

The regular meeting of the Green Township Board of Trustees held on July 28, 2008 was called to order at 5:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Chairman Winkler, present; Trustee Upton, present; Trustee Linnenberg, present; Fiscal Officer Straus, present.

Chairman Winkler moved to approve the minutes for the regular meeting of July 14, 2008. Trustee Linnenberg seconded the motion and all voted aye.

RESOLUTION #08-0728-A

Trustee Upton moved to pass a resolution accepting and approving the financial reports as submitted. Chairman Winkler seconded the motion. Trustee Linnenberg: Aye; Trustee Upton: Aye; Chairman Winkler: Aye.

RESOLUTION #08-0728-B

Chairman Winkler moved to pass a resolution to add Brookview Drive to the Green Township 2008 sidewalk repair program at a cost of \$13,450. Trustee Linnenberg seconded the motion. Trustee Linnenberg: Aye; Trustee Upton: Aye; Chairman Winkler: Aye.

RESOLUTION #08-0728-C

Trustee Upton moved to pass a resolution to promote event attendant Sarah Young as Event Captain for the Green Township Senior Center at \$11.00 per hour. Trustee Linnenberg seconded the motion. Trustee Linnenberg: Aye; Trustee Upton: Aye; Chairman Winkler: Aye.

Chairman Winkler stated need for the Township to consider a Safety Services Levy for the November, 2008 election. She stated that the Township is currently operating on carryover and that the Township must consider ways of generating income to continue to provide the quality services that we have in Green Township.

Trustee Linnenberg stated that a levy is not definite at this time, it is only being considered.

Chairman Winkler stated that three resolutions are on the agenda tonight for the purpose of obtaining necessary information from the Hamilton County Auditor's Office. This information will give the Trustees the amount of money each of these levy amounts would generate and is required as a first step towards even considering a proposed levy.

Fiscal Officer Straus stated that he does not support the idea of a levy at this time and stated that so far this year the Township has received \$31 million dollars and expended approximately \$20 million dollars. Mr. Straus stated that expenses must be closely monitored and that the market is down, the economy is in recession, gas prices are up, people are losing jobs, homes are being foreclosed on, and it would not be a favorable time for a levy.

Mr. Straus also stated that he ran numbers for operating expenses (non TIF). In 2005 expenses were \$12.8 million dollars, 2007 expenses were \$14.8 million. This is a \$2 million dollar increase, which is about \$2 mills. This is an approximately 7.7% increase during a time when inflation was running between 2.6% and 3.1%. Therefore, Township expenses are increasing double or triple the rate of inflation.

The projections that were presented by Administrator Celarek indicate that operating expenses are going to go from \$14.5 million dollars to \$21.5 million dollars. This is an increase of \$7 million dollars over six years. Meaning that approximately a 1 mill levy would have to be put on every year just for those expenses. Fiscal Officer Straus further stated that he feels expenses should be monitored closely and expenses cut to prevent the need for a levy.

Fiscal Officer Straus stated that four years ago a Financial Review Committee put in hundreds of hours and the very little that they advised the Township to do was done. Mr. Straus stated that expenses have to be looked at more closely. One area is step increases. Administrative personnel are given seven steps, during which a salary will go up 42% in seven years. That is a huge increase. The Township cannot afford those kinds of steps. Mr. Straus stated that tough choices have to be made and even purchases for small amounts need to be scrutinized closely. This was one of the Financial Review Committee's suggestions.

Chairman Winkler stated that Green Township does have one of the lowest operating budgets of any Township in Hamilton County of similar size. Chairman Winkler stated that the Township has been frugal and has spent money responsibly, however, there is some room for small cuts to be made. Unfortunately those cuts will not be enough to operate again just on a

carryover. Chairman Winkler stated that Green Township does have competitive salaries that are in the mid-range, however, she wants to keep those salaries competitive to keep good employees.

Trustee Linnenberg stated again that what is being voted upon at this meeting is just step one in the process of even considering a levy. More discussion will definitely follow.

Attorney Frank Hyle stated that if the Township does not ask the Hamilton County Auditor for this information then the Board will not be in a position to even consider putting on a levy or not.

Trustee Upton stated that he disagreed with everything said by Fiscal Officer Straus and stated that we live in a unionized society and it is not fair to deny Administrative Staff pay raises when the Unions are receiving raises. He stated that several years ago a pay plan was put in place and adopted by the Board. If the Board wants to change that system they can go back and change that. The removal of the step plan over the next ten years may come to approximately \$100,000. The Township is not in trouble for \$100,000, the Township is in need of several million dollars in order to maintain the type of services that the residents of Green Township are accustomed to.

Trustee Upton stated that residents should be given the opportunity to decide if they want to continue the type of services that have been provided and let the voters decide. It is only the job of the Board to tell the public that services may be in jeopardy, and if those services are in jeopardy and the public doesn't want them, that is fine, but it's the job of the Board to notify the public, and not to wait until the Township is completely out of money. If the Township were to wait until the Township is completely out of money, it could be difficult to continue services if a levy does not pass. He also stated that during last year and during this year the Ohio legislature almost cut \$2.5 million dollars out of the Township's budget. They could very well come back and take that money next year. Hamilton County wants the Township to contribute \$1 million dollars this year and \$2 million dollars next year to pay for Hamilton County Sheriff's patrols. It is up to the Board to inform the public about the Township's financial situation. Then it is up to the public to decide if they want to maintain those services.

