



Bethel Township Board of Trustees  
May 16, 2023  
Workshop Meeting Minutes

**Roll Call:** Administrator Ehrhart, Fiscal Officer Watson, Zoning Administrator Arnold, Trustee Reese, Trustee vanHaaren, Trustee Black

**Audience Comments:**

- 1: At the top of the meeting, Bethel Schools Superintendent Chrispin provided an update of activities for the school district.
  - Road work has been completed and the road re-opened a half-day early. Finishing up the culvert work and striping.
  - Senior exams were this week. Last day of school is May 25<sup>th</sup>.
  - Graduation ceremony will be May 27<sup>th</sup> at Hobart Arena.
  - Getting ready for the move to the new K-5. The field is complete and they are going to do the asphalt for the track this week.
  - Andy stated that the firemen will be up there Friday with trucks participating in a “water day” for the students. He added that completed inspections to date have all passed for the new construction.
  - The K-5 building will be opened up/dedicated Aug 19<sup>th</sup>, time TBD.
- 2: During the West Charleston Road issue agenda item discussion, Trustee Black asked audience members if they had discussion for the meeting: one just came to listen and two were interested in the annexation agenda item.

**Admin items:**

- 1: Fire Department Promotions
  - Chief Ehrhart stated in the past they had 1 Chief, 3 Assistant Chiefs, and 2 Captains. Since Jay Zimmerman retired last year there is 1 Chief, 1 Assistant Chiefs, and 2 Captains.
  - Chief Ehrhart proposed changing the command structure to 1 Chief, 1 Assistant Chief, 2 Battalion Chiefs (1 EMS and 1 Fire), and 1 Captain. The Captain will be in charge of all training. The two Battalion Chiefs will funnel info to the Captain regarding needed training. The Assistant Chief will still oversee inspections and inventory, and take care of communications. Additionally, he would oversee the two Battalion Chiefs.
  - Proposed positions staffed/promotions as follows: Andy Ehrhart to remain Chief, Josh Schiebrel to remain Assistant Chief, Mike Arnold promoted to Battalion Chief for Fire, Terry Weldon promoted to Battalion Chief for EMS, and Ben Cahill promoted to Captain.
  - Stipends will be adjusted and will be within \$2,000-\$3,000 additional of the current stipends.
- 2: Upcoming Agenda Items
  - Tax Budget:
    - Fiscal Officer Watson explained about alternate tax budget and the budget and when the filings are due. In the past, a 3% increase for expenses was projected, but that doesn't work anymore - she will be using 5% this year.
  - Fire Department Promotions

## Trustee Items:

Trustee vanHaaren brought two items for discussion:

### 1: West Charleston Road issues

- A report from the Miami County Engineer's Office (MCEO) was provided which outlines the conditions and possible maintenance options along with a survey plan of the area.
- Trustee vanHaaren and Administrator Ehrhart explained the road issues, potential fixes, and recommendations proposed in the document. They felt three of the issues are of higher priority: the curve (#5 in the doc), drainage tiles and wing walls (#2), and the failing pipes under the road (#4).
- Next step will be to get cost quotes. Trustee Black and Administrator Ehrhart will go out and look at it and then it will be discussed at the next workshop meeting.

### 2: Contribution to gravestone restoration project

- Trustee vanHaaren reported The War of 1812 gravestone marker application came back requiring more information. It has been forwarded to the Elizabeth Twp Historical Society.
- Elizabeth Township Historical Society has asked for roughly \$60,000 to help with headstone restorations at the Saylor Cemetery.
- Trustee vanHaaren reported that, by law, Bethel Township has the responsibility to mow the cemetery only one time per year and to maintain the fences around it, providing there is fencing.
- Administrator Ehrhart stated all cemeteries are on the Township's regular mowing schedule, weed-eating is done around the bases, and the fences are maintained and/or trimmed back.
- Discussion included concerns of setting precedence for contributing to projects for which the Township is not responsible, the amount of funding being requested, and the benefit of helping with the restoration and upkeep of our cemeteries.
- In the end, the consensus of the Trustees was to not contribute this time.

## Ongoing Items:

### 1: Huber Heights Annexation

- Andy reported he believes annexation is on the agenda for May 22<sup>nd</sup> for Huber Heights. Audience members were surprised because they were told it would be on the agenda in June. Trustee vanHaaren stated we were told Mayor Gore is out of town in June. Administrator Ehrhart stated there are also others who may be out of town in June possibly due to graduation celebrations. He also thought they were going to discuss annexation at their meeting later this evening.

### 2: State Route 202 and US Route 40 Property

- Both buildings have been demolished. This item will be removed from the "ongoing" list.

### 3: Promotional Videos on Facebook/ Instagram

- Trustee vanHaaren is posting them as completed. This item will be removed from the "ongoing" section.

