

The April 13, 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 the souls that were lost and for a swift conclusion to the atrocities against Ukrainians by Russian military.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Regular Meeting on 3/30/22)

A Motion to approve the minutes of the Board of Trustees regular meeting on March 30, 2022 and dispense with the reading, was moved by Trustee Davis and seconded by Trustee Stertz. Trustees Davis, Stertz and Sieve voted YES. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF OVERTIME (Period ending 4/5/22)

A Motion to approve the payment of overtime for periods ending April 5, 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. Significant Transactions since the last meeting:
Revenue: Deposit for \$898,000 for the Homestead Rollback; Appropriations: TIF Payments to the school districts to make them whole: check to Oak Hills for \$1,260,000; Great Oaks for \$68,000; Cincinnati Public Schools for \$53,000; \$360,000 Payroll transaction on March 31st.

TRUSTEES' CORRESPONDENCE:

- Trustee Stertz recognized the Delhi Township CERT Team which was founded in 2002 and is now merging with Green Township. He thanked Ed Conrad for coordinating the Delhi Team for many years.
- Trustee Stertz acknowledged the receipt of a letter of appreciation from a resident recognizing Fire Department staff, Kevin Kraemer and Eric Weiss, for care provided to a family member.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION: Office of Congressman Steve Chabot: Mr. Ian T. Mercer, Constituent Liaison

Mr. Mercer introduced himself and how he came to be a member of Congressman Chabot's Cincinnati District Office. He confirmed his role and responsibilities of which include helping constituents who have issues with federal agencies, including the U.S. Department of State, U.S. Embassies and Consulates, and the U.S. Passport Agency, as well as engaging with elected officials and other community members.

Trustee Sieve thanked Mr. Mercer for his and Congressman Chabot's availability to Delhi Township and its residents. Shared Mr. Mercer's contact information: email: ian.mercer@mail.house.gov ; phone: 513-684-2723; for policy related questions and legislative opinions, contact the Washington DC office: 202-225-2216.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Chief Doug Campbell

1. Retirement Recommendation

A Motion to Accept the retirement of Career Firefighter/Paramedic Robert B. Palmer effective April 3, 2022, was moved by Trustee Davis and seconded by Trustee Sterz. Trustees Davis, Stertz and Sieve voted YES. Motion carried.

- Congratulations and thanks to Bruce Palmer for over 30 years of dedicated service.

2. Emergency Operations Plan Update

Confirmed the plan has been reviewed and will be considered for adoption by the Board at their April 27 meeting. The new plan will provide better coordination and put the department more in line with the county level of emergency response.

- Questions from the Board were addressed and answered.

3. Hiring Recommendation

A Motion to Approve the hiring of Nicolas S. Stenger as Part-Time Firefighter/EMT in the Fire Department at the rate per the collective bargaining agreement with the Delhi Firefighters Association upon successful completion of the voice stress analyzer, pre-employment physical, drug testing, and background check effective on April 13, 2022, was moved by Trustee Davis and seconded by Trustee Stertz. Trustees Davis, Stertz and Sieve voted YES. Motion carried.

- Chief Campbell reported that Nick is a familiar face through participation with the Delhi Explorer Post and has good knowledge of the department and its operations.

PARKS & RECREATION: Assistant Administrator Greg DeLong

1. Resolution 2022-033

Trustee Davis introduced and moved the adoption of a resolution entering into an agreement with the Delhi Community Benefit Skirt Softball Committee for use of Delhi Park for its 2022 annual charity event, authorizing the Assistant Administrator to execute the agreement, declaring an emergency and dispensing with the second reading. Trustee Stertz seconded.

In response to a question from Trustee Davis about the Skate Park being open during the Skirt Game, Mr. DeLong confirmed that the committee did propose that we close the Skate Park for the event, however, since it is a public park it was decided that it would not be appropriate to close it and that any issues would be handled by the Police Department.

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. Dog Park & Pickleball Court Update

- Mr. DeLong provided an update and summary of items from the prior discussion:
 - Ruled out the Rapid Run location for the dog park because of the FEMA regulations.
 - Considered the option to put pickleball at the tennis courts and moving the tennis courts to a new location.
 - Confirmed budgeted amount of \$50,000 for a dog park and \$100,000 for pickleball courts.
 - Confirmed cost estimates of \$20 - \$30,000 per pickleball court (looking at adding 4).
 - Addressed a problem with not being able to get fencing materials.
 - Confirmed \$55,000 estimate for fencing around the perimeter of 1 acre dog park.
- **Trustees' Discussion**
 - Best location for the pickleball courts.
 - Clearview Lake would not be a good location for pickleball because of the geese droppings.
 - Uses at the Foley Road Park entrance.
- **Public Comments**
 - Janet Rosenthal suggested Field #9 as a possible location for the dog park.

