Meeting amending the start time from 6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Swedyk second. Vote: ASCH- yes, S-yes, AUG - yes

SPECIAL GUEST

Ms. Augustine introduced Jennifer Brown, an economic development strategist for CT Consultants. Ms. Brown discussed how CT Consultants could work with the Township on applying for OPWC and/or EPA Revolving Loan funding to provide city water to town center properties. After a brief introduction to CT Consultants range of services and municipal expertise, Ms. Brown provided the Trustees with information on how applying for the suggested funding sources may offer a gateway to the Township in providing water infrastructure to town center property owners.

Ms. Ascherl inquired as to whether the suggested funding mechanisms are grants or loans. Ms. Brown replied they are loan agreements that may culminate in a percentage of loan forgiveness being applied if certain project criteria are met. Mr. Swedyk asked if the criteria is needs based, to which Ms. Brown indicated that loan forgiveness determinations are based on a ranking of several factors including regionalization, economic need, unemployment and compromised water systems negatively affecting the health of the population. CT Consultants proposal to investigate the funding resources and guide the Township in an application process was submitted at \$8,500.00.

Mr. Swedyk stated that the Hinckley community is not considered economically disadvantaged, to which Ms. Brown agreed. Mr. Swedyk added that Medina County does not have the extension of city water to Hinckley's town center in their 10-to-20 year infrastructure planning.

Further discussion ensued as to what amount of funding would be an assessment on property owners or the Township if this project was undertaken.

Ms. Augustine stated her commitment to providing city water to town center. The Trustees thanked Ms. Brown for her presentation.

POLICE

Chief Centner had nothing to report. Ms. Augustine asked the status of the police and fire department quarterly and annual reporting. Both Chief Centner and Chief Grossenbaugh replied that following the end of the first quarter they would supply a quarterly report and information is being assembled for the 2022 annual reporting.

FIRE

Ms. Ascherl made a motion to move FF/EMT Brad Potash from Cadet pay to his full rate of \$16.23/hour, and FFT/Paramedic Jake Bartinelli and Tristen Buttani from Cadet pay to their full rate of \$18.54/hour. All increases are effective March 19, 2023. Augustine second. Vote: ASCH- yes, S-yes, AUG-yes

Ms. Ascherl made a motion to approve an amount not to exceed \$800.00 for two (2) officer helmets and leather fronts from Fire Safety Services, Inc. Augustine second. Vote: ASCH- yes, S-yes, AUG-yes

Ms. Ascherl made a motion to approve emergency repair appropriations for Tanker #32 in the amount of \$1,351.77 through W.W. Williams. Augustine second. Vote: ASCH- yes, S-yes, AUG-yes

Chief Grossenbaugh informed the audience that due to Buzzard Day there will not be a March blood drive.

SERVICE

Mr. Behary requested the Trustees approve miscellaneous items required to outfit the new F-750 dump truck; including lighting (Chuck's Custom), straps and tool boxes (TSC).

Mr. Swedyk made a motion to approve an amount not to exceed \$1,000.00 for the purchase of miscellaneous required items for the F-750 dump truck. Ascherl second. Vote: ASCH- yes, S-yes, AUG-yes

ZONING

Ms. Augustine informed the Trustees that the Oath of Office has been administered to Board of Zoning Commission Alternate William Spellman.

The Trustees discussed whether Zoning Commission appointees Engleman and Spellman should be required to re-take Township required Sunshine Law Training since both took the training during their recent alternate terms. In order to stay the course it was decided to adhere to the current approved requirements as indicated in the 2023 Organizational Meeting Minutes. Ms. Englemen and Mr. Spellman shall be required to undertake the training during their current appointment terms.

TRUSTEES

Ms. Augustine shared the following information:

- Buzzard Day is March 19th, pre-order sausage information is available through the Hinckley Chamber of Commerce.
- The deadline to nominate Hinckley's 2023 Citizen of the Year is March 22, 2023.
- Hinckley's newest CRA Housing Counsel members (Nancy Mandilakis and Denise Klag) have been forwarded to the Medina County Planning Commission for approval.
- Medina County Commissioner Harrison will be the speaker for the Hinckley Memorial Day Parade on May 29, 2023.

