

The Washington Township Board of Trustees met in Regular Session on November 7, 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**

### **Year-to-Date Income/Expense Report**

The Trustees have requested that a Year-to-Date Income/Expense Report be presented on a monthly basis. As of October 31, 2011, Washington Township has collected from all funds \$23,686,849.02 and has dispersed in all funds \$19,540,475.38 for a positive cash carryover of \$4,146,373.64.

## **CITIZEN CONCERNS**

Michael Greely, 10119 Washington Church Road, expressed a concern of his and his neighbors about the joint agreement to widen or proposed widening of Washington Church Road.

Ms. Lightle stated the Trustees passed an agreement with Miami Township for roadway improvements on Washington Church Road. This is a preliminary agreement that mapped out the first few stages of a road improvement project in terms of some preliminary engineering work that needs to be done in order to request grant money. This agreement talks about right of way acquisition. She offered to make a copy of the agreement for Mr. Greely, adding that it was just an initial agreement with them for that roadway improvement project. She noted a roadway project takes a long time before the road is actually improved. She also indicated that the Township is aware of some of the challenges involved, such as utilities.

Mr. Wanamaker indicated he had spoken with a couple of the residents along Washington Church Road. Mr. Wanamaker indicated they had initially started talking about this road a couple of years ago when they started getting cost estimates. He pointed out that the centerline separates Washington Township on the east side and Miami Township on the west side. This has presented a problem. The agreement consists of Washington Township starting some of the preliminary engineering and Miami Township pursuing right of way purchases. They both agreed to solicit funding through OPWC (Ohio Public Works Commission). The application was just submitted.

Mr. Greely asked if the residents have any say regarding the widening of the road -- some of his neighbors do not have a lot of front yard already.

Mr. Wanamaker indicated that only preliminary engineering work has been done and that the Township does not yet know what will be recommended by the engineers. The Township recognizes that road traffic volumes will increase should the project proceed and that the Township intends to be diligent and proactive with this. He agreed with Ms. Lightle that these projects do not happen overnight and stated that more information will come.

Mr. Greely asked if the residents are not in favor of the project, why the Township would continue.

Mr. Berry asked Mr. Wanamaker if the word "improvement" is synonymous with the word "widening."

Mr. Wanamaker stated that they would look at making improvements to the road, but do not know how much widening they would need. It will not be turned into a five lane expressway or anything like that. They would address the traffic volumes and the profile of the road, trying to take out some of the site distance issues and put in storm sewer systems and things like that.

Mr. Greely asked if cutting the crest of the hill to improve the line of sight is something that would be considered.

Mr. Wanamaker replied that this was what he was referencing when he spoke about the profile of the road. As far as widening, Mr. Wanamaker indicated it is a narrow road, which could be just a foot or two wider to incorporate curbing and a storm sewer system. He indicated this was where they are in the preliminary engineering process.

Ms. Lightle stated there is time for public comment, since they are just beginning, but comments are always welcome. The Township tries to work with residents, but it is so early that they do not even know what the definition of improvement is at this time. They won't know this until they receive the results of some preliminary engineering work. She added that they could not seek any grant funding until the Township had an agreement with Miami Township, since it would be a dual project. That was the first step. She stated the Township will be in touch as they move forward with the project.

Paul Fox, 9745 Washington Church Road, asked about who was responsible for maintenance since one side is in Washington Township and the other is in Miami Township.

Mr. Berry confirmed Mr. Fox's supposition that Washington Township is responsible for the left side of the road, going south, and Miami Township is responsible for the right side of the road going south.

Mr. Fox's understanding was that the lower part of the road belongs to Washington Township and the northern part was Miami Township's. He thought it seemed silly that someone would repair holes on one side of the road and not the other. He stated that the southern part of the road has never been well maintained. There are pot holes that have been there all summer. In the last couple of weeks, someone put a couple shovels of blacktop in some of them. He commented that when you talk about a new road and maintaining it, the old one hasn't been taken care of very well.

Ms. Lightle stated some operational things have been split with Miami Township on that roadway.

