

DARBY TOWNSHIP
December 11, 2023
MEETING MINUTES

The Darby Township Trustees met in regular session on Monday, December 11, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. at the Darby Township Hall with the following township official's present: Dennis Blumenschein, James Scheiderer, David Huston, and Connie Priday. Also present was Scott Smith, David Huber, Nathan Burns, Marysville Fire Chief, Jen Plahovinsak, Stephen Francis, Tom McCarthy and Sheriff Jamie Patton.

Chairman Blumenschein called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The minutes from the November 13, 2023 monthly meeting of the Darby Township Trustees were emailed to all Trustees prior to the meeting. Mr. Scheiderer made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Huston seconded the motion. Minutes were approved as presented.

Sheriff's Report:

Deputy Anspach did not have any information to share with the Trustees.

Township residents/visitors' business/concerns:

Chief Burns introduced himself, indicating that he recently assumed the role as Marysville Fire Chief. A discussion ensued with Chief Burns indicating that he would provide a monthly stat report for Darby Township. The Trustees thanked Chief Burns for his attendance at the meeting.

Mr. McCarthy introduced himself and shared that he will be running for Union County Commissioner as Commissioner Dave Burke will not be running for re-election. He noted that he plans to visit all Township's in Union County, but wanted to start with Darby Township since his mother's family lived their entire lives in Darby Township. He indicated that with the expected potential growth in Union County communication between the Township's and the County Commissioners office will be imperative, and the need to update the Comprehensive Plan is very important. The Trustees thanked Mr. McCarthy for attending the meeting.

Zoning Inspector Report:

Mr. Smith

- Permits Issued:
 - Tim and Mandy Humphrey, 12270 Helser, Plain City – new home
 - John and Amy Macho, 10912 Andrews, Plain City – new home
 - Benjamin Pester, 12114 St. Rt. 736, Marysville – accessory structure
 - Joe and Carla Reinhard, 15225 Hawn Rd., Plain City – new home
 - Evan and Lindsey Nicol, 17265 Kandel Rd., Marysville – new home
 - Drex Properties, 16579 Middleburg Plain City Rd., Marysville – porch
- The monthly report was discussed, with Mr. Smith providing detailed follow-up information on open items.
- Mr. Smith continues to monitor Mr. Roberto Flores property.
- Mr. Blumenschein indicated that The Ridge has a new sign. Mr. Smith will follow-up with The Ridge.
- Mr. Smith followed up with 9520 Ward Road, Plain City in regards to the dirt and gravel on the road. He was told it will be cleaned up.

Pleasant Valley Fire District:

- Mr. Scheiderer provided information on the most recent Pleasant Valley Fire District meeting.

Old Business:

- 1) *Speed Sign*

- Mr. Scheiderer will keep the sign and get it out weather permitting.
- 2) *Speed Sign update from Union County Engineer*
The signs have been installed and are operational. Mr. Blumenschein has spoken to Mr. Justin Story and request that the signs distance sensitivity be adjusted.
 - 3) *Township Website Traffic*
Mr. Huston explained the report from Richwood Marketing on the usage of the website. Mr. Huston and Mr. Huber will both participate on the call with Richwood Marketing tomorrow since Mr. Huber will be assuming this responsibility January 1, 2024.
 - A discussion was held on possible options that will allow Township residents to opt out of receiving paper copies of the newsletter and post cards. Information will be forthcoming.
 - 4) *ARPA Second Tranche Funds*
 - The invoice for the speed signs has been received and processed. The cost of the signs was \$8,862.56, and the Township has a remaining balance of \$1,778.69 in ARP funds.
 - 5) *Township building Roof Repair* – McMahan Mid-State Roofing, LLC has completed the work to the Township building roof.
 - 6) *Darby Township Handbook* – The handbook was distributed. Mr. Thayne Gray has approved the handbook but will have minor changes in the Drug Free Workspace section. Information will be forthcoming.
 - 7) *2023/2024 Snow Plowing* – Mrs. Priday indicated that A Single Call has not responded to her email in regards to providing snow removal services in 2023/2024. Mr. Huber suggested that Mr. Mark Kise might have an interest in providing snow removal services to Darby Township. Mr. Scheiderer will follow-up with Mr. Kise.
 - 8) *Richwood Bank Positive Pay* – The Positive Pay service went live in November. No exceptions were reported.
 - 9) *November 29th County Commissioners Meeting* – Mr. Scheiderer attended the meeting. He indicated that the County Commissioners approved a Resolution which restricts all unincorporated land in the county to all wind and solar construction projects. Mr. Scheiderer indicated that the meeting attendees voiced pros and cons to the proposed resolution.
 - 10) *BZA and BZC Alternates* - Mr. Mike Rausch will be asked to be alternates to the Board of Zoning Appeals. The Trustees asked Mr. Francis if he would have an interest in serving on the BZA. Mr. Francis agreed to serve as an alternate on the BZA.
 - 11) *Other Business* – Mr. Blumenschein indicated that Mr. Gray, Union County Prosecutor, has not mailed the letter to Mr. and Mrs. Sean Hill, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Cox, Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Cashman, and the Autumn Ridge Homeowners Association in regards to irrigation systems in the road right of way. Mrs. Priday emailed Mr. Gray and he plans to mail the letter later this week.