Resident Natasha Kalas asked Ms. Brown (CT Consultants) for clarification on whether the Township would be required to pay up front costs for water infrastructure projects if accepted into the programs presented. Ms. Brown confirmed that the Township would be responsible to guarantee funding up front for any projects, but may receive reimbursements labeled as loan forgiveness up to 50% of the loan if eligible. Further discussion ensued as to whether the Township may be eligible based on environmental and economic factors. Ms. Brown stated that the Township would never receive 100% of infrastructure funding through the two loan programs presented.

Ms. Augustine asked the Trustees if they would like to move forward on hiring CT Consultants. Mr. Swedyk and Ms. Ascherl replied that they were not at this time and would like to gather

additional information on the potential assessments to impacted property owners and gauge interest in water infrastructure through the town center.

Ms. Ascherl reminded the Trustees that in November they had agreed to work with the Medina County Sanitary Engineer on sending a letter out to property owners in the project areas to determine their interest. Ms. Ascherl presented the Trustees a draft letter submitted by the Sanitary Engineer to include Hinckley specific language. Ms. Ascherl read the draft letter into the record as follows:

Regarding: Proposed Water Main Extension along Ridge Road and Center Road

Dear Property Owner,

Our Board was recently approached by some member of the community requesting information on the possibility of extending an existing water main to service properties near and at the intersection of Ridge Road and Center Road.

Recently the Medina County Sanitary Engineer addressed the Board of Trustees discussing three (3) different options to extend water. He explained that this project is not on the County Commissioner's Ten (10) Year Plan. He agreed to bring this request to the County Commissioners if there was an overwhelming response from residents in favor of extending water as an assessed project, meaning the property owners would be responsible for the costs associated with extending the water main.

If the County Commissioners agree to move forward with this project as an assessed project there will be considerable cost to each property owner.

As an example, Option A is approximately a \$2,000,000 project. Spread over the estimated 65 parcels, each parcel would be responsible for an estimated of \$32,000, which could be placed on the property tax over 20 years. There will be additional expenses to tie in and run the water to your home or business, an approximate cost will range between \$10,000-\$20,000 depending on the length and difficulty to install the service connection.

Please note, these are estimate based on current parcels and costs from the Sanitary Engineer. The intent of this letter is to ascertain whether other neighboring property owners are also interested in the water main extension. Please complete the attached document and you may either email your response info@hinckleytwp.org or mail the response 1410 Ridge Road, Hinckley, Ohio 44233. If you have any questions regarding this inquiry, please contact Monique Ascherl 330-416-8971.

Failure to respond to this letter will be considered a No to the request.

Respectfully,

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The Trustees agreed that this should be done and will review the draft and discuss the final version at a future meeting. Ms. Augustine had expressed an interest in hiring the consultant and mailing the letter.

Residents added that the letter should indicate that the Township is working on grant funding to reduce the assessment costs and suggested that the failure to respond indicating “No” may not be necessary to include in the letter.

Ms. Ascherl informed the audience that the public information session on “Internet and Phone Scams” has been moved to March 25, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. at the Town Hall.

Ms. Ascherl requested an agreement that the *Hinckley Record* monthly Trustees Corner column should be reviewed and signed off on by the Board of Trustees prior to submission. She feels that several submissions have not expressed the voice of the entire Board. Ms. Augustine feels that the submission should express the views of the Trustee that is submitting the article that month. Mr. Swedyk feels that there should not be a submission since all information can be easily found on the Township website. Discussion ensued as to *Hinckley Record* and Township newsletter content.

