

HARPERSFIELD TOWNSHIP

REGULAR SESSION

Held on February 24, 2025

The Board of Harpersfield Township convened in regular session from 7 PM to 7:56 PM in the Administration Building. Ed Spoor, Chairman, called the meeting to order with the following members and visitors present:

James Pristov

Mickey Mihalick

Ed Spoor

Kanda O'Dell

Lisa Linehan

Employees: Larry Lister

Visitors: Tim and Bonnie Burzanko; Kim Gregory; Lorrie Scott; Richard and Renee Hanyok; Jeff Lang; Ray Gruber, Jr. and Dave Snyder.

The minutes from the regular session held on February 10, 2024 were reviewed. Jim made a motion to approve the minutes as written; Lisa seconded; the Board voted unanimously in favor.

Lisa made a motion to pay the following bills; check #14548 thru check #14564 in the amount of \$13,208.41. Jim seconded; the Board voted unanimously in favor.

Mickey reported that the lodge (bed tax) reports will be on the website. They can be downloaded and printed directly from the website.

Mickey stated that she received a certified mail letter from the Department of Commerce regarding a liquor license for Farmer Butcher Table Restaurant. She asked the Board if they are requesting a hearing. The Board indicated that they do not wish to have a hearing. Mickey will send the letter back to the Department of Commerce stating that a hearing is not necessary.

Mickey reported that Cody is requesting approximately \$7,500.00 (may be less) to purchase a plow to replace the damaged one. Kanda suggested that we check

with our insurance company to find out if the replacement is covered. Jim made a motion to purchase a replacement plow up to \$7,500.00; Lisa seconded. The Board voted unanimously in favor. Ed made a note to call Otarma.

Mickey stated that the Fiscal Officer training with Kanda has been going well. Kanda reported that our Township Year End is complete. Kanda stated that we need to get a resolution for Kanda to ask the County Auditor for an Amended Certificate for 2025. Jim made a motion to move forward on getting a resolution; Lisa seconded; the Board voted unanimously in favor.

Mickey asked the Board if they had any questions regarding the progress of the training between Mickey and Kanda. Ed stated that he is aware that they are putting in a lot of hours and that he really appreciates Kanda for stepping up to help. Kanda stated that they are caught up with all the bills and will be able to keep up with all new bills moving forward.

Jim asked Kanda if she recommends any seminars that would be beneficial for Mickey to attend. Kanda stated that she recommends her attending the local government seminar for fiscal officers on March 27th and 28th in Columbus. She is required to have a certain amount of training hours and will be able to get most of those hours at this seminar. Mickey stated that she will be attending.

Lisa Reported:

February 20th Ashtabula County Township Association Meeting:

- Casey Kozlowski announced this year's tire amnesty day will be held on May 10th at the fairgrounds from 9am to 1pm. There is a ten-tire maximum. The first 4 tires are free, the remaining 6 will be charged \$1 each for disposal. Maximum size is 22 inches. No rims will be accepted.
- Wendy Zele is our contact at First Energy and coordinates responses during storms. She is currently looking for a spot in Ashtabula County to serve as a response center during storms.
- Bill Strube would like to remind townships that grindings are available when work is being done in our area, but requests must generally be made 2 years prior to that work

being completed. There is a work schedule that is published and available for reference. I believe he said that jobs are scheduled five years out.

Amazon business accounts are available for free for townships. They are automatically tax-exempt, come with a free line of credit, and built-in government pricing.

Tim Settles from the EMA informed the group about an important class taking place on April 23rd covering the National Incident Management System. This class is geared toward officials, and many grants are offered to organizations who are compliant with this system.

Tim Martin, County Engineer, spoke to the group about his office's annual report. The Harpersfield Covered Bridge project was highlighted on its front page. He spoke very highly of the project along with his hope that it will be used for generations.

Tim also highlighted the county's Highway Use Manual template, which includes permit procedures, among other things. He said some townships have adopted the template, tweaking it as needed to best serve their community. The template serves to streamline permitting processes between townships and the county, and can offer a legal buffer when issues arise.

Mr. Martin ended his session by highlighting the Ohio Public Works Commission levy that will be on May's ballot. Casey Kozlowski also brought this up at the last county township meeting. Mr. Martin reiterated that this levy does not increase taxes but reauthorizes bonds which are paid off with existing state revenue. These bonds bring in 2 million dollars for Ashtabula County.

Miscellaneous:

1. Health Department public meeting notice regarding lot requirements for properties w/septic service

2. Charlie Kohli is the former head of the Harpersfield Heritage Society. He is looking for someone to secure the materials currently held in the old NAD building. He thinks a 10x10 Space would suffice. Anyone willing to help can reach out to me. Ed stated that when work resumes on the Old Town Hall, a space could be dedicated there for that purpose.

Jim reported that he attended the Farmer Butcher Table ribbon cutting ceremony and that Ed did all of the calling to invite local officials to attend. He said they had 92 people for dinner on Valentine's Day. They are open Wednesday Thru Saturday.

Jim stated that Commissioner Casey Kozlowski was asking for support from the Board to oppose House Bill 43 proposed by Sandra O'Brien to take away 2% of the 5% taxes from the Geneva On The Lake Lodge paid to the County. Jim made a motion to vote to not support HB 43; Jim Seconded; Lisa abstained.

Jim talked about the fish fry and that the first week was successful. They ran out of fish. Served 400 dinners. They are always looking for help if anyone is interested.

Ed reported that he attended the Township Association meeting and that Lisa had pretty much covered it all in her report.

Ed stated that Cody needs to call the County Engineer to order paint for striping.

Ed reported that the bidding limit has increased from \$75,000.00 to \$77,250.00. Every year there will be a 3% increase.

Ed reported that the new Prosecutor, April Grabman will be hosting the next Township Trustee meeting at the Engineers Office.

Kim stated that there are huge holes at the end of Alexander. Jim said that he will mention it to Cody.

Renee asked about the status of the Safe Streets joint project with Geneva City and Geneva Township. Mickey stated that she reached out to Jim Hockaday a few months ago for a time line update and he said that we should be meeting around June.

Richard asked about the Cemetery Columbarium. Mickey said that the Township is moving forward and will have an update soon. He also asked about the Pickleball project. Mickey said that they were turned down for the original grant but will be working closely with the Commissioners on future grants to fund the project. Mickey said that she will continue to research other grants out there to help fund the project.

Jeff asked Jim if he had checked on signs and the guardrail that they discussed. Jim needs to check with Cody.

Dave stated that zoning is working on shipping container regulations and will move forward at the next zoning meeting.

Tim asked if the Spire was still working with the Sheriff's Department on the Satellite Office. Ed said that discussions were ongoing.

Meeting adjourned until March 10, 2025.

Mickey Mahalik
Lisa Linehan
Edwin L. Grew

James J. Rust