

The January 11, 2006 meeting of the Delhi Township Board of Trustees was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by the President of the Board Michael D. Davis. Trustee Albert C. Duebber, Trustee Jerome F. Luebbers, Fiscal Officer Kenneth J. Ryan, Acting Administrator Gerard G. Schroeder and Law Director David C. Lane were present. The Board received certification from the Fiscal Officer that the rules adopted pursuant to Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code had been complied with for the meeting. The meeting began with a moment of silence to remember those who had given their lives for our country which was then followed by the pledge of allegiance led by Mr. Lenny Kleiner with the Delhi Historical Society.

Motion 2006-01

Trustee Duebber moved and Trustee Davis seconded to appoint Trustee Luebbers as President for 2006. Trustees Davis, Duebber and Luebbers voted YES. Motion carried.

Trustee Luebbers' first order of business for 2006 was to open the floor for nominations for the Vice President of the board.

Motion 2006-02

Trustee Duebber moved and Trustee Luebbers seconded to appoint Trustee Davis as Vice President for 2006. Trustee Luebbers, Duebber, and Davis voted YES. Motion carried.

Motion 2006-03

Trustee Duebber moved and Trustee Davis seconded to approve the minutes of the regular meetings of December 14 and 28 and dispense with the second reading. Trustees Luebbers, Davis, and Duebber voted YES. Motion carried.

Motion 2006-04

Trustee Duebber moved and Trustee Davis seconded to approve the bills for payment. Trustees Luebbers, Davis, and Duebber voted YES. Motion carried.

Motion 2006-05

Trustee Davis moved and Trustee Duebber seconded to approve payment of overtime. Trustees Luebbers, Davis, and Duebber voted YES. Motion carried.

Walt Luthy, newly installed president of the Delhi Business Association, distributed trophies to the 2005 Delhi Business Association/Delhi bigg's Christmas Parade award winners:

- Best Band – Oak Hills High School
- Best Christmas Theme – Delhi Parks & Recreation Department
- Best Decorated Car – Delhi/Riverview Kiwanis
- Best Sound System – Nuttin But Fun Cloggers
- Best Girl Scout Entry – Girl Scout Troop 6590
- Best Floral Arrangement – Delhi Floral & Garden Center
- Best Walking Unit – The Dog House
- Best Costume Character – The Delhi Historical Society
- Most Unique Entry – The Delhi Christian Center
- Best Dancing Unit – Miracle Dance Theater
- Best Mechanical Unit – Bayley Place
- Best Cub Scout Entry – Shiloh United Methodist Church Pack 3500

Mr. Luthy thanked everyone who participated and invited everyone to participate next year. Trustee Luebbers congratulated the winners and thanked everyone for their participation.

Chief Edwards reported on the fire that took place on December 30 at the Delshire Apartment complex. A team of sixty to seventy people supported the fire consisting of additional units from Colerain, North College Hill and Harrison. No one was injured.

Resolution 2006-001

Trustee Davis introduced and moved the adoption of a resolution appointing Ed Jung to the Zoning Commission and dispensing with the second reading. Trustee Duebber seconded.

Trustee Duebber moved and Trustee Davis seconded to dispense with the second reading. Trustees Davis, Duebber and Luebbers voted YES.

Trustees Luebbers, Davis, and Duebber voted YES at roll call to adopt the resolution. Resolution adopted.

Resolution 2006-002

Trustee Duebber introduced and moved the adoption of a resolution appointing Chip Brigham to the Board of Zoning Appeals and dispensing with the second reading. Trustee Davis seconded.

Trustee Duebber moved and Trustee Davis seconded to dispense with the second reading. Trustees Luebbers, Davis, and Duebber voted YES.

Trustees Luebbers, Davis, and Duebber voted YES at roll call to adopt the resolution. Resolution adopted.

Resolution 2006-003

Trustee Duebber introduced and moved the adoption of a resolution for advance payment per R.C. 321.34 and dispensing with the second reading. Trustee Davis seconded.

Trustee Duebber moved and Trustee Davis seconded to dispense with the second reading. Trustees Luebbers, Davis, and Duebber voted YES.

Trustees Luebbers, Davis, and Duebber voted YES at roll call to adopt the resolution. Resolution adopted.

Resolution 2006-004

Trustee Davis introduced and moved the adoption of a resolution authorizing agreement with Hamilton County Emergency Management Agency for routine maintenance service, including radio control battery replacement, for sirens located within the Township and authorizing the acting township administrator to execute the authorization and dispensing with the second reading. Trustee Duebber seconded.

Trustee Duebber moved and Trustee Davis seconded to dispense with the second reading. Trustees Luebbers, Davis, and Duebber voted YES.

Trustees Luebbers, Davis, and Duebber voted YES at roll call to adopt the resolution. Resolution adopted.

Resolution 2006-005

Trustee Davis introduced and moved the adoption of a resolution approving purchase order obligations incurred on behalf of the township by the acting township administrator and dispensing with the second reading. Trustee Duebber seconded.