Ms. Ascherl made a motion that all written communication offered by the Board of Trustees in the *Hinckley Record* and/or the Township newsletter be approved by the Board prior to being submitted (for publication). Swedyk second. S=yes, ASCH=yes, AUG=no

Mr. Swedyk made a motion to approve a one-year renewal to the Township mowing contract with Don Cox (Honey Bee Lawncare Service) to include a 5% annual increase. Augustine second. Vote: ASCH=yes, S=yes, AUG=yes

Mr. Swedyk made a motion to approve the portable latrine rental agreement through United Rentals for 2023. Augustine second. Vote: ASCH=yes, S=yes, AUG=yes

Mr. Swedyk made a motion to enter into an agreement with the City of North Royalton for the repair of Boston Road east of Ridge Road. This is the boundary line (roadway) between Hinckley Township and the City of North Royalton. Costs for this project shall be shared by both jurisdictions. Augustine second. Vote: ASCH=yes, S=yes, AUG=yes

Mr. Swedyk made a motion to appropriate \$750.00 to the Medina County Commissioners for the annual 2023 Stormwater Program Fee. Ascherl second. Vote: ASCH=yes, S=yes, AUG=yes

Mr. Swedyk read the following sequence of events regarding the West 130th/Center Road property annexation petition into the meeting record:

CRA Tax Abatement sequence of events

- In May of 2022, Drug Mart submitted a request to receive the 50% tax abatement available through the CRA zone in the area that includes their subject property on the SW corner of Rt 303 & W130th.
- On May 24, 2022, Medina County Economic Development Corporation Executive Director Bethany Dentler provided the Board with the details of the request and the CRA information.
- On June 7, 2022, Ms. Dentler again attended a meeting of the Board to answer any questions relative to the request before the Board voted on the matter. After discussion, the Board voted 2 to 1 against granting the request.
- On July 12, 2022, Ms. Dentler attended another Board meeting at the request of the Board to discuss the options available regarding restructuring the CRA parameters.
- On September 6, 2022, Trustee Ascherl presented the Board an option for restructuring the CRA.
- On September 20, 2022, the Board voted 2 to 1 to keep the CRA as is.
- On October 4, 2022, Trustee Ascherl informed the Board that Ms. Dentler had been notified of the Board's decision regarding the CRA.
- On October 18, 2022, Trustee Ascherl informed the Board that Ms. Dentler had advised that she had not yet heard anything back from Drug Mart, and would not likely hear anything until late winter or early spring.
- On February 7, 2023, the Board received notification that an annexation petition had been filed with Medina County for the subject property.

Mr. Swedyk added that subsequently the Trustees have retained legal counsel to file an objection to the annexation petition.

PUBLIC

Resident Cindy Engleman (Ridge Road) asked Ms. Augustine why she voted against supporting a letter to the Medina County Commissioner in support of the Discount Drug tax abatement request at a meeting in June of 2023. Ms. Augustine replied that she felt the corner was not highly sought after and did not feel the abatement request was necessary. She added that she has since had a change of heart on the matter and has stated such. Ms. Augustine added that she voted no in agreement to the reason Ms. Ascherl voted no. Ms. Ascherl disagreed, clarifying that her no vote was in response to a preference that the abatement terms benefit "Mom and Pop" businesses.

Resident Tia Balody (Stony Hill) asked the Trustees if there was anything they could do to relocate a driveway to a subdivision being constructed across from her home. She stated that the lights will shine directly through her living room picture window. Ms. Augustine responded that

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the site plans have been approved and there is nothing the Trustees can do. Mr. Swedyk suggested Ms. Balody contact the Medina County Engineers Office to discuss.

Resident Tom Schrader (Walden Ridge) inquired as the status of the annexation objection process. Mr. Swedyk replied that the Trustees have met with counsel in anticipation of the hearing on April 9 and he has no further information he can discuss at this time.

Mr. Swedyk made a motion to pay the bills/payroll in the amount \$190,140.95. Ascherl second. Vote: ASCH=yes, S=yes, AUG=yes

Mr. Swedyk made a motion to adjourn at 8:34 p.m. Augustine second. Vote: ASCH=yes, S=yes, AUG=yes

The Board reviewed and signed purchase orders, payroll and bills.

