

The Washington Township Board of Trustees met in Regular Session on June 20, 2011, at 7:30 p.m. at the Washington Township Government Center, 8200 McEwen Road. President Berry opened the meeting and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **FISCAL OFFICER'S BUSINESS**

None.

## **ANNUAL UPDATE FROM GREATER DAYTON RTA**

Mary Stanforth and Pat Kelley were present to give information about RTA and what they are doing. Ms. Stanforth indicated that RTA is a community partner; they work with various communities and jurisdictions in order to try to provide the best service possible. Ms. Stanforth introduced herself as the Chief Financial Officer and Secretary/Treasurer to the Board of Trustees and Pat Kelley who is the Manager of Customer Service.

Ms. Stanforth stated RTA's vision is to be a premiere public transportation provider, connecting people and communities. RTA's mission is to provide quality public transportation that meets the community's needs. RTA's motto is transporting people, connecting communities and delivering value. Ms. Stanforth indicated that the RTA Board and the Executive Director are currently in the process of starting a new strategic planning effort. Conversations with the community is a part of that process. They will be mapping out what the next three to five years will look like for them.

The RTA operates 21 hours every day. On holidays, they convert to a Saturday or Sunday schedule with limited service, but they provide service every day of the year. There are 29 different routes, serving 23 different jurisdictions, including Wright State University and Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. She indicated that 94 percent of Montgomery County's residents live within half a mile of RTA service. Project Mobility, according to Ms. Stanforth, is a real nice service provided by them. It is a door-to-door service for individuals who have disabilities and are unable to use fixed route service. They have 277 passenger vehicles including diesels, electric trolley buses, hybrids and Project Mobility vans. They are one hundred percent fully accessible and all of their buses have bike racks on them. They have 3,300 bus stops. Ms. Stanforth indicated that 53 percent of their riders are between 18 and 45 years old and about 62 percent of their riders use their service to get to work. She also indicated that 4,600 citizens are actively using the Project Mobility service and this number continues to grow. It is a rather labor intensive service and costs one and a half times the amount of normal service. The top ten destinations include Sinclair Community College, Dayton Mall, Dayton Job Center, the downtown hospitals, University of Dayton, Wright State University and the Westtown Shopping Center.

Because of RTA's use of biofuels and electric buses, they have been certified as an Ohio Green Fleet. RTA is the first five star Ohio Green Fleet to be recognized. They have also received American Public Transportation awards. They've won the APTA Adwheels award, a Prism Award, and recently received an almost perfect triennial review that the Federal Transit Administration gives. Every three years the FTA comes in and reviews 24 different areas. This was the first year they received a clean review with no outstanding issues or findings. The Federal Transit Administration looks at how they manage their grants, how they draw their money, how they procure services, how they maintain their vehicles, and how many miles they put on their tires before taking them off their buses. In the Midwest region, they were the only transit company to receive this certificate of achievement.

For every one dollar invested in public transportation, four dollars in economic return is generated in this region. Households that are likely to use public transportation save about \$9,000 per year, compared to two adults using a vehicle that is either leased or a car payment is made, along with the cost of gasoline and maintenance. About 52 percent of their funding is generated from sales tax revenue. Since sales tax revenue used to account for about 60 percent of their funding, RTA has had to cut routes and increase fares. Also, their State funding has dwindled significantly. They currently receive about one percent of their total revenue from the State of Ohio, about \$130,000 per year. Other communities with similar populations receive about 23 percent. They have been trying to work with the State on this disparity.

Pat Kelley indicated that since 2000, State funding has gone down about 75 percent and the trend will continue in 2012. The public commitment to public transportation per person in the State of Ohio is \$1.58 as opposed to Pennsylvania, which receives \$63.00 per person. RTA has had layoffs, cut expenses, and cut service, but sales tax has remained flat. Sales tax has become their primary source of funding. In 1999 sales tax provided 67 percent of their funding. Now, it is about 52 percent.

To tighten their belt, RTA uses Greyhound at their northwest hub, the Salem Mall area, which has brought in some revenue. They have cut where they could in maintenance overtime, they have done away with some of their company cars, they are requiring their employees to pay a healthier co-pay on their insurance, etc. More examples are in the packets that were provided to the Trustees.

Regarding safety, RTA has a program for their drivers called Smith training, which is an incentive program for their drivers. RTA also has an Ambassador program and has developed safety teams to examine everything in their administrative offices, on the road, in their maintenance areas, etc., with safety being forefront in their minds.

RTA opened Wright Stop Plaza in September of 2009 and removed the bus stop at the intersection of Main and Third. Being private property, RTA has been able to police the intersection of Main and Third better. Their command center is state-of-the-art.