Fiscal Officer Straus stated that he never said that there would be no raises for the employees. Mr. Straus stated that the numbers are the numbers. The numbers are from Kevin Celarek and Linda Griswold. From 2005 to 2007 we went from \$12.8 to \$14.8 million dollars in operating expenses. That is a \$2 million dollar increase. Fiscal Officer Straus stated that he doesn't like it when people make statements that he didn't say.

RESOLUTION #08-0728-D

Chairman Winkler moved to pass a resolution to request certification from the Hamilton County Auditor's Office to Green Township, pursuant to section 5705.03 of the Ohio Revised Code, the total current tax valuation of the subdivision and the dollar amount generated from a 1.9 Mill Safety Services Levy for voter approval in 2008 for budget year 2009. Trustee Upton seconded the motion. Trustee Linnenberg: Aye; Trustee Upton: Aye; Chairman Winkler: Aye.

RESOLUTION #08-0728-E

Trustee Upton moved to pass a resolution to request certification from the Hamilton County Auditor's Office to Green Township, pursuant to section 5705.03 of the Ohio Revised Code, the total tax valuation of the subdivision and the dollar amount generated from a 2.5 Mill Safety Services Levy for voter approval in 2008 for budget year 2009. Chairman Winkler seconded the motion. Trustee Linnenberg: Aye; Trustee Upton: Aye; Chairman Winkler: Aye.

RESOLUTION #08-0728-F

Chairman Winkler moved to pass a resolution to request certification from the Hamilton County Auditor's Office to Green Township, pursuant to section 5705.03 of the Ohio Revised Code, the total tax valuation of the subdivision and the dollar amount generated from a 2.9 Mill Safety Services Levy for voter approval in 2008 for budget year 2009. Trustee Upton seconded the motion. Trustee Linnenberg: Aye; Trustee Upton: Aye; Chairman Winkler: Aye.

RESOLUTION #08-0728-G

Chairman Winkler moved to pass a resolution to hire Thomas K. McMackin to represent the Township concerning recovery of the Township deductible for insurance claim against Dwyer Industries, Inc. Trustee Linnenberg

seconded the motion. Trustee Linnenberg: Aye; Trustee Upton: Aye; Chairman Winkler: Aye.

RESOLUTION #08-0728-H

Chairman Winkler moved to pass a resolution to authorize a litigation settlement concerning American International Technical Services, Inc. (AIG) and the National Union Fire Insurance Company under terms of Policy # POL 343-48-23, for defense coverage and liability asserted against the township in litigation, filed in US District Court for the Southern District of Ohio, Case # 1:05CV142 by Stephen Claytor and authorizing the Township Administrator to sign the agreement. Trustee Linnenberg seconded the motion. Trustee Linnenberg: Aye; Trustee Upton: Aye; Chairman Winkler: Aye.

RESOLUTION #08-0714-I

The following properties were declared as nuisances. The Township Attorney was directed to notify the owners of the properties listed below of this resolution:

1. 4446 Andreas Avenue (550-0061-0074), Motion made by Trustee Linnenberg and seconded by Trustee Upton. All voted Aye.
2. 5266 Belclare Road (550-0221-0026), Motion made by Chairman Winkler and seconded by Trustee Linnenberg. All voted Aye.
3. 3601 Cheviot Road (550-0081-0151), Motion made by Trustee Upton and seconded by Trustee Linnenberg. All voted Aye.
4. 5920 Cheviot Road (550-0083-0281), Motion made by Chairman Winkler and seconded by Trustee Upton. All voted Aye.
5. 3627 Jessup Road (550-0081-0150), Motion made by Trustee Linnenberg and seconded by Trustee Upton. All voted Aye.
6. 5390 Karen Avenue (550-0120-0268), Motion made by Chairman Winkler and seconded by Trustee Linnenberg. All voted Aye.
7. 4491 West Fork Road (550-0102-0017), Motion made by Chairman Winkler and seconded by Trustee Linnenberg. All voted Aye.

The Ohio Department of Liquor Control has sent notice of application from Simon Oil Company, DBA Monfort Heights BP, 5233 North Bend Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45247; and Greater Cincinnati Oil Company, Inc., DBA as Jeff's Drive Thru and Carryout, 6094 Bridgetown Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45248. Police Chief, Bart West, had no objections. The Trustees will not request a hearing.

Administrator Celarek made the following announcements:

1. The Green Township Board of Zoning Appeals will meet at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 29, 2008 at the Green Township Administrative Complex, 6303 Harrison Avenue, to hear the following case:
 - a. Case # GTBZA 2008-05, filed by James Wagner, property owner, who is seeking permission to install a swimming pool in the front yard of subject property located at 6109 Sheed Road. The property is located in the "A" Residence District, on the corner of Schweitzerhoff Road and Sheed Road.
2. The Playback on Cable for the Green Township Regular Board meetings will occur as follows: Mondays at 10:00 a.m. (previous meeting), 5:30 p.m. live meeting, 11:30 p.m. replay of live meeting; Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m.; Wednesdays at 12:00 midnight; Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.; Fridays at 10:00 a.m.; Saturdays at 4:00 p.m.; and Sundays at 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. If citizens would like to request additional times, please call Sheryl Ross at 574-4848.

Fiscal Officer, Tom Straus, stated that last week he attended the Center for Public Investment Management in order to get recertified to handle public funds. Mr. Straus also reported that so far this year the Township has received approximately \$31.2 million dollars and expended approximately \$20 million dollars. Most of that money is TIF Funds. In the General