Trustee Duebber moved and Trustee Davis seconded to dispense with the second reading. Trustees Luebbers, Davis, and Duebber voted YES.

Trustees Luebbers, Davis, and Duebber voted YES at roll call to adopt the resolution. Resolution adopted.

Reports from the Fiscal Officer:

- Concerning a note from Linda Hand and the Family of Charles J. Haas, to Sandy Monahan, for the assistance they received booking the Lodge for a family post-funeral luncheon.

Announcement of Community Events:

- The Delhi Township Professional Firefighters, IAFF Local 3389, is holding the Delhi Charity Bowl on Sunday, February 12, 2006 at Delfair Lanes starting at 1:00 pm.
- The Oak Hills Athletic Association is sponsoring an evening with Rusty Wallace at the Woodlands Reception Center on January 16 from 6:00 – 9:00 pm. The evening will conclude with a Texas Holdem Tournament.
- The Oak Hills Charity Pancake Breakfast is on February 25 at Rapid Run Middle School.

Trustee Duebber advised there had been a number of articles that appeared in the press concerning the alleged deterioration of the business district on Delhi Pike accusing the board of being non-responsive to the needs of the community. He received an email from a resident who was concerned about the number of store closings and the rumor of many more closings to occur, wanting to know what the trustees were going to do about it. He stated the Trustees are responsive and concerned about the vacancy rates on the pike and are taking whatever action they can to try to maintain a positive presence of good viable businesses in Delhi. He reported that a very lively discussion took place at the Delhi Business Association's meeting, which he and Gary Schroeder attended, concerning the response that should be made to those letters as well as how to address the current state of the business district. There is a concern among members as to finding the right kind of mix of businesses as they are working aggressively towards trying to determine what that mix is.

Regarding rumors of the closing of Delhi Flower and Garden and Hader Hardware he reported that it was confirmed by Administrator Schroeder with representatives from both companies that both plan to continue business as usual. Trustee Duebber advised not to put a lot of credence in the rumors as that is all that they are; rumors. Residents were asked support our local businesses in order to make it profitable for them to stay. He

urged anyone with thoughts or suggestions to contact them first before going to the press.

Trustee Davis advised that he had received a phone call from a resident who wanted to see better businesses in Delhi. Because there was a delay in the return call she submitted a letter to the press regarding her concern and the lack of response from the township. He has since then spoke to her, apologized for the delay in getting back with her and addressed her concerns. Because he feels that letters to the editor can sometimes have an adverse affect he would much rather have the opportunity to discuss the issue with the individual either by phone, or in person, as he, along with Trustees Luebbers and Duebber, welcome constructive criticism. He stated that they have no control over a business making the decision to close, however, they will do what they can to encourage new business in Delhi. He encouraged those who want to get involved to come to the development plan meeting, or, call one of the trustees with your suggestions.

Trustee Luebbers commented on a letter to the editor that listed a number of businesses who had left the community over the years. The writer gave false reasons as to why. He stated the most common reason as to why the majority of businesses close is that they weren't doing enough business to stay, they retired and decided to close, or a business decision had to be made and the market place determined the outcome. He felt that the writer had a pessimistic opinion because he did not mention any of the new businesses who had taken the place of the majority of the businesses who had left.

He advised that over the years the business district had maintained a 25 – 30% vacancy rate. He commented that there were some problems that may need to be addressed including reconstruction of the business district something he thought was an important factor when trying to attract and retain new businesses. He stated that as an urban township we need different tools than what we possess in order to attract new businesses and that legislature would have some tools to help us. He advised that the trustees would do everything they could to encourage new business to locate in this community but that the bottom line was that it would always be a business decision of the business owner.

He commented that the Small Business Administration reported that 95% of businesses that start don't make it. He stated that our location and the size of the customer base is a deciding factor for the business owner. The larger department stores are located where it is most convenient for a much larger customer base; usually in the malls which are easily accessible near the interstate.

He stated that the board is excited about working on some very positive things for 2006, whether it is new construction in the park, reopening of the fire station, the rebuilding of our police department, or working with business leaders in the community. He invited those who were concerned to join them in their effort in building a better community.

Motion 2006-06

Trustee Duebber moved and Trustee Davis seconded to retire to executive session to discuss contract negotiations with Township employees regarding compensation and other terms and conditions of employment for various employees. Trustees Luebbers, Davis, and Duebber voted YES. Motion carried.

Retire to Executive Session:

Return from Executive Session:

There being no further business to come before the Board on Motion of Trustee Duebber and seconded by Trustee Davis the meeting was adjourned. Trustees Luebbers, Davis, and Duebber voted AYE. Motion carried.

Kenneth J. Ryan, Fiscal Officer

Approved: _____, President of Board

_____, Vice President

_____, Trustee

I hereby certify that the amounts needed to meet the above obligations have been lawfully appropriated and are in the treasury or the process of collection free from any and all obligations.

Kenneth J. Ryan, Fiscal Officer