

The March 9, 2022 regular meeting of the Delhi Township Board of Trustees was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairperson Cheryl A. Sieve at the Glen Carder Lodge, Delhi Park, 5125 Foley Road. Trustee Rosanne K. Stertz, Trustee Michael D. Davis, Fiscal Officer James J. Luebbe, Administrator Jack Cameron, and Law Director Bryan E. Pacheco were also present.

OPEN THE MEETING:

- The Board received certification that the rules adopted pursuant to Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code were complied with for the meeting.
- The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence for:
 - Riley Lowe, father of Trish Kleisinger in our Public Works Department, with expressions of sympathy for Trish and her family as they mourn their loss.
 - With prayers for resilience and hope for the refugees of Ukraine and for their family members who have stayed behind to fight in the war.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Regular Meeting on 2/23/22)

A Motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on February 23, 2022, was moved by Trustee Davis and seconded by Trustee Stertz. Trustees Davis, Stertz and Sieve voted YES. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF OVERTIME (Period ending 2/22/22)

A Motion to approve overtime for period ending February 22, 2022, was moved by Trustee Davis and seconded by Trustee Stertz. Trustees Davis, Stertz and Sieve voted YES. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

A Motion to approve bills for payment, was moved by Trustee Davis and seconded by Trustee Stertz. Trustees Davis, Stertz and Sieve voted YES. Motion carried.

REPORT FROM THE FISCAL OFFICER: James J. Luebbe

1. **Resolution 2022-019**

Trustee Davis introduced and moved the adoption of a resolution to spend greater than \$10,000 on behalf of the Township, declaring an emergency and dispensing with the second reading. Trustee Stertz seconded.

Mr. Cameron reported, the purchases are for budgetary items: Location station alerting system for the Fire Department; various door and lock replacements at various buildings.

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

Trustees Davis, Stertz and Sieve voted YES during roll call to adopt the resolution. Resolution adopted.

2. **Significant Transactions since the last meeting:**

Expenditures: \$28,300 check cut to Vogelpohl Fire Equipment for firefighter thermal tracking equipment; March 3 Payroll in the amount of \$319,000.

TRUSTEES' CORRESPONDENCE:

1. **Regular Correspondence:**

- Trustee Stertz made a reference to anonymous complaints received by the office and the Township's inability to respond to them with updates.
- In response to a complaint regarding a resident operating a business out of a home, Mr. DeLong defined the home business operation as those who have clients coming and going from the home for a particular service. He referenced a similar complaint regarding work trucks that are parked at a residence, of which a resident who brings their work truck home is not a violation, as well as

other residents who may work out of a home office but not have clients coming and going from their home.

- Trustee Stertz reported on the receipt of an email from a resident thanking Police Officer Mark Myers for saving his little girl from a recent dog attack.
- Trustee Sieve referenced an invitation from Commissioner Driehaus to join the county and other community leaders in recognizing Women's History Month.

2. Delhi Skirt Game Correspondence:

• Opening Statements:

- Trustee Mike Davis began by stating his support of the Skirt Game. He confirmed that that it was never his intention, nor the Township's, to prevent the game from happening, and addressed any reporting to the contrary to be a mis-representation of his and the Township's intentions to share some of the comments and suggestions from the community. He stated that he will continue to support, as the Township always does, the use of Delhi Park for the two-day event, and the annual contract that the Trustees approve; as well as the Skirt Game Committee who will vote on how the game will be presented.
- Trustee Rose Stertz opened by stating her full support of the Delhi Skirt Game's mission and the great causes it supports. She addressed the Township's longstanding partnership with the committee and commitment to the event, and the conversation that is had every year to establish a contract for the use of the park, during which time any comments or suggestions that the trustees receive are brought to the attention of the committee to make them aware of the community's perception of the event. She stated some facts about sponsorships being withdrawn in the past few years, and declining profits over the past five years, and this year's attempt to again share feedback from the community with the committee that she feels could reinvent the event and increase attendance. She shared some of the suggestions that the trustees received, including the use of themes. She closed by stating that she would only hope that the committee, when they vote on the presentation of the game this year, would consider the suggestions and the feelings of the population who have expressed that they are offended.
- Trustee Sieve opened by thanking everyone for taking the time to submit their comments. She expressed her love of the mission of the Skirt Game, and her gratitude for all the committee has done for our community and how they have respected the fragility of our residents in need. She identified the Township's support and partnership with the Skirt Game Committee, and the annual process to talk about the contract, and the suggestion offered this year to mellow and evolve the game for 2022, making it clear that the Township did not say no to anything. As an elected official, she affirmed that she represents all of the residents of Delhi, and knowing the members of the committee to be selfless, caring individuals, she asked them to be sensitive to those in the community who have expressed that they find it offensive when they vote on how to move forward with the game at their committee meeting tomorrow.

