

## Minutes

July 20, 2021

Commissioners Present: Timothy Bechtol, Michael Pepple and William Bateson present.

Also Present: Lynn Taylor, Adam Witteman, Phil Johnson, Doug Cade and Denny Holman.

Commissioner Bechtol opened the meeting at 2:30 p.m. in the Commissioners' 1st floor conference room. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The minutes from the July 1, 2021 meeting were read and approved. William Bateson made the motion to approve, Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 2-0. Michael Pepple abstained. The minutes from the July 8, 2021 were read and approved. Michael Pepple made the motion to approve, Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 2-0. William Bateson abstained. The minutes from the July 15, 2021 were read and approved. Michael Pepple made the motion to approve, William Bateson seconded. Motion passed 2-0. Timothy Bechtol abstained.

The Assistant Clerk presented the following resolutions for consideration:

Resolution #475-21 – Authorizing the payment of the listed and/or attached Purchase Orders. William Bateson made the motion to approve, Michael Pepple seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #476-21 – Transfer of funds within the appropriation – General Fund. William Bateson made the motion to approve, Michael Pepple seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #477-21 – Additional appropriation within the Auditor's certification – Commissioner's to appropriate to Juvenile Probate Capital Projects. William Bateson made the motion to approve, Michael Pepple seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #478-21 – Advance of funds from the General Fund to Water Pollution Control. William Bateson made the motion to approve, Michael Pepple seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Commissioners Bateson and Commissioner Pepple signed the final drawdown request for FEMA DR 4424.10R Grant Program (demolition of 339 Wilson Street) for HRPC. The Commissioners discussed the liquor permit request from Kibbees Carryout in Bluffton, Ohio. A hearing was not requested by the Commissioners. A travel request was approved for the Sheriff's Office. In addition, the Commissioners signed a TCAP grant agreement.

Philip Johnson presented the following resolutions for consideration:

Resolution #479-21 – Petition of for annexation of a total of 0.386 acres of land in Allen Township to the Village of Van Buren, Hancock County, Ohio. William Bateson made the motion to approve, Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 2-0. Michael Pepple abstained.

Resolution #480-21 – Authorizing action regarding the Woods at Hillcrest 9<sup>th</sup> Addition. Phil Johnson stated that the letter of credit is to expire on July 23, 2021 after it was issued in July of 2019. Doug Cade stated that the work is not done as stated and the LOC extension has not yet been received. Several attempts were made to speak with the developer and Premier Bank and nothing has been received. Doug stated that time has run out and the work is not finished in that

area. Phil Johnson stated that he understands an extension will be received this Thursday. Doug stated that statement was also made last week and it did not come true. William Bateson made the motion to approve, Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 2-0. Michael Pepple abstained. Doug stated that if the LOC extension is received on Thursday, we can rescind this resolution. William Bateson stated that we are doing what we have to do. Timothy Bechtol stated that he received a phone call from Andy Clouse shortly before this meeting and wanted to know if Doug knew of the pipe situation out in the Hillcrest Golf Course area. Tim said the pipe is underneath the overpass that is in question. Doug stated that pipe is the responsibility of ODOT. Doug will provide Tim with a contact name for Tim to pass to Andy. Tim also asked Doug if any information was available on Howard Run and Doug stated not at this time. Andy indicated to Tim that he paid a large sum for Dalzell Ditch improvements. Doug stated that the work performed on Dalzell Ditch will come from Flood Mitigation funds.

Phil Johnson requested an executive session in regards to potential real estate acquisition and pending litigation.

Adam Witteman had nothing to report.

Doug Cade indicated that the Howard Street Bridge opened last week. Doug also said that County Road 2 will open next week or maybe late this week. The County Road 153 bridge project will start shortly. Doug praised 3 County Engineer employees Mike Clark, Todd Groves and John Retting for quickly providing aid to a vehicle fire on I 75 recently. The 3 employees jumped a fence and used fire extinguishers to put out the fire before the fire department arrived on scene. Great job.

Denny Holman provided the Commissioners a letter from the Washington Township Trustees indicating their displeasure of the Solar Project in Washington Township. Denny stated that he recently drove to Hardin County to view the solar project in that area. He was very disappointed in the look and he will continue to be vocally against this project. Denny stated that the Township will not allow the use of the right-a-ways and he will do all he can to speak out against it. Bill Bateson stated that he spoke to Jeff Hunker about the upcoming Trustee Association meeting in August. Bill hopes all 3 Commissioners can attend in addition to Cindy Land. Bill also indicated that he spoke to several Commissioners at the insurance meeting and opinions are all across the board. Bill did state that he received a copy of the Seneca County denial and it appears a big factor in the denial was due to the soil and the public comments.

## **Meetings/Reports**

William Bateson stated that he attended the insurance meeting this morning.

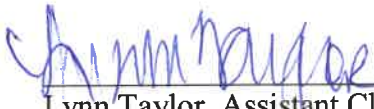
Michael Pepple stated that he also attended the insurance meeting this morning.

Timothy Bechtol stated that he attended the insurance meeting earlier today and also the LEPC meeting last week.

At 3:05 p.m., the Commissioners met with Greg Burks and Alex Wood. Lynn Taylor, Adam Witteman and Lou Wilin were also in attendance. Greg provided printouts to the Commissioners on several ditches. Greg encouraged the Commissioners to contact him if they have any

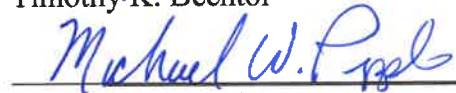
questions. Greg also stated that spraying on ditch banks will be done soon, however they will not be going into cornfields. Currently, Greg has the spraying program on a 5-year rotation. However, he would like to go to a 3-year rotation. In addition, Greg will provide an update on 3 ditches that are in the petition process by the end of the week. Greg informed the Commissioners that he will be leaving his position at Soil & Water at the end of July. He has accepted a job at another organization. The Commissioners were very appreciative of Greg and his effort while working on ditches. They wished Greg the best.


At 3:31 p.m., Timothy Bechtol made the motion to enter into executive session to discuss potential real estate acquisition and pending litigation. Michael Pepple seconded. A roll call vote resulted as follows: Timothy Bechtol, yes; Michael Pepple, yes; William Bateson, yes. At 3:34 p.m., Timothy Bechtol made the motion to come out of executive session with no action taken, Michael Pepple seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

  
Lynn Taylor, Assistant Clerk

Reviewed and approved by:

  
Timothy K. Bechtol

  
Michael W. Pepple

  
William L. Bateson

July 17, 2021

To the County Commissioners of Hancock County,

We, the Washington Township Trustees, are writing to express our displeasure of the solar development proposed in our township; case number 21-0669-EL-BGN, South Branch Solar.

We believe the many detriments of this development far outweigh any benefits to our community and governing agencies. We have previously discussed these issues and concerns with you at your July 13, 2021 meeting.

We believe that development of this magnitude should be a local level decision and should follow the zoning we have had in place since 1960.

Again, as stated, we do not support the South Branch Solar project, and furthermore, will not approve any upgrades to utilities in our township road R/WS to promote construction.

We are optimistic that we will have your support in this matter.

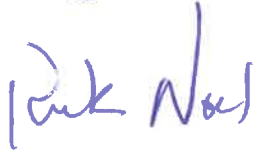
Sincerely,

Washington Twp. Trustees

Dennis Holman



Rick Noel



John Grossman