- Pete Feitchner recommended using the grass field between the Lodge and the tennis courts.
- Brian Bell asked about the interest of the residents for a dog park vs. pickleball.
- In response to Mr. Bell's question, Trustee Sieve stated that they have not kept track of the comments received by the office; however, confirmed that we have received a good number of requests for both activities.
- **Final Remarks**
 - Trustee Davis stated that he would prefer to see the dog park in Delhi Park, not in Floral Paradise Gardens. He also communicated his preference to move forward with pickleball this year and to postpone the dog park until next year. He stated that the field, between the Lodge and tennis courts would be the perfect location for pickleball.
 - Trustee Stertz stated her preference to make one of the projects a priority this year. She suggested locations at Floral Paradise Gardens for pickleball and the dog park, as well as parking that could be added at the top of the driveway near the road if needed. She also stated that she would prefer to continue to investigate the Rapid Run location for the dog park, as she considers it to be a more central location.
 - Trustees Sieve and Davis stated their opposition to the dog park being on Rapid Run Road.
 - Trustee Sieve stated that it was her preference to make pickleball a priority project this year. In addition, she would like to have a better understanding of fencing availability and the delay getting the product that we need for the dog park.
 - Mr. Cameron confirmed that the total budgeted amount would not be enough to complete both projects this year. Because he has heard a lot of requests for pickleball, he suggested focusing of that activity this year. He also stated that he would like to move forward with surveying their top two locations.
 - Mr. DeLong confirmed the top two locations for pickleball preferred by the Board: the lot between the Lodge and the tennis courts and the lot at Floral Paradise Gardens.
- 3. **Seasonal Park Worker** – still accepting applications.
- 4. **Volunteer Opportunities** – looking for volunteers to work at Floral Paradise Gardens to bring it back to its optimal state.

POLICE DEPARTMENT: Chief Howarth

1. Hiring Recommendation

- A Motion to Approve the hiring of Brent A. Kahle as Auxiliary Police Officer in the Police Department at a pay rate of \$39.17 per hour effective April 13, 2022, 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 William R. Murphy as Auxiliary Police Officer in the Police Department at a pay rate of \$39.17 per hour effective April 13, 2022, was moved by Trustee Davis and seconded by Trustee Stertz. Trustees Davis, Stertz and Sieve voted YES. Motion carried.
 - Previously created the new Auxiliary Police Officer positions. The previous motions approve the hiring of two retired police officers whose services will be rendered at community events. Per contract, the department will pay the hourly rate of the officers for mandatory training that is required to maintain their certifications.
- A Motion to Approve the transfer of fifty percent (50%) of Maria Kara Vennemeier's sick time balance upon separation from her current public agency and allow fifty-five (55) hours of vacation time in 2022 to be available for use thirty (30) days after her start date, was moved by Trustee Davis and seconded by Trustee Stertz. Trustees Davis, Stertz and Sieve voted YES. Motion carried.

2. Resignation Recommendation

A Motion to Accept the voluntary resignation of Part-Time Police Clerk Catherine C. Neville effective March 31, 2022, was moved by Trustee Davis and seconded by Trustee Stertz. Trustees Davis, Stertz and Sieve voted YES. Motion carried.

3. **Let's Talk Gun Safety Training**

The Department will present a training on May 7th at the Rapid Run Auditorium from 9:30 until 11. Adults and their children are welcome.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT: Director Ron Ripperger

1. **Construction project updates:**

- Fairbanks Project – the road will be repaved at the completion of the water main work.
- Fehr Road Project – the project is wrapping up in the next couple months.
- Rapid Run Road bridge project – work is on schedule.

ADMINISTRATION: Administrator Cameron

1. **Natural Gas Aggregation Program Renewal Update**

- Mr. Cameron informed the Board that he was contacted by the Township's aggregation broker who informed him that natural gas prices have gone up and they are not comfortable locking in a price for the group at this time, recommending that in the interim customers go back to Duke Energy's regulated natural gas pricing.
 - He confirmed that program participants will receive a letter advising them that they are going back on Duke Energy for their natural gas supply while our broker continues to work over the next few months to lock in a better blended price for the winter months.
 - Information about the program update will be available on the Township's website, as well as communication shared on social media.
2. Elevator repair at the Administration Building will start next week.
3. **Delhi Towne Square** – current site work and getting permits in place.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: Director Greg DeLong

1. **Resolution 2022-034**

Trustee Davis introduced and moved the adoption of a resolution declaring nuisance for accumulated debris at 328 Bob Drive, declaring an emergency, and dispensing with the second reading. Trustee Stertz seconded.

Mr. DeLong reported that the debris item is a refrigerator.

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. **Grass and weed violations** – suggestion to call the office or submit a complaint on the Citizen Request Form on the Township's website.

In response to a question from Trustee Davis about properties that are being purchased along lower Delhi, Mr. DeLong responded that the same individual owns a number of properties in Sedamsville.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Not applicable.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF COMMUNITY EVENTS:

1. Hamilton County R3Source: Yard Trimmings Drop-Off is now open at Oakdale Elementary School on Saturdays and Sundays.
2. Friday Night Rewined: featuring a special showing of "The Princess Bride" on Friday, April 22, 2022.
3. Community Blood Drive hosted by St. Dominic Knights of Columbus on Friday, May 6, 2022.
4. Clean Up Delhi Day on Saturday, May 7th at the Delhi Senior Community Center.

5. Paper Shredding event at C.O. Harrison School hosted by the Delhi Business Association on Saturday, May 7, 2022.
6. Delhi Community Yard Sale on Saturday, May 14th at the Delhi Senior Community Center.
7. Delhi Parks & Recreation Summer Concert Schedule: June 16th – Bad Habit; July 21st – The Tillers; August 18th – Forever Diamond; September 15th – Danny Frazier Band.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A Motion to retire to Executive Session to conference with an attorney on pending or imminent court action and confidential information related to the marketing plans, specific business strategy, trade secrets, or personal financial statements of an applicant for economic development assistance was moved by Trustee Davis and seconded by Trustee Stertz. Trustees Davis, Stertz and Sieve voted YES. Motion carried.

Trustee Sieve confirmed the Board’s next meeting will be on April 27th.

RETURN TO PUBLIC MEETING:

A Motion to conclude Executive Session and return to the public meeting was moved by Trustee Davis and seconded by Trustee Stertz. Trustees Davis, Stertz and Sieve voted YES. Motion carried.

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