

## THE WOODVILLE TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE'S REGULAR MEETING – July 17, 2024

Chairman Ken Green called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### Attendance:

Trustees: Ken Green, Paul Runion, and Bill Hammer  
Fiscal Officer: Lori Kepus  
Fire Chief: Tim Schnitker  
Zoning Inspector: Steve Michaelis  
Road Supervisor: Jim Busdiecker  
Others: Derek Johlin, Jenna Johlin

**GUESTS** – Township Resident Derek Johlin was present to let the Trustees know that he was operating his business based out of his home – NWO Power, LLC. 815 Borcharding Road, Woodville, and did not know that he needed a permit. He explained a little about his business and its environment. The Trustees suggested that he apply for a Special Use permit with the zoning inspector.

Township Resident Jenna Johlin stated she was in the midst of bringing awareness of the increasing presence of chemical trails in our skies and related weather modification practices. She forwarded to the Trustees comprehensive documentation and insights into the harmful substances, including aluminum, barium, and strontium, that are being released into our atmosphere through practices like Stratospheric Aerosol Injection (SAI) and weather modification techniques. These emissions pose severe health risks to humans, especially children, birds, bees, wildlife, and the natural environment. The information presented underscored her understanding of the urgency of addressing this issue and taking proactive measures to protect our citizens and ecosystems. Jenna stated that since we live in a mostly agricultural community, she believes it will be highly beneficial us to understand this problem and not inject chemicals into the air.

**EMS** – LS19 had 36 runs in June with 18 transports to area hospitals.

Jeff Jackson sent word that it was a slow month for this station compared to other county stations. SCEMS had an odd call one day which all trucks were out on calls and a car vs. tree fully engulfed came in and LS19 was the only truck in service and was actually the closest. They ended up transporting to Firelands emergently, and they back filled station 19 as soon as we had a truck freed up.

The Woodville festival has come and gone and no major quirks were reported.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT** – Fire Chief Tim Schnitker gave the following report:

- Received a call from Miriam Obermyer asking for someone to help her change a battery in her smoke detector. I, Chief Schnitker, obtained a battery and changed it for her. She made a donation to the Fire Dept Association for the assistance. I told her it was not necessary, but she insisted. The donation was much appreciated.
- The X-2 Auto Primer was installed July 15.
- We had a Nuisance Fire on July 11<sup>th</sup> at 0324. Police could not contact the residents at the time. The Fire Dept extinguished the fire and according to the report, the police plan to site the home owner for the unattended fire. Capt. Brzeczek was the Officer in Charge for the Fire Department, and I have his report. If you have any questions, please direct them to myself or Capt. Brzeczek.
- I contacted Chief Jackson about the EMS Director and coming protocol changes. He stated that according to our new Medical Director, we are to follow the current protocols until the new ones are in place. He stated it will be a “slow roll out” and that the new Medical Director is working this issue with him.
- I have posted a notice on the Fireman’s Room door in the west hallway. We have had ongoing issues of people not cleaning up after themselves and putting things back properly. I had reminded everyone at our meetings and notified Chief Jackson of the issue, but we have found it a mess yet again. If the notice does not work, we will take further measures to fix the problem.
- Ladder Testing will be completed August 27<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 pm.
- SCBA Flow testing is complete for this year. We had some minor work done, but it was covered under warranty. We did have them replace all the batteries while they were here with the proper brand.

Probationary firefighter Chris Lewis took his EMT course and passed it. We had not cleared it through you, and I didn’t know about it until he was half way done. His instructor said he did very well. He will be off probation this month and now plans to attend his Firefighter I course through Vanguard. He asked about getting paid for and reimbursed for his EMT class. We have a process. I believe it is important to try and stick to the process as much as possible, but I know we have made some exceptions in the past.

I recommend that because Chris did not get prior approval, we pay for his hours, but not his class. I also plan to make it very clear to everyone that prior approval from here on is an absolute and is not negotiable.

I plan to discuss participation with Chris, and I believe he will be committed so I would like to get approval to pay for his Firefighter I. I believe this is very important for us here in Woodville and that class is listed as approved in the handbook. The Trustees have agreed to table this request for the moment, and will review possible payment at a later date to see how active he is with the department.

It was noted that the Firefighter II certification is more for paid positions, and is not an approved paid course for the WTVFD. I would have a hard time supporting paying for that class for anyone. That would be a conversation on a case by case basis as we see what the future holds here.

Probationary member Noah Robleski is in need of getting into a fire basic course. He did not get registered with the State in time to get the free training from the Fire Academy so I need to keep looking for a class for him. He technically has 1 year to get his class under the Ohio Revised Code. He is taking the EMT class is for his full-time job and while he would probably eventually use it here, he has to get his fire card to stay on the department, and I believe his potential employer is paying for his class.

He has asked about getting paid for that. Again, I did not know about it until he was already enrolled, and he still has not provided good information about who is paying for the class, or if he is on the clock. I will look into this more. The township handbook does encourage EMT.

Captain Mike Brzeczek's bill and time sheet for his approved Officer I/II class has been turned in for payment. He has completed the course with very high grades and is awaiting his certification. Please take time to look at his grades and some of the notes his professor wrote on his individual tasks. I had the opportunity to help Mike with some of his assignments by providing some documents and stats for references. He put a lot of hard work into this class, and I believe it will be very beneficial to the department. I look for great things from Mike in the future.