• Public comments from the following individuals were heard and addressed:

- Kelly Conley, resident at 5316 Teaberry Court and committee member, shared his stance on the event being rooted in the tradition of the game being played by men in dresses and his desire to see it continue in the same manner.
- Nancy Ruhe Dittelberger, resident at 5317 Panther Court and committee member, expressed her concerns and communicated her support of the game with men wearing dresses.
- Jackie Pulskamp, resident at 4849 Sapphire and lifetime resident, shared her opinion of the tradition of the game and her support of the game with men wearing dresses.

- Hal Franke, resident at 6340 Rapid Run Road and former trustee, communicated that he feels the tradition should be protected and should continue as it seems to only offend a very small percentage of the population.
 - Mike DeMoss, resident at 5190 Foley Road and committee member, stated that he doesn't care as much about what the men wear, as long as they can continue to help people in need.
 - Chris Cocco, resident at 5367 Foley Road, shared his thoughts and opinion that people have the choice to attend, or not attend, if offended.
 - Richard Betz, 448 Leath Avenue, lifelong resident and gay member of Delhi, supports the event with men wearing dresses.
 - Carl Idler, resident at 5372 Plover Lane, committee member and participant in the game, shared his position in favor of the men wearing dresses.
 - Justin Maxwell, 5361 Tompkins Avenue, 45227, born and raised in Delhi, expressed his opinion that the game could be mocking the drag or transgender community.
 - Tanya Simpson, resident at 5336 Briarhill Drive and committee member, communicated her support of the skirt game being played in its traditional format.
 - Doug Galbraith, resident at 520 Zion Road and previous Delhi resident and Skirt Game volunteer for many years, stated his support of the game played with men in dresses.
 - Todd Schimpf, resident at 818 Martini Road and member of the committee, stated his support of the game with men wearing dresses.
- Closing comments from the Trustees restating their positions and desire to have a two-way conversation while working with the committee on the details of the contract.
 - It was the consensus of the Board to move forward with entering into contract with the Skirt Game Committee for the use of park facilities for the two-day event, while supporting the Skirt Game Committee with their decision regarding how to present the skirt game.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Chief Doug Campbell

1. Resignation Recommendation

A Motion to Approve the voluntary resignation of Part-Time Firefighter/Paramedic Hayden C. Drechsler effective on March 19, 2022, was moved by Trustee Davis and seconded by Trustee Stertz. Trustees Davis, Stertz and Sieve voted YES. Motion carried.

- Best wishes to Hayden on his new position with the Little Miami & Fire Rescue Department.

PARKS & RECREATION: Assistant Township Administrator Greg DeLong

1. Resolution 2022-020

Trustee Davis introduced and moved the adoption of a resolution restating the Parks & Recreation User Permit Fee Schedule for permits in connection with the limited exclusive use of facilities and participation in programs, declaring an emergency and dispensing with the second reading. Trustee Stertz seconded.

Mr. DeLong reported that the resolution re-states the most recent approved version of the User Permit Fee Schedule in connection with fees related to the use of park facilities and programs.

He informed the Board that the department will be doing an audit of the fee schedule, including a comparison to what other communities are charging, and will consider increasing the fees to be more

competitive with the market. In response to a question from Trustee Sieve regarding the rental of the stage in Delhi Park, Mr. DeLong confirmed that they are not currently renting out the stage but will include it as a rental item in this year's review.

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

Trustees Davis, Stertz and Sieve voted YES during roll call to adopt the resolution. Resolution adopted.

2. Hiring Recommendations

- A Motion to Approve the rehiring of Elizabeth A. Roedersheimer as Seasonal Parks & Recreation Worker in the Parks & Recreation Department at a pay rate of \$16.00 per hour effective March 10, 2022 and upon successful completion of drug testing, was moved by Trustee Davis and seconded by Trustee Stertz. Trustees Davis, Stertz and Sieve voted YES. Motion carried.
- A Motion to Approve the rehiring of Louis J. Nie, Jr. as Seasonal Parks & Recreation Worker in the Parks & Recreation Department, at a pay rate of \$15.50 per hour effective March 10, 2022 and upon successful completion of drug testing, was moved by Trustee Davis and seconded by Trustee Stertz. Trustees Davis, Stertz and Sieve voted YES. Motion carried.
- A Motion to Approve the rehiring of Jacob A. Rudolf as Seasonal Parks & Recreation Worker in the Parks & Recreation Department at a pay rate of \$15.00 per hour effective March 10, 2022 and upon successful completion of drug testing, was moved by Trustee Davis and seconded by Trustee Stertz. Trustees Davis, Stertz and Sieve voted YES. Motion carried.
- A Motion to Approve the hiring of Cameron Adams as Event Coordinator in the Parks & Recreation Department at a pay rate of \$15.00 per hour upon successful completion of the pre-employment drug testing, background check, and voice stress analyzer effective March 10, 2022, was moved by Trustee Davis and seconded by Trustee Stertz. Trustees Davis, Stertz and Sieve voted YES. Motion carried.
- Mr. DeLong stated there are a number of opportunities for part time summer work, and volunteer work at Floral Paradise Gardens.

POLICE DEPARTMENT: Assistant Chief Jeff Braun

1. Hiring Recommendation

A Motion to Approve the hiring of Anthony A. Crawford as Police Officer at the first-year rate per the collective bargaining agreement with the Delhi Police Association upon successful completion of the background investigation, psychological testing, physical exam and drug testing, was moved by Trustee Davis and seconded by Trustee Stertz. Trustees Davis, Stertz and Sieve voted YES. Motion carried.

Assistant Chief Braun reported that the department started the hiring / interview process early in 2021 to fill open positions that were the result of two retirements back in June.

In response to Trustee Sieve's question regarding Anthony's hire date, Assistant Chief Braun confirmed that the actual hire date is pending the psychological and physical testing, while they do not anticipate any issues.

Mr. Cameron identified two recent interviews, both female, that they are considering making a conditional offer to hire.

Assistant Chief Braun confirmed that hiring two police officers would bring the staffing level to 33, which is their preferred number. He confirmed that recruitment is ongoing.

Trustee Davis referenced recent adjustments to the pay scales that created some lateral movements and created opportunities to hire.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT: Director Ron Ripperger

1. Resolution 2022-021

Trustee Davis introduced and moved the adoption of a resolution authorizing execution and submission of the 2021 Township Highway System Mileage Certification, declaring an emergency and dispensing with the second reading. Trustee Stertz seconded.

Mr. Ripperger reported that ODOT conducted an audit of all townships of which lowered our total mileage by ½ a mile.

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

Trustees Davis, Stertz and Sieve voted YES during roll call to adopt the resolution. Resolution adopted.

2. Additional Items:

- Rapid Run Road Project – a Hamilton County project replacing culverts expected to take approximately 3 months to complete.
- Fehr Road closure – also a Hamilton County project involving a water main replacement. He confirmed that the contractor has been very responsive to complaints from the residents.
- Litter patrols – confirmed that Hamilton County has been very responsive to the removal of litter this year.

ADMINISTRATION: Township Administrator Jack Cameron

1. Resolution 2022-022

Trustee Davis introduced and moved the adoption of a resolution authorizing the Administrator to amend the agreement with Constellation New Energy – Gas Division, LLC (Constellation) as the natural gas supplier to the Township's Natural Gas Aggregation program, authorizing the Township Administrator to execute the agreement, declaring an emergency and dispensing with the second reading. Trustee Stertz seconded.

Mr. Cameron reported that the resolution addresses the renewal of a contract for natural gas supplier of which the current term with Constellation New Energy expires end of May.

He reviewed the details of the program and the upcoming term, and introduced Dan Deters with Energy Alliances who presented the terms of the agreement.

2. Report from Dan Deters, Energy Alliances

Mr. Deters provided a report on the Township's current pricing for natural gas for the current term (2019 through the first meter read in June 2022): \$0.396 per centum cubic feet, compared to the rates from the past few months for Duke and other third-party dealers' customers: (\$0.82 last November; \$0.72 in December; \$0.62 in February; and \$0.72 in March).

He confirmed that he is seeking approval to move forward with a contract with a supplier for the group's next term, a flat rate for 2 years, anticipating a cost of \$0.50 per centum cubic feet with a cushion built in.

Trustee Sieve stated reasons the Township likes working with Energy Alliances because there is no penalty or fee associated with joining or leaving the group and the great customer service.

In response to Trustee Stertz' question regarding the rate, Mr. Deters confirmed that he is suggesting a best price in the low \$.50 cent range, including a buffer based on the worst-case scenario of up to \$.56 cents.

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

Trustees Davis, Stertz and Sieve voted YES during roll call to adopt the resolution. Resolution adopted.

3. Resolution 2022-023

Trustee Davis introduced and moved the adoption of a resolution approving participation in Region 2 Governance Structure under the OneOhio Memorandum of Understanding, declaring an emergency and dispensing with the second reading. Trustee Stertz seconded.

Mr. Cameron stated this is a settlement negotiated with the big pharmacy companies over the Opioid issues, confirming that the resolution establishes a governing structure for the program's management structure at the county level.

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

Trustees Davis, Stertz and Sieve voted YES during roll call to adopt the resolution. Resolution adopted.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: Director Greg DeLong

- Recognizing that there were no nuisance resolutions on the agenda, Mr. Cameron confirmed that there were three resolutions declaring nuisances on the draft agenda, of which one of the violations was corrected on Friday, and two were correct as of this morning.
- In response to Trustee Davis' question regarding a recent complaint on Mapleton involving debris on the front porch and a truck parked on the front lawn, Mr. DeLong confirmed that violations have been ongoing at the property and that the property owner brings the violations into compliance within the required amount of time before the Township can declare it a nuisance. He confirmed that there is an informal order currently against the property with a due date of tomorrow; if it is not resolved, the nuisance will be on the agenda of the March 30th meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Not Applicable.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF COMMUNITY EVENTS:

1. Delhi Historical Society program: Findlay Market of Cincinnati History on Monday, March 14th at the Delhi Park Lodge at 7:00 p.m.
2. Delhi Branch Library In Person Homeschool Book Club on Wednesday, March 16th at 1:00 p.m.
3. Easter Egg Hunt hosted by the Delhi Business Association is on Saturday, April 9th at 10:00 a.m. at the Delhi Park Lodge.
4. Delhi Spring Craft & Vendor Show hosted by the Delhi Parks Dept. will be on Saturday, April 9th at the Delhi Senior Community Center.
5. Clean Up Delhi Day is on Saturday, May 7th from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at the Delhi Senior Community Center on Neeb Road.
6. Paper Shredding Event hosted by the Delhi Business Association is on Saturday, May 7th from 9:00 a.m. until noon at C.O. Harrison School.
7. Delhi Community Yard Sale is Saturday, May 14th from 8:30 a.m. until noon at the Delhi Senior Community Center.

Trustee Sieve thanked everyone for attending, and for being respectful with the comments that were shared from the podium.

ADJOURN MEETING:

With no further business to come before the Board, a motion to adjourn was moved by Trustee Davis and seconded by Trustee Stertz. Trustees Davis, Stertz and Sieve voted YES. Motion carried.

Approved: _____, Fiscal Officer
_____, Chair
_____, Trustee
_____, 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.

James J. Luebbe, Fiscal Officer