



3038 Boston Mills Road, Brecksville, Ohio 44141

RICHFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Regular Meeting December 3, 2020

The Board of Trustees met for a Regular Meeting. The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m. This meeting was held remotely to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Roll Call:

Jeff Shupe, Trustee Chairperson
Robert Luther, Trustee Vice Chairperson
Janet Jankura, Trustee

Also in Attendance:

Mike Swanson, Chief, Village of Richfield Police Department
Phil McLean, Chief, Richfield Fire Department
Ray Hartsough, Assistant Summit County Prosecuting Attorney
Laurie Pinney, Zoning Inspector and Fiscal Officer
Mindy Remec, Township Administrator
15 additional residents/attendees

MOTION by: Mr. Shupe and seconded by Mr. Luther to enter into executive session for the discussion of certain personnel matters to consider the appointment, employment, or compensation of a public employee or official per ORC 121.22(g) at 6:34 p.m.

MOTION PASSED: Shupe (yea), Luther (yea), Jankura (yea)

Ms. Remec and Assistant Summit County Prosecuting Attorney Mr. Hartsough joined trustees for portions of the executive session. Trustees exited executive session at 7:59 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

November 5, 2020 Regular Meeting

Dispensing with the reading of the minutes, Mr. Shupe requested comments from Trustees Luther and Jankura, who had no corrections or changes.

MOTION by: Mr. Luther and seconded by Ms. Jankura to approve the November 5, 2020, Minutes as presented.

MOTION PASSED: Shupe (yea), Jankura (yea), Luther (yea)

Department Head Reports:

Police:

Police Chief Swanson provided a written report and gave numbers on calls for service. He updated trustees on continuing work on union contract negotiations, the 2021 budget, officer trainings, and personnel matters. He cautioned residents to drive carefully with changing road conditions.

Fire:

Chief Phil McLean reported that union contracts had been settled. He provided numbers for COVID-19 cases in the village and township and information on precautions being taken. Chief McLean also provided calls for service.

Zoning:

Ms. Pinney submitted a written report and updated trustees on permits issued, upcoming meeting dates, and recent zoning commission meetings which included a review of a Light-Industrial-Office (LI-O) project application. Summit County Planning Commission granted an appeal on a riparian ordinance issue in the LI-O. Several lot splits have been proposed or pending, including a lot split for a shared driveway on Southern Road with property in the village and the township, which would also require fire department review for safety services access.

Fiscal:

Ms. Pinney reported having shared the 2020 Appropriations and Transfers document with trustees and requested approval of changes in funds.

MOTION by: Mr. Jankura and seconded by Mr. Shupe to accept the Richfield Township 2020 Appropriations and Transfers in the amount of \$4,169,831.54 with supplemental appropriations on December 3, 2020 with increases to general, road and bridge, waste hauling, and police district funds and decreases to motor vehicle license tax, gasoline tax, fire district, local coronavirus relief and motor vehicle permissive tax funds with a net increase of \$211,920.65

MOTION PASSED: Shupe (yea), Luther (yea), Jankura (yea)

Parks and Recreation:

Mr. Luther reported new doors will be installed on the pavilion garage this winter. He spoke with Richfield Joint Recreation District (RJRD) chairperson Mr. Becker and said they are still interested in the Rising Valley Park property but have concerns about maintenance for the park driveway. He proposed providing funds for future capital improvement projects and maintenance. Additional comments included the need for legal counsel on the ability to do this.

Roads:

Mr. Luther reported that the service department had been working hard through the recent snowstorm and truck breakdowns. He proposed replacing two of the smaller trucks this spring.

Administration:

Ms. Remec reported that the Snowbird Festival had been cancelled due to the COVID-19.

Ms. Remec read a motion the zoning commission passed at their special meeting recommending a sound study be conducted in the LI-O and requesting trustees approve funds for the study. Ms. Remec asked if Zoning Commission Chairperson Mark Totten had any additional comments. Mr. Totten said that, after the review of the LI-O application, the zoning commission believes that establishing a baseline in the area is important for future enforcement.

Ms. Pinney said that a baseline study could be important to future enforcement. She reported having been contacted by an acoustical consultant who is doing work on a parcel in the LI-O district. She said that a study may be submitted as part of an application.

Mr. Shupe asked when this study may be done. Ms. Remec said that the zoning commission had requested this be done prior to construction. Ms. Pinney said the goal would be to know the baseline before operation of the business, to determine if they increase the noise.

Ms. Jankura said the township should be mindful of the impact of sound on residents and asked legal counsel about requesting this kind of study and the zoning commission's role. She also asked for the cost of the study.

Mr. Hartsough reviewed ORC 519.05 on the zoning commission's ability to work with consultants within the funds appropriated by trustees. He said the role of the zoning commission is to make recommendations to the trustees for potential zoning code changes.