New Business

- 1) *2024 Union Township Fire Contract - \$35,000* – Mr. Scheiderer made a motion to approve the 2024 Union Township Fire Contract at a cost of \$35,000. Mr. Huston seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Blumenschein, yea, Mr. Scheiderer, yea and Mr. Huston, yea. Motion unanimously passed.
- 2) *2023 Township Highway System Mileage Certification – 8.792* – Mr. Huston made a motion to approve the Darby Township road certification of 8.792 miles, Mr. Scheiderer seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Blumenschein, yea, Mr. Scheiderer, yea and Mr. Huston, yea. Motion unanimously passed.
- 3) *Approving to engage the services of Karen Alger, for Darby Township 2023 Hinkle Notes* – Mr. Scheiderer made a motion to approve engaging the services of Karen Alger to complete the Darby Township 2023 Hinkle Notes at a rate of \$340.00. Mr. Huston seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Blumenschein, yea, Mr. Scheiderer, yea and Mr. Huston, yea. Motion unanimously passed.
- 4) *New Flags Needed* – Mr. Rolly Rausch will be asked to order 4 – 5x8 American flags for the Township.
- 5) *Union County Health Department Sewage Treatment Inspection* – Mr. Blumenschein signed the 2024 Union County Health Department Sewage Treatment Inspection exemption for Darby Township. The document was signed and will be returned to the Union County Health Department.
- 6) *Scheduling of 2024 Budget and Reorganizational Meetings* – The 2024 Darby Township Budget and Reorganizational meetings will be held on January 2, 2024 at 1:00 pm. A public notice will be placed in the Marysville Journal Tribune.

- 7) *Additional items to be included in the 2024 budget*
 - a. \$20,000 for additional playground equipment
 - b. Chip and seal for all Township roads
- 8) *Any other business*
 - a. Sheriff Jamie Patton shared information on Issue 2.
 - b. He indicated that the County Commissioners have approved a salary increase for the deputies due to the number of open positions at the department. Sheriff Patton will email the salary increase information to Mrs. Priday, Fiscal Officer, so this information can be included in the 2024 budget.
 - c. Mr. Blumenschein presented Mr. Huston with a certificate of appreciation for his service as a Darby Township Trustee.

Cemeteries

- Mr. Scheiderer indicated that he has been in contact with the Union County Health Department in regards to a death certificate for the Arned burial, but there is no death certificate. Sheriff Patton indicated that the Sheriff's office might be able to assist with the Department's drone. The drone can reveal if the ground has ever been disturbed which, will indicate that a burial has occurred on that cemetery plot. Information will be forthcoming.
- .A discussion on the Township's cemetery fees will be discussed during the 2024 Reorganizational meeting.

Playground

Mr. Huston emailed the playground report to Mrs. Priday. Mr. Huston provided information on playground equipment that the Township might be interested in purchasing in 2024.

Management Reports

The monthly Management Reports were available for the Trustees to review and provide comments.

Roads

The monthly road report was completed.

Communications/Correspondence