Future areas of concern include getting their riders to their jobs. There is double digit unemployment in this area. If you don't have jobs, you don't have spending and they are dependent on sales tax. Fuel prices are a concern. They engage in fuel hedging programs to help out. Another concern is with State funding and with identifying new sources of support.

Ms. Kelley encouraged everyone to go to [i-riderta.org](http://i-riderta.org) and take the small "Take our Strategic Plan Questionnaire."

Mr. Paulson asked about ridership trends. Ms. Kelley indicated that year-to-date they are up 1.3 percent from last year. When you compare this past May with the previous May, they are up about five percent. Previously, it had been dipping; but things are leveling out now.

Ms. Lightle thanked the RTA for their grant funding for the bus stops. They have been well-received by the community.

Mr. Berry stated that their presence has been noted and appreciated at the 15 bus stops in Washington Township.

## MIAMI VALLEY FAIR HOUSING PRESENTATION

John Zimmerman thanked Mr. Berry for his support of the Miami Valley Fair Housing Center and all of the Trustees for having him speak about the Miami Valley Fair Housing Center.

Mr. Zimmerman indicated that the Fair Housing Center is an Ohio non-profit that is funded through contracts with municipal governments, such as Montgomery County, and federal agencies, like the Department of Housing and Urban Development in Washington D.C., and through grants and private donations. They are a membership organization. Their mission is to help ensure equal housing opportunities for all residents in Montgomery County and the surrounding areas. To do so, they educate the public and they have an education program for housing professionals. They also assist individuals who are illegally discriminated against in the provision for housing.

Their website is [www.mvfairhousing.com](http://www.mvfairhousing.com). When you open the website, there is a link on the right-side corner of their website that features lending issues called, "Don't Risk Your Home.com. It tells consumers about how to avoid mortgage rescue scams, predatory lending, etc. Washington Township was given brochures for its residents about Miami Valley Fair Housing Center services. Consumers may also call the Miami Valley Fair Housing Center at 223-6035 to have this information mailed directly to their homes.

The Miami Valley Fair Housing Center has staff that teaches fair housing classes to realtors, leasing agents, developers and contractors—professions that mainly work in housing. They have now expanded that and also teach classes to social workers and nurses—people to help clients find housing. They attend many meetings for city planners, zoning officials and other municipal officials who work with the provision of services for residential housing. They are available to community service clubs, churches, schools and other non-profits, and they attend events like the Montgomery County Fair or the Hispanic Festival.

Anyone who feels they have been a victim of housing discrimination can give them a call. Fair Housing laws vary from place to place. In Washington Township there are specific characteristics that people could call about. The people who have protections are families with children who are under 18 in the household or people with disabilities. They assist people of all races, all colors, all religions, and national origins, and both genders. Mr. Zimmerman added that military status and ancestry are also protected classes. If someone calls, they can explain to them their options, they might do an investigation and they can tell them how they can remedy the situation.

Mr. Zimmerman indicated he had two specific areas of interest. One is people with disabilities and the other is foreclosure in our community. People with disabilities and those who help people with disabilities find housing, need to know the process for either getting a structural modification made to the housing or how to get a rule change so that the housing becomes more accessible to that person with a disability. For example, a person who uses a wheelchair might buy a condominium and need a special parking place for their van. They can go to their condominium association, explain their need, and make arrangements to get an appropriate, reserved parking place. In most cases, the person requesting the change will pay for any modifications needed. People can also ask for policy changes or rule changes. You may have a blind person in Washington Township who might get an apartment at a place that has a no pets policy. They might need a rule change to accommodate a seeing eye dog. Like the person requesting a structure modification, they should be able to receive this rule change. As long as all other rules are followed, such as barking, removal of waste, and spaying and neutering rules, the landlord should allow the seeing eye dog to be there, even though they have a no pets policy. Service animals are now considered as medical devices, much like wheelchairs. The person requesting a rule change cannot be charged special charges or fees

for a service animal. Rule changes can become complicated matters. When people run into this kind of a situation, one of the things they can do is to give the Miami Valley Fair Housing a call, regardless if they are the housing provider or the resident who needs the change.

Mr. Zimmerman indicated that the Township has brochures called, "Fair Housing Tips for Welcoming People with Disabilities." If they give the Miami Valley Fair Housing Center a call, they can have them mailed to their homes. Their website also has very detailed information.

Mr. Zimmerman also mentioned a bookmark, which at the top says, "Are you... a victim of predatory lending?" He left a supply with the Township. He indicated that if you are seeking assistance with your mortgage because you believe you may have been a victim of predatory lending and have received court documents for foreclosure, to contact the Predatory Lending Solutions Hotline at 222-9671. If you are in foreclosure, but not a victim of predatory lending, you may also call this number. People in foreclosure receive a notice and must file an answer within 28 days. Many times they do not have money. Under the guidance of the Montgomery County Commissioners and funding from the County, staff attorneys at the Fair Housing Center are able to file that answer for people in foreclosure, without a charge to them. The Fair Housing Center can explain the foreclosure process to someone and if they cannot stop the foreclosure, can help them make an easy transition. The bookmark also asked, "Are you... behind on payments or close to foreclosure? If you are seeking assistance concerning your mortgage, contact the HomeOwnership Center of Greater Dayton at 937-853-1600." The Fair Housing Center and the HomeOwnership Center have a partnership. The Fair Housing Center tries to do the legal part of helping people through foreclosure. If someone is just behind in their payments or are close to foreclosure, the HomeOwnership Center does the housing counseling portion. They have resources to help someone catch up with their mortgage payments or they can get a mortgage modification. He urged the Township to give out the bookmark to people who come to the office and mention they are in foreclosure.

Mr. Zimmerman indicated that we are now averaging 5,000 foreclosures per year in Montgomery County and expect that rate to go up over the next several years.

## **CITIZEN CONCERNS**

None.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

All matters under the Consent Agenda are considered by the Board of Trustees to be routine and will be enacted by one motion. Any Trustee may remove an item from the Consent Agenda by request. No second is required for removal of an item. Items removed for separate discussion will be considered after the motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

### **A. Meeting Minutes**

- June 6 Pre-Meeting
- June 6 Regular Meeting
- June 13 Workshop

### **B. Finance – A motion approving the following:**

- Check Register dated June 20, 2011, in the amount of \$570,270.82, said amount having been certified and appropriated.

- Rec Refund Check Register dated June 16, 2011, in the amount of \$1,607.50, said amount having been certified and appropriated.
- Special Check Register dated June 16, 2011, in the amount of \$20,622.53, said amount having been certified and appropriated.

**Finance** - A motion to approve the Resolution declaring items to be surplus property, to be sold through GovDeals.

**Finance** – A motion approving appropriation transfers as attached.

- C. Fire** – A motion approving the purchase of rope and water rescue equipment from Rescue Direct, Inc. for a total approximate cost of \$3,326.

It was moved by Mr. Paulson, seconded by Mrs. Young, to approve all items on the Consent Agenda.

**Vote on Motion: Paulson, aye; Young, aye; Berry, aye. M2011-190**

## **ADDENDUM**

### **PUBLIC WORKS**

The Public Works Department has had performance issues with its current cleaning vendor. The Township has ended its current agreement with that vendor and requests approval with a different vendor.

It was moved by Mrs. Young, seconded by Mr. Paulson, that the Board approves contracting with Total Green Cleaning for janitorial services at the Public Works building for a total approximate cost of \$4,800.

**Vote on Motion: Young, aye; Paulson, aye; Berry, aye. M2011-191**

### **HITHERGREEN LEASE**

Washington Township and Centerville Schools have a lease agreement for use of part of the Hithergreen facility. The Schools will be ending their lease with the Township this month. As part of the division of capital items, the Township and Schools have reached an agreement.

It was moved by Mr. Paulson, seconded by Mrs. Young, that the Board approves Centerville Schools taking all bathroom fixtures, the dishwasher and playground equipment from their leased space at Hithergreen. In addition, the Schools will be leaving their shed, currently on Township property.

**Vote on Motion: Paulson, aye; Young, aye; Berry, aye. M2011-192**

### **TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Ms. Lightle reported that in observance of the Fourth of July, the Township offices will be closed on Monday, July 4<sup>th</sup>. The Trustees will be riding on a float at the Americana parade that morning at 10:00 a.m.

Ms. Lightle also thanked residents for their patience during various road projects this spring and summer. Nutt Road is coming along nicely.

Ms. Lightle also reminded residents to nominate their neighbors or any properties they see in the Township for the Visual Improvement Program's beautification awards. Residents may send in an e-mail or contact the Public Works building at 433-0151.

**TRUSTEE COMMENTS**

Mrs. Young commented that people on Nutt Road are glad about the improvements being made there.

Mr. Berry indicated he went to the grand opening of the Ryan Homes model in Washington Trace on June 8<sup>th</sup>. He stated that construction is progressing and that it is a beautiful addition. Mr. Berry added that "We are very proud to have the Ryan Home Company within Washington Township."

The next Trustee meeting is scheduled for July 11<sup>th</sup>.

**ADJOURNMENT: 8:10 P.M.**

All formal actions of the Board of Trustees of Washington Township concerning and relating to the adoption of resolutions and/or motions passed at this meeting were adopted in an open meeting; and of any of its committees resulting in such formal action, were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with the law, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

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**President**

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**Fiscal Officer**