Mr. Wanamaker added that, years ago, an agreement was made that Washington Township would snowplow the southern end of the road and Miami Township would snowplow the northern end. That was the boundaries established for maintaining the road in the winter months. He commented it is an older road and, therefore, is deteriorating, which is part of the reason why they are looking at improvements.

Mr. Fox indicated he was more concerned about the widening, but the lower half of the road has not been taken care of in the past.

Walter Dowden, 9836 Washington Church Road, stated his understanding was that nothing has been set in stone yet. His concern was that they were going to put in sidewalks and a bike path, which he feels is unnecessary in such a rural area. The residents that live there now are practically the same residents that have lived there in the forty years he has been there. He believes that it would just take more property from the front of their properties.

Mr. Berry reiterated Ms. Lightle's comment that the only thing the Trustees have agreed to is an engineering study, a cooperative plan with Miami Township. The engineering study has not yet been done, therefore, they do not know what the engineering department, in conjunction with Montgomery County, is going to suggest.

John Pfister, 10019 Washington Church Road, is a 26 year resident of Washington Church Road. Being on the end of the road that was maintained by Washington Township, he has found that there have been more problems with that end of the road than ever. A couple of years ago, his neighbor was dumping water out of his basement into the front of his yard. According to Mr. Pfister, that made the road soft at the curb. Washington Township came out and put in a specific drain for his sump pump so that he did not have water running in. They also ran a drain down to the bottom at 10119 Washington Church Road to take that drainage off that side of the road. Mr. Pfister stated that when it rains, in front of his home he has water standing both in front of his home and in his driveway for close to two days before it evaporates or runs off. In the winter time, it is a swamp. The grass from the street to five feet in from it never grows well because it is in the swamp land. The last time the road was repaired, they put in a gravel and tar mixture. They put tar down and sanded it with gravel. It lasted only about ten weeks. In front of his house, there are a lot of pot holes. According to Mr. Pfister, they moved there because it was quiet. With the traffic that goes through there now and the lawn services that go through there now with their trailers, and so on, you can hear every one of them go by. He indicated he was here tonight because someone made a proposal to widen the road, making it three lanes and putting in a sidewalk and bike path. That would bring his front yard down to less than twenty feet. Four years ago, there was an accident in front of his house when a drunk driver left the road and went through his neighbor's yard, the second house down from his, crossed over into his next door neighbor's yard, and then went into his yard where he hit the curb in his driveway, passed over it and hit the second curb in his driveway, flipped over end over end and landed within four feet of his front window. If this road goes in as proposed, as a three-lane road, it is going to be like a race track; and, the next time, he may have a car in his house. Mr. Pfister indicated that Washington Church Road has always been a nice little road. He stated they don't need the road widened nor do they want it, and he wants to stop the improvement before it even gets started. He stated there is no sense in wasting Washington Township's money, Miami Township's money, or the government's money, because nobody has the money and, eventually, the residents are going to have to pay for it all. He wants to stop it now, before it even gets started.

Andrew Czyzewski, 8130 Longcreek Drive, asked about changes in the fire department. Volunteer firefighters and part-time paid positions are going away in some of the stations. The trend seems to be going to in-house part-time paid staff. He was curious, from a budgeting standpoint, how this year to next year and the years in the future, the budgets are going to be affected. What will be the cost of updating buildings, the cost of possible insurance differences by having more people in-house in the evenings as opposed to a full time employee during the day from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Mr. Berry indicated that they just finished going over the budget and asked Ms. Lightle and Chief Gaul to respond.

Ms. Lightle indicated there has been a long-standing staffing arrangement in Washington Township to have full time staff, part-time staff, and volunteer firefighters (part paid volunteers). The Township has noticed a decline in the number of part paid volunteers that the Township has been able to garner for two of our five fire stations. Because of that, we have had to make some staffing changes. When we are down to one and two part paid volunteers in one station, clearly, we cannot have equipment in service, especially during the evenings and weekends.

Beginning in October we made staffing adjustments. We have volunteers running out of three stations and have manned the other two stations with part-time in-house employees. We have had to reallocate money to take care of the manning, but it is the belief of the Township that this was the right thing to do so that we don't have equipment out of service. Ms. Lightle added that this has been projected for the years to come.

