

Mad River Township Trustees

Regular Meeting: Thursday, February 16, 2017

Meeting time: 7:30pm

Trustees Present: Dave Riley (president), Brent Laughman (vice president), Dale Goddard

Fiscal Officer Present: Richard Ford

Others Present: Josh Shoemaker, Don Vallance, Bob Purk, Susan Prince, Linda Sheeley, Susan and Tom Johnson, David Brown, Glen Shoemaker, Dean Vinson

Meeting called to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes and Financials

Trustees reviewed the financials and 2/2/17 meeting minutes.

Motion: Brent Laughman motioned to approve the minutes, financials, bills/checks. Dale Goddard seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Community Discussion/Concerns

-Susan Johnson, Tom Johnson, and Linda Sheeley notified the trustees that their neighbor's property at 1098 W. County Line Road has become a health hazard with tons of trash and other junk in the yard. They said the neighbor only mows it a couple of times in the summer as well. They fear that with the high grass, trash, and junk that the property is a breeding ground for disease, rats and other pests. Bob Purk said he has already sent a certified letter to the owners to clean it up in 21 days or it will be turned over to the courts. Dave Riley asked Mr. Purk if he could provide the trustees with a copy of the letter. Mr. Purk said he would get it to them.

-Susan Prince asked Mr. Purk if the new proposed cell tower would affect what she could put on her property. Mr. Purk said it would not change the zoning rules for her property. She also asked for an update on the cell tower. Dave Riley said our attorney had provided responses to the different concerns that had been raised and he asked if she had read our attorneys response to all the inquiries. She said she had read it.

-Don Vallance asked Bob Purk if he was ever going to sign the acknowledgement letter that the township had received from the cell company. Mr. Purk said he was not since he had been advised by our attorney not to sign it.

The question was raised if the trustees had talked with any of our government officials. Dave Riley said he would send an email to Mr. Vitale and Mr. Jordan to see what they thought about zoning rules for cell towers. Mr. Vallance also said he sent a letter to the cell tower company asking for them to abide by the residential setback rules but they responded that they had too much time and money invested in putting it in the current location. Mr. Vallance also commented that our zoning maps have a lot of green/U-1 areas and he thought there should be more R-1 (residential) zones since there were quite a few subdivisions.

-Dean Vinson commented that we should be careful in rezoning as it will take away the freedoms that U-1 areas provide residents who have chosen to move into the country.

Don Vallance also asked Mr. Purk about the guide wires and if there was anything that could be done about those with setbacks. Mr. Purk said there wasn't anything we could do about those either.

-Dave Brown was present to first thank the trustees for working with him this past year on moving the mulch piles he had on his property. He also brought to their attention that while trying to clean up the rest of the property by taking down and burning old brush and trees, his neighbors had called the fire dept. on him about burning the piles. He said he has applied for an open burn permit from the EPA but wanted to see if there were any other rules he needed to be aware of in order to burn the old brush and wood piles. Trustees said to notify German Township Fire department since they cover the area for his property. He did say the EPA asked him to burn as far away from the residential homes as possible.

Roads and Bridge

-No update from the family regarding the "children at play signs" on Vance Rd.

-Brent Laughman said he went out with Nelson Tree service to look at the tree lines along the township roads to get quotes. He said they gave him some rough figures on hours for each road but he is still putting all the hours and rates together to get totals. Mr. Riley said he would contact the County to see if they were interested in doing the trimming.

Cemeteries

-No update on Rector-Gard Cemetery.

Equipment

-Dave Riley showed the other trustees some print outs that he had for prices on chairs and chair holders for the township hall. No actions taken at this time as the trustees are going to look at other pricing options.

Zoning

-Dave Riley asked Mr. Purk about the two different zoning maps that the township has. Mr. Purk said the older map is the correct map as the new map was never adopted. Brent Laughman asked Mr. Purk to address the R-1 issues with the zoning board since it doesn't seem accurate.

-Cell tower discussion was addressed in the community discussion.

Other Administrative

-Trustees received a request from the mad River Jr. Livestock 4H to use the township hall.

Motion:Brent Laughman motioned to allow the Mad River Jr. Livestock 4H group to use the township hall at no cost. Dale Goddard seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion:Brent Laughman motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:20pm. Dale Goddard seconded motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes Approval Date: _____ by Trustee: _____

Attested _____

