

Middleton Township Trustees

Wednesday, November 15, 2023

6:00 p.m.

Mr. Moulton called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was spoken. In attendance were Trustees Cromley, Moulton, and Vetter as well as Fiscal Officer Limes.

The sign-in sheet for employees and visitors is attached with the approved minutes.

Noted on the sign in sheet is a statement indicating the meeting may be recorded or streamed live to the internet by a visitor - not at the authority of the township trustees.

FISCAL OFFICER REPORT

- **Mr. Cromley moved, Mr. Vetter seconded a motion to approve the November 1, 2023 meeting minutes as provided. Motion approved.**
- **Mr. Moulton moved, Mr. Cromley seconded approval of accounts and payroll as submitted. Motion approved.** A payment register is attached to the approved minutes.
- Mrs. Limes provided the October bank reconciliation for review.
- The Trustees reviewed the Schedule A Rates Resolution provided by the Wood County Auditor's Office.
Mr. Vetter moved, Mr. Moulton seconded a motion to approve the Rates Resolution for 2024 as provided by the Wood County Auditor. Roll was called: Mr. Cromley – YES; Mr. Moulton – YES; Mr. Vetter – YES. Mrs. Limes will submit the documents, with approval, back to the County Auditor.
- As a result of the electric aggregation ballot initiative, the Board's next step is to authorize a purchasing agent and set two special meetings for public information.
 - **Mr. Vetter moved, Mr. Cromley seconded a motion to approve Resolution 23-1115 (EA), Resolution Authorizing the Wood County Commissioners to At as Purchasing Agent and Governmental Aggregator for the contract period of December 2023 through December 2025. Roll was called: Mr. Cromley – YES; Mr. Moulton – YES; Mr. Vetter – YES.**
 - **Mr. Moulton moved, Mr. Vetter seconded a motion to approve two special meetings for the purpose of electric aggregation information on Wednesday, December 6 at 5:30 pm and Wednesday, December 20 at 8:00 a.m. based on availability of Debbie Hoffman, Energy Consultant with Palmer Energy company. Motion approved.** It is noted that the Trustees will be informed if these dates are acceptable and if not, the Board will defer to Mr. Moulton to update the date/time as necessary.
- Mrs. Limes updated the Board with regard to a debit card issued due to an electricity litigation settlement. The township is authorized to use the monies with proper tracking.
Mr. Moulton moved, Mr. Cromley seconded a motion to approve a purchase of a light meter from the zoning department, utilizing the debit card issued with funds from the electricity litigation settlement which total \$146.76, to be used by Zoning Inspector Kip McDowell. Motion approved.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

- It was noted that the Cross Creek Road siren was hooked up to electric.
- The Trustees were provided with a Wood County Computer Aided Dispatch Agreement. They plan to review and discuss at the December 6 meeting of the Board.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

- Jeff Eckel, Road Supervisor indicated that all trucks and equipment have been prepped for winter.
- John Mossman has indicated that this is his last year mowing roadsides for the township, but will continue to plow snow.
- **Mr. Moulton moved, Mr. Cromley seconded a motion to approve the purchase of a leaf vacuum on govdeals.com not to exceed \$30,000. Motion approved.** After the purchase online Mrs. Limes will handle the required wire transfer.
- Leaf pickup will occur after the Thanksgiving holiday.

ZONING DEPARTMENT

- Zoning Inspector Kip McDowell and Mrs. Limes provided an update on the pending demolition of the Mansour property. After consultation with Peter Griggs' legal team, it was determined the Board could act to move forward with demolition of the property.
Mr. Vetter moved, Mr. Cromley seconded a motion to approve Resolution 23-1115, Resolution of Intent to Demolish Property. Roll was called: Mr. Cromley – YES; Mr. Moulton – YES; Mr. Vetter – YES.
- Mr. McDowell noted that permits were slow, as building has not been active.

- Framing for a garage has been started without permit at a Dixie Highway address, a property in which has been identified for cleanup. Mr. McDowell has been in contact with the person residing at the property, who is not the actual property owner. A letter is being sent with a list of zoning infractions.
- A request for rezoning is being reviewed for property at Five Point and South River Roads. Upon a review of the Riverbend development documentation, the parcel in question has already been rezoned to R3. Mr. McDowell is requesting a review by the Trustees before contacting the developer.
- Northwestern Water and Sewer District has staff who can assist with zoning maps. Mr. McDowell will be working with them to update the township maps.
- Mr. McDowell indicated a landscaping business may be running out of a rental property on Dixie Highway.
- The Blanco property on Dixie Highway has been turned over to the Health Department.
- Mr. Moulton shared continuing concerns with regard to the lighting at the curling center.
- Mr. Vetter stated he wants Brian McMahon contacted on Thursday to be told the Danberry Realty ‘sold’ signs need removed immediately from the Dixie Highway and Middleton Pike locations.

VISITOR COMMENTS

- Ross Fought questioned if there were any updates to the rezoned properties.

OLD BUSINESS

- Mr. Moulton updated the Board on the Copeland lawsuit, noting that defense expert reports have been completed.
- The Board noted the need to stay focused on the 2024 Solar Eclipse and the township’s involvement in same.

NEW BUSINESS

- The Trustees reviewed a meeting with regard to the water/sewer project on Dunbridge Road and St. Rt. 582. The project is targeted for completion by December 2025. Mr. Cromley reported that residents will receive a free sewer tap and hook up will be less than \$6,000 per property. Water hook up will be voluntary.
- Lighting at the USF Holland facility is being discussed, with the Trustees working on having some of the lights turned off, as the facility is not actively being used any longer.
- Mr. Moulton reported on the Storm Water Coalition meeting he attended. A mass media campaign is being organized.
- Mr. Moulton moved, Mr. Vetter seconded a motion to approve membership with the Wood County Economic Development Commission at the supporting membership rate of \$500. Motion approved.

Mr. Moulton moved, Mr. Vetter seconded a motion to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussion on the Copeland Estate lawsuit at 7:26 pm. Roll was called: Mr. Cromley – YES; Mr. Moulton – YES; Mr. Vetter – YES.

The Trustees returned to regular session at 7:44 pm.

Mr. Vetter moved, Mr. Cromley seconded adjournment of the meeting at 7:45 pm. Motion approved.

Michael Moulton, Chairman

Donald E. Cromley, Vice Chairman

Fred E. Vetter, Trustee

Laurie L. Limes, Fiscal Officer