Mr. Berry indicated this is not exclusive to Washington Township. Several communities are finding a declined interest in wanting to become a volunteer firefighter. The Township would love to have a lot more volunteers, but they are not there.

Ms. Lightle added that, nationally, there is a decline in volunteer firefighters. The Township, according to Ms. Lightle, is very fortunate to still have quite a few people in this community that are willing to be volunteer firefighters. We are happy to have them, but, unfortunately, we have had to make a staffing decision since we did not have the numbers that were needed.

Mr. Czyzewski stated he understood this from a staffing and budgetary standpoint. He asked what the timeframe was to do away with the volunteer fire department as it is now and what shift was coming.

Ms. Lightle stated she has never heard anything from the elected officials or from staff that we would be doing away with the volunteer component of our fire department since it is a very critical component. Because we do not have the manning that we need, we have to make an adjustment. She added that our volunteer numbers in the other districts are more than adequate. She asked Mr. Czyzewski about his question concerning insurance.

Mr. Czyzewski asked if there was a difference between having more full time people in a station throughout the night and any additional costs for that, outside of just the personnel costs. He asked if there would be any additional costs for insurance, benefits, insurance for the building itself to actually house people inside the building overnight.

Ms. Lightle indicated she is not aware that our insurance premiums have changed because of our staffing changes.

## **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**

- October 17 Pre-Meeting
- October 17 Regular Meeting

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

- Check Register dated November 7, 2011, in the amount of \$332,727.22, said amount having been certified and appropriated.
- Special Check Register dated October 28, 2011, in the amount of \$51,257.48, said amount having been certified and appropriated.

- Rec Refund Check Register dated October 28, 2011, in the amount of \$173.00, said amount having been certified and appropriated.
- Then and Now purchase for payment of invoice for Lynn Pundzak, purchase order #50674, in the amount of \$5,358.40.

**Finance** – A motion to approve a revision to the 2011 Annual Contract List.

**C. General** – A motion to approve payment of \$5,000 to the City of Centerville for engineering services for the Township’s portion of the North Village Drive/Woodbourne Library project.

**D. Public Works** – A motion to approve contracting with W.T. Sowder for the Lyons Road Median Improvements Project for a total of approximately \$15,850.

**Public Works** – A motion to approve the purchase of a document copier through the State of Ohio Bid Contract #800054, from Donnellon McCarthy Inc., for a total of approximately \$3,731.

**Public Works** – A motion to approve purchasing road salt through the Southwestern Ohio Purchasing for Government program, from Cargill Salt Co., for \$64.36 per ton.

**Public Works** – A motion to approve the purchase of a medium duty cab and chassis replacement from Miami Valley International Trucks, from the Ohio Department of Transportation Co-op #023-12, for a total of approximately \$45,317.

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

**Vote on Motion:      Young, aye;      Paulson, aye;      Berry, aye.                      M2011-241**

**TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT**

None.

**TRUSTEE COMMENTS**

Mrs. Young talked about the Operation Welcome Home events planned on a regional basis for this weekend. It starts on Thursday, November 10, 2011, when there will be a welcome home session at the Air Force Museum at 6:00 p.m. for all veterans. Then there will be a service on Friday, November 11, 2011, at Memorial Hall honoring all the veterans. There will be several other events throughout the weekend, including a parade in Fairborn. She mentioned how wonderful it is to be able to welcome all of the veterans who are coming in from out of town. She hoped that everyone who has an opportunity will go to some of these events. If you go to the website Operation Welcome Home.com you will find more information.

Mr. Paulson reminded everyone that tomorrow is Election Day. He encouraged everyone to exercise their right and vote. He invited everyone to join, with the City of Centerville, on Friday, at the memorial located in Stubbs Park for a Veteran’s Day ceremony.

Mr. Berry reported that on October 18<sup>th</sup> he was able to attend the Land Bank meeting for Montgomery County. On October 27<sup>th</sup> he attended, along with others, the Centerville-Washington Foundation meeting. The Board of Trustees asked him to present a proclamation from Washington Township to Robert Corbin, who was honored that evening. He added that it was a very nice event.

**ADJOURNMENT: 8:00 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**