### 4: Massage Parlor regulations

- Administrator Ehrhart will again check with the county prosecutor's office.

### 5: Land Use Plan Update

- Administrator Ehrhart reported they are working on the mapping.
- Zoning Administrator Arnold stated the next meeting is tentatively scheduled for May 31<sup>st</sup> at 6 pm. Administrator Ehrhart will check with Joe Tuss to be sure this is an acceptable date.

### 6: Bee City USA

- Trustee vanHaaren reported they will be doing quarterly updates. She will post Ron's presentation online.
- No action is required by the Township at this time. Trustee vanHaaren felt we did not need to pay the

\$100 to join the organization but Trustee Black felt we should join. Trustee vanHaaren will look into the details of what it takes to join and report back.

- Trustee Black and the 4-H kids have made about a dozen bee hives at his training facility.

7: Trees on Singer

- Awaiting clearance from MetroParks, should be getting an answer soon.
- Trustee Black asked if the road crew could spray the poison ivy to kill it off so it can be cleaned up when the trees are removed.

8: Status of the Rezoning for the Dayton Brandt/Agenbroad Property

- Rezoning becomes effective 30 days from the resolution passing (last week). This item will be removed from the “ongoing” list.

9: Archive Social

- Administrator Ehrhart reported they are still gathering info.

**Other Discussion Topics:**

- 1: Administrator Ehrhart stated the grant has been submitted to the Tipp City Foundation for the inflatable Fire Safety House.
- 2: Administrator Ehrhart and Fiscal Officer Watson went up to the Miami Count Foundation and accepted a grant for thermal imaging cameras.
- 3: Administrator Ehrhart mentioned the crew has been training with the new fire hoses and new nozzles and it is going well.
- 4: Trustee Reese asked about the meeting minutes review agenda item. Administrator Ehrhart will put it back on the agenda as a marker – if it is not needed, it will just be skipped during the meeting.
  - The group discussed the 5/2/23 workshop minutes. Trustee Black had not yet looked at the minutes yet.
  - Fiscal Officer Watson raised the issue that Trustee Reese stated incorrect numbers in her report at the last regular meeting when speaking about health insurance. Trustee Reese asked to talk afterwards so Fiscal Officer Watson could show her where she went wrong.
- 5: Zoning Administrator Arnold had a set of keys that were found on Singer Rd with the initials M.N.

**Executive Session** for the purposes of:

- 1: Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22(G)(8) for the purpose of considering confidential information related to the marketing plans, specific business strategy, and trade secrets of an applicant for economic development assistance that is to be provided or administered pursuant to O.R.C. Section 5709.73 to 5709.75, inclusive. The executive session is necessary to protect the interests of the applicant or the possible investment or expenditure of public funds to be made in connection with the proposed economic development project.

The motion was moved by Trustee vanHaaren and seconded by Trustee Reese.

VOTE: Trustee vanHaaren      YES  
Trustee Reese                YES  
Trustee Black                 YES

Went into executive session at 0:00am. <I don't have this section in my notes, so have asked Andy to upload the recording>

The motion to come out of Executive Session was moved by Trustee vanHaaren and seconded by Trustee Reese.

VOTE: Trustee vanHaaren     YES  
Trustee Reese                YES  
Trustee Black                 YES

Back into regular session at 11:34am.

**Other Discussion Topics (continued after Executive Session):**

1: Fiscal Officer Watson discussed the additional costs for employees had one of the other health plans been chosen. She felt the numbers should be \$150-\$2250 due to the fact that not everyone is over 50 and does not receive the additional \$1,000 part of the HSA benefit. After much discussion, it was decided that the numbers Trustee Reese mentioned at the 5/9/23 meeting would be removed for those minutes.

<I believe the \$2,250 is incorrect and should actually be \$2,000 because the difference in the deductibles is \$2,000. The \$250 would have to be paid in either case. Can we just say "higher" rather than put in actual numbers?>

2: Trustee Black mentioned at the last Land & Lifestyle Preservation meeting Jane Sessions had asked about A-2 going from 10 acres to 20 acres. Trustee vanHaaren stated that she thought when the 5 acre lot size was added that A-2 was increased to 20 acres to match the county zoning. She suggested that Jerry Hirt be asked for additional history of the change.

**Adjournment:**

The motion to adjourn was moved by Trustee vanHaaren and seconded by Trustee Reese.

VOTE: Trustee vanHaaren     YES  
Trustee Reese                YES  
Trustee Black                 YES

Adjourned at 11:51am.

**Minutes prepared by Trustee Reese**

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Don Black, Chair

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Julie Reese, Trustee

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Beth vanHaaren, Trustee

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Deborah Watson, Fiscal Officer