**Trustee Green made a motion to approve the compensation package for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 2024 in the amount of \$6,182.50 for firefighter's runs and training. Trustee Runion seconded. All answered yes to roll call. Motion passed.**

**ZONING** – Zoning Inspector Steve Michaelis presented the following:

- Discussed the Caseys permit request with the assistant prosecutor, the Village of Woodville Administrator, and the township zoning commission at their meeting on July 10. A representative from Caseys will be present at a special meeting of the Township Zoning Commission on July 30 to review their permit.
- Discussion was held regarding the storage container on the property of David Honaker, US 20, Woodville that is in violation of our zoning rules. A certified letter will be sent to Mr. Honaker.
- Two residences on one lot at 2676 TR 38 have existed this way for many years and are now considered legal non-conforming, but the property owners cannot build or add any structures.

**ROAD DEPARTMENT** – Trustee Hammer made a motion to **submit TR 165 from TR 28 to TR 16 for the 2025 Issue II road repaving project.** Trustee Green seconded. All answered yes to roll call. Motion passed. Jim Busdiecker stated one culvert will need to be replaced for the project.

M&B Asphalt will now begin road repaving of the 2024 road project the last week of July and should finish within that week, weather permitting.

**CEMETERY** – No report.

**FISCAL OFFICER**

The Trustees discussed the **2025 Budget proposal** as presented by the Fiscal Officer Lori Kepus. There were no comments from the public. Kepus will file the approved budget with the county auditor by the July 20 deadline.

The township's budget process generates the township's 1st official certificate of estimated resources and that is what limits the amount of appropriations that the Trustees can set for the coming year. Overall, we're a very financially sound township. The township purchased a new ambulance and fire truck last year so no major expenditures are anticipated in the coming year.

Kepus said revenue will remain steady and interest rates are again healthy generating a good amount. The township has an unspent balance of \$130,620 in funding from the federal government from the American Recovery Act which will be used to pay for a road project in 2024.

The cost for the basic necessities like natural gas, electric, garbage disposal, gasoline and diesel fuel remain high due to the present economic climate. The contract with Sandusky County EMS will remain at \$250,000. The Township will again only collect 3.9 mills for EMS operations of a 5.7 mill levy that was passed by voters for EMS services. The expansion of Westwood Cemetery will also continue next year. The township owns the property behind the cemetery to the woods.

The State of Ohio Department of Taxation had settled an appeal from the NEXUS pipeline last year, but it was again appealed so the amount of revenue from the NEXUS pipeline is still unknown at this time. NEXUS had asked for a decrease in valuation of their pipeline. They did settle at 68% of the original valuation, but the decision was appealed by the Lorain County Auditor who is challenging the valuation amount.

According to our county auditor, it now appears that NEXUS will not honor the 68% and is only going to pay what they have been tender paying which is only around 47% with no payment for back taxes due. This is not what they promised, but the matter is still before the courts. NEXUS has reportedly stated that if the 47% valuation is challenged again, they will seek an even lower amount, and the townships could be in jeopardy of having to repay them. The Township has been dealing with this company since Tax Year 2019 which was paid in 2020.

**Listed below are the final projections for 2025:**

<b>2025 BUDGET</b>	Estimated	Projected	Projected	Unencumbered
	Carryover	Revenue	Expenses	Balance
	Balance			
General Fund	490,944.54	167,655.00	143,519.00	515,080.54
Motor Vehicle License Tax	41,539.43	19,500.00	2,000.00	59,039.43
Gasoline Tax	209,401.29	153,000.00	89,200.00	273,201.29
Road & Bridge Fund	277,688.58	192,000.00	301,596.00	168,092.58
Cemetery Fund	248,409.45	61,300.00	61,600.00	248,109.45
EMS Fund	651,278.03	415,500.00	285,500.00	781,278.03
Fire Levy Fund	461,309.57	262,000.00	202,466.00	520,843.57

Permissive License Tax	15,370.67	22,000.00	-	37,370.67
Coronavirus Local Recovery (ARP)	-	-	-	-
Permanent Improvement EMS	15,540.00	-	-	15,540.00
Permanent Improvement FIRE	7,030.00	-	-	7,030.00
TOTALS	2,418,511.56	1,292,955.00	1,085,881.00	2,625,585.56

**Trustee Hammer made a motion to approve the proposed 2025 Budget calculations. Trustee Runion seconded. All answered yes to roll call. Motion passed.**

**Trustee Hammer made a motion to approve the 2025 Rate Resolution submitted by the Sandusky County Auditor. Trustee Green seconded. All answered yes to roll call. Motion passed.**

- ✓ 3.0 mill Fire Levy authorized by voters on November 3, 2020 for a period not to exceed 5 years
- ✓ 5.7 mill EMS Levy of which only 3.9 mills are collected authorized by voters on November 7, 2023 for a period not to exceed 5 years will collect \$371,944 in 2025 if NEXUS tender pays
- ✓ 0.50 mill Cemetery Levy authorized by voters on May 4, 2021 for a period not to exceed 5 years

Kepus updated the FCC License for a radio frequency that no one really understands is necessary, but the Trustees know it is very hard to get a frequency back once you have cancelled it. The license is good for the next 10 years, and there was no fee to renew.

Trustee Hammer made a motion to approve the warrants. Trustee Green seconded. All answered yes to roll call. Motion passed. Trustee Runion made a motion to approve the July 3, 2024 meeting minutes. Trustee Green seconded. All answered yes to roll call. Motion passed.

At 8:30 p.m., with no further business, Trustee Hammer moved for adjournment. Trustee Green seconded. This meeting was held in accordance with the Ohio Revised Code's Sunshine Law.