Mr. Luther asked about noise already in the area from the turnpike. Ms. Pinney said that zoning regulations are about noise associated with operating a business in the LI-O district. They do not regulate ambient noise from turnpike or construction.

Mr. Totten said the zoning commission had not investigated the cost of the study but would do so if approved by trustees. Trustees concurred to wait for estimates before taking action.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Mr. Shupe introduced discussion on the Oviatt house. He commented that the trustees have appointed members to the RJRD board and that this is their decision. Mr. Luther agreed with Mr. Shupe. Ms. Jankura commented that trustees have received information from those in support of saving the Oviatt house. She agreed that it is not the township's place to take a position on this matter, but they support the park being a place for everyone. She said she trusts the RJRD board to make the right decision and encourages everyone involved to work towards compromise.

Mr. Shupe introduced a request for engineering assistance. Ms. Remec said that Service Department Jerry Schall has identified roads in need of resurfacing in 2021 which are Kings Forest Boulevard, Forest Brooke Court North, and Forest Brooke Court South. Assistance is needed with estimating the cost and estimating the cost of guard rail replacement on Oviatt, Harter, Newton, and Briarwood roads.

MOTION by: Mr. Shupe and seconded by Mr. Luther to request engineering services for the township's 2021 road maintenance program

MOTION PASSED: Jankura (yea), Luther (yea), Shupe (yea)

Mr. Shupe introduced discussion on the Payment In Lieu Of Taxes Agreement with Summit County. Ms. Remec said the township receives this payment for Cuyahoga Valley National Park land in the township. It is distributed by the county and the agreement is to accept the payment.

MOTION by: Mr. Shupe and seconded by Mr. Luther to enter into an agreement with Summit County and accept Payment in Lieu of Taxes for the Cuyahoga Valley National Park land within Richfield Township in the amount of \$1,161.77 into the general fund

FURTHER DISCUSSION: Ms. Jankura asked if the funds would be received this year. Ms. Pinney said it is expected this year.

MOTION PASSED: Luther (yea), Jankura (yea), Shupe (yea)

Mr. Shupe introduced Resolution 14-2020 in Support of Summit County Tax Increment Financing Agreement. Ms. Remec reported the TIF legislation been approved by Summit County Council's Economic Development Committee and final approval is anticipated at the next meeting on December 7, 2020. Mr. Hartsough reported that this is not a required resolution, but that county council is looking for this before they take action.

MOTION by: Mr. Shupe and seconded by Mr. Luther to approve Resolution 14-2020 A Resolution in Support of Summit County Tax Increment Financing

MOTION PASSED: Jankura (yea), Luther (yea), Shupe (yea)

Mr. Shupe introduced Resolution 15-2020 to Enter into a Development Agreement with JJJ Properties, LLC. Mr. Hartsough said the agreement was originally between the Village of Richfield and JJJ Properties and he recommended the township be a party to the agreement. Summit County would still have oversight of development in the township under the agreement.

MOTION by: Mr. Shupe and seconded by Ms. Jankura to approve Resolution 15-2020 A Resolution to Enter into a Development Agreement with JJJ Properties, LLC

MOTION PASSED: Jankura (yea), Shupe (yea), Luther (yea)

Mr. Shupe introduced discussion of the 2021 Organizational Resolution and a two percent increase for township staff and bonuses for staff to be paid in 2020.

MOTION by: Mr. Shupe and seconded by Mr. Luther to approve payment of \$1,000 bonuses to full- and part-time employees and a \$500 bonus to the seasonal service department employee with the December 18, 2020 payroll

FURTHER DISCUSSION: Ms. Jankura thanked staff for their work in an extraordinarily difficult year.

MOTION PASSED: Shupe (yea), Jankura (yea), Luther (yea)

Ms. Remec detailed potential changes to the Organizational Resolution for trustees' discussion. Mr. Shupe said that all trustees have spoken with all board candidates at some time. Trustees concurred that the zoning commission term beginning in 2021 and ending 2025 will be left vacant pending further trustee discussion. Chris Sivak will be reappointed as an alternate to the zoning commission. The board of zoning appeals term beginning in 2021 and ending 2025 will remain vacant and Christi Gable will be reappointed as an alternate. Sandy Apidone will be reappointed to the RJRD board.

MOTION by: Mr. Shupe and seconded by Ms. Jankura to approve Resolution 16-2020 the Organizational Resolution for 2021

MOTION PASSED: Shupe (yea), Jankura (yea), Luther (yea)

Announcements: None

Township Corner Article:

Ms. Jankura will write the article for January.

Agenda Requests and Items for Follow-Up: None

Adjournment:

MOTION by: Mr. Shupe and seconded by Mr. Luther to adjourn the meeting at 9:17 p.m.

MOTION PASSED: Shupe (yea), Jankura (yea), Luther (yea)

Trustee

Secretary