

Held June 21, 2021 at the Whitewater Township Community Center 20

The Board of Whitewater Township Trustees met in regular session on June 21, 2021. Board President, Mr. William Pope called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M.

#### **Pledge to the Flag**

**Roll Call** - Mr. King, yea; Mr. Pope, yea; Mr. Schaible, yea.

#### **Regular Meeting Agenda:**

Mr. Schaible made a motion to approve the Minutes of the May 17, 2021 Regular Trustee Meeting Motion seconded by Mr. King,

**Roll Call Vote** - All Aye.

#### **Acceptance of Invoices**

Mr. Pope made a motion to accept the invoices as presented. Motion seconded by Mr. Schaible,

**Roll Call Vote** - All Aye.

#### **Sheriff's Report**

Sgt. Mai presented the statistics for the month of May 2021. Mr. King expressed his appreciation for the Sheriff's assistance in an incident the previous weekend.

#### **Public Presentations and Public That Requested to Be on The Agenda**

##### **Mr. William Rumpke- Bond Rd. Landfill**

Mr. Rumpke, along with Ms. Amanda Pratt and JT Westerfield discussed the plans that Rumpke has for their Sanitary Landfill Site located on Bond Rd. in Whitewater Township. They presented a Power Point presentation which included maps outlining recently purchased property adjacent to the existing landfill and proposed improvements to the property which would include an entrance to the existing site from Sand Run Rd.

The Representatives answered questions from the Board of Trustees as well as those from many public in attendance at the meeting. Those in attendance who addressed the Board and Rumpke included:

Berry Fury, a Township Resident from Brooks Rd. Mr. Fury discussed the leachate which is removed from the landfill and transported to a wastewater facility for treatment. He also asked if Rumpke had ever been denied a permit to expand? Ms. Pratt said not in recent years. Mr. Fury stated he had worked on the past Township Zoning proposal which voters turned down and that he had been a part of the Residents Against Local Landfill Expansion - RALLIE when Rumpke originally purchased the Bond Rd Site.

Chris Lind, a Township Resident from Brooks Rd. asked about health concerns for residents and the health issues of employees who worked for Rumpke. Mr. Rumpke said this was the first he had heard of any abnormal Health issues about past employees. He cited an EPA study which showed landfills do not have a negative impact on the health of area residents.

Tom Sutherland, a Township Resident from Hillcrest Ct., expressed his concern about dust, dirt, and water runoff in the area from the site. He said he was also concerned that his home's value would be greatly impacted to the point he may not be able to sell it.

Sam Turner, A North Bend Resident from Aston View Ln. asked about the proposed amount of garbage the site may accept and the odor it may create. Mr. Rumpke, respond they foresee 200 - 400 tons per day, as compared to the 12,000 tons per day the Colerain Facility is licensed for. Mr. Rumpke acknowledged that the Colerain Township facility is unusual, as it is one of the largest sanitary landfills in the United States. He said they did not see the Bond Rd. Site experiencing the issues that the Colerain Site does.

Loraine Rothmeier, a Township Resident from Sand Run Rd, stated she moved to Whitewater Township because the area is unzoned. She stated she was concerned about traffic safety. Mr. Rumpke stated that they were working with the Hamilton County Engineers Office to assess the road and any improvements which may be needed. He stated they expect between 25 and 40 trucks on any given day to access the facility. He noted that the Colerain facility sees approximately 50 trucks per hour. Mr. Rumpke also stated they want the roadway to be as safe as possible for resident as well as their employees, saying safety is a priority for Rumpke.

Lisa Novakov, a Township Resident from Sand Run Rd., asked about the engineering for Sand Run Rd. Mr. Westerfield stated the plans are still being developed, but they will be available for Public Review when completed.

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Ms. Sonya Henn, a Township Resident from West Rd., encouraged people to keep up the good fight.

Mr. Tim Mara, a representative of the Oxbow Nature Conservatory, a portion of which is located in Whitewater Township, Mr. Mara discussed issues including Water Quality and the possible impact on the Whitewater River, monitoring wells for ground water sampling and the frequency. Mr. Westerfield stated that the monitoring schedule varied depending on the contaminate being sampled for. Mr. Mara urged them to sample more than just the required number of times. Mara noted that there were 77 violations on the USEPA website for Rumpke. Mr. Westerfield said the website is not always up to date and not 100% accurate. He stated Rumpke strives to meet all EPA Requirements.

Ms. Carrie Davis discussed the material placed on the site prior to Rumpke becoming the owner. She also pointed out issues at the Colerain Twp. Facility She expressed concerns over the Health effects in the surrounding area of the Colerain Facility. She also noted that there was a large online presence in opposition to the facility. Ms. Davis acknowledged Rumpke's contributions to the Community in Colerain stating they were generous in their support of community events. She also asked why they choose the site at Bond Rd. Mr. Rumpke stated they purchased the site because it was an existing landfill with expansion potential. Ms. Davis thanked him for his honest response.

Mr. Pope asked Mr. Rumpke to go over the Colerain Twp Facility numbers. Mr. Rumpke stated the Colerain Permit allowed for 12,000 tons per day. He said the current average is 9000 tons per day with the high end of the range reaching 10,000 tons per day in some cases.

Mr. King suggested having Chuck DeJonckheere, with Hamilton County Public Health attend a future meeting to explain the inspections performed by Hamilton County at the Sites.

Fiscal Office, Jim Brett asked Mr. Westerfield to explain the closure procedures for a landfill, noting that just because a facility is closed, the owner does not simply walk away, they have ongoing responsibilities.

Mr. Schaible asked about the remaining life span of the Colerain facility. Mr. Rumpke estimated 35 years remain at the site.

Mr. Schaible also said he had researched Best Way Disposal because many of the online comments said they had better disposal methods. He spoke with the Best Way local office and their collections are transferred to Bavarian Landfill in Kentucky. They indicated that was the least expensive site for them to haul to.

Ms. Jenny Linz, a Township Resident from Brooks Rd., asked when the last groundwater test was taken. Mr. Westerfield said he believed in March and that all the OEPA Test results are available through the Ohio EPA website and are searchable under the EDocs Section.

Ms. Patty McDonald asked how the Proposed Truck was would work and how contaminated water was handled. Mr. Westerfield explained that it was a closed loop system and the water would be recycled.

Mr. Schaible discussed the odor issues at the Colerain Twp Site.

Mr. Pope thanked everyone for attending.

**Mr. Max Webster – Representing: Ditch The Dump – Online Bond Rd. Landfill Site**

Mr. Webster stated he was not a resident of Whitewater Township, but he said he likely lived closer to the Landfill Site than anyone. He raised concerns about the material in the existing landfill placed there by Monsanto, prior to Rumpke purchasing the site. He recalled a fire at the facility when it was receiving Monsanto Waste that caused an evacuation of nearby residents. He stated that since the site was private prior to Rumpke's purchase it was never a public landfill. He also stated that there were Trucks entering the facility the day before tonight's meeting, which is outside of the hours of operation. He said hauling leachate off site down Brooks Rd was dangerous. He also said recycling should be required and suggested the Township implement Township wide recycling immediately.

The Board expressed their appreciation to the representatives from Rumpke for attending and presenting their plans for the Bond Road Landfill. They also thanked them for answering questions from the people in attendance.

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**Township Depaillment Reports:****Fire Report:****Chief Scott Schorsch reported the following run totals for the month of May 2021:**

EMS- 98, Patients - 88, Transports - 59, Overdoses - 2, Fire - 4 4 , MVA - 1 3 , Total Detail: 142, Narcan Usage: 7.

**Our emergency runs 2021 Year to Date:**

EMS - 462 Patients - 424 Transports -297 Overdoses - 3 Fire - 182 MVA - 51 Total Detail: 644 Narcan Usage: 14

**Staffing:** Month of May: Station Closures: 0 (12-hour shifts) Paramedic Staffing: 100% 1 Paramedic: 31% 2 Paramedics: 44% >2 Paramedics: 25% 12 hour shifts without a Whitewater Township Paramedic: 0  
\*We are continuing to utilize WestJAD with supplemental medic coverage as needed.

The Chief Reported on the following topics:

**Part Time Staffing:** He reported we have two new part time employees in orientation and two applicants scheduled for pre-employment testing.**New Engine:** (Designated as F-121) has been placed in service. Engine 5 was sent out for some repairs and is being prepared to move to the Hooven Station.**Hooven Remodel Project:** They have been meeting and working with John Grier with the Hooven remodeling project. He is currently working on the plans for our review before they are finalized for a bid package.**Fire Safety Inspector:** The Chief would like to recommend part time FF/EMT Kyle Merkin be approved by the Board to conduct Fire Safety Inspections within the Township and his pay rate be adjusted accordingly.**COVID-19:** Vaccines are still being provided to wide variety of age groups. For the elderly and Home52 Transportation can coordinate and provide transportation to adults age 60+ who are unable to get to a vaccination site. Call home52 at (855)546-6352 for homebound residents, please contact the Council on Aging 513-721-1025 (M-F 8am-5pm).

You can contact the Hamilton County Health Department to find out how you can receive the vaccine.

**Public Works Department:****Public Works Director Mr. Josh McCreary** Reported on the following items:**CDBG:** He and Administrator Peggy Westerfeld are continuing to move forward with the CDBG Covid Grant. The picnic tables have all been put together and placed at the shelters here on the grounds, and the ADA sidewalks have been completed, the back stops for the ball fields are due to be installed in August and Due to unforeseen issues on the CDBG side of their paper work, we are no longer being granted for the play grounds.**Nuisance:** A Letter of Notice has been sent to the owner at 11017 Jackson Street in Elizabethtown due to a large number of complaints over the tall grass, trash, and trees taking over the house. The letter states that the Township would like this property cleaned up immediately and the Ohio revised code Sec. 505.87**Fishing ramp/Park:** Mr. McCreary stated there have been problems with the fishing dock. People are driving their cars and truck onto the dock, The Township has no -paper work on this structure and he feels sure it was not built to hold a car, so he is looking for direction from the Board on how to proceed.**Community Center:****Mr. King presented the Community Center Report which included:**

The Community Center has reopened as of June 2nd. Everyone was anxiously awaiting is reopening. All groups have come back with the exception of 2 Miamitown Seniors and afternoon volleyball. They both have expressed due to lack of members.

**Center hours are as follows:**

Monday 12-4 Tuesday 9-2 Wednesday 12-4 Thursday Closed Friday 9-5

**Attendance 6-02-2021 to 6-13-2021:**Euchre during the week days 32 Euchre Friday night 77 Chair Volleyball 8 Bluegrass 104  
Country Music (resumes July) 0 Meetings 0 Total 221**Rentals:** June Shelter-6, Center-0 July Shelter- 2, Center-0**Programs:** Just a reminder of programs available at the Center Chair Volleyball, Euchre, Bluegrass and Country Music. Call 513-367-6046 for more information

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Committee Reports:**Sewer- Water District**

Fiscal Officer, Jim Brett reported that the St. Rt. 128 Project continues to be the focus of the District Board.

**Economic Development**

Mr. King reported that work continues, however there was nothing new to report at this.

**We Thrive**

Mr. Pope reported that the Committee continues to work on recycling options.

Old Business:**Part Time Firefighter Contract Approval**

The Contract was discussed. Mr. Pope stated he did not have an opportunity to review the Contract. Mr. King asked Chief Schorsch he had reviewed the final document. The Chief replied he had. Mr. King asked Administrator Westerfeld if she and our Legal Counsel, Jason Hilliard had reviewed it, she confirmed they had. Mr. King and Mr. Schaible both said they had reviewed the Contract as well.

Mr. King made a motion to approve the Part Time Firefighters Contract.

Mr. Schaible seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote - Mr. Schaible-yea, Mr. Pope -abstained, Mr. King-yea.**

**Agreement with Hamilton Count for Legal Representation – Bond Rd. Landfill expansion.**

Fiscal Officer Jim Brett explained the position the Hamilton County Prosecutor's Office faces as the Legal Counsel for The Hamilton County Commissioners, The Hamilton County Solid Waste District and The Hamilton County

Board of Health. He explained the proposal presented which would allow the Prosecutor's Office to provide representation for the Township unless a conflict would arise. If an unresolvable conflict were to arise, the Prosecutor's Office would reserve the right to withdraw representation.

After discussing the proposal,

Mr. King made a motion to approve the representation from the Hamilton County prosecutor's Office.

Mr. Schaible seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote - All Aye**

New Business:**Appointment of FF/EMT Kyle Merkin as a Fire Safety Inspector.**

Mr. King made a motion to approve the appointment of Kyle Merkin as a Fire Safety Inspector.

Mr. Pope seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote - All Aye**

**Approval of Zoning Petition Language.**

The Board discussed the possibility of accepting petitions from the residents for initiating the implementation of Township Zoning. The Board discussed the possible need for a tax levy to fund the zoning department if approved by the voters. The time line for placing the question to the Voters on an election ballot was estimated to be approximately one year after the petition's would be received by the Board.

Mr. Schaible made a motion to approve the proposed Petition Language.

Mr. Pope seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote - All Aye**

**Resolution 2021-9 Resolution Authorizing the Transfer of Funds. Necessary to pay for CBDG Grant Purchases, the Grant is a reimbursement grant.**

Fiscal officer, Jim Brett, explained that the funding from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program is structured as a reimbursement grant. Therefore, in order to pay for the improvements, we need to advance funds from the General Fund to the Special Projects fund. When the reimbursements are received the monies will be advanced from the Special projects fund back to the General Fund.

Mr. Pope made a motion to approve the Transfer of Funds.

Mr. Schaible seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote - All Aye**

Public Comments:

NONE

Comments from the Board:

Mr. Pope commented on the success of the Clean-up Day.

Mr. King wished everyone a safe and happy Independence Day Weekend.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the board

Mr. Pope moved to adjourn.

Mr. Schaible seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote All Aye**

Fiscal Officer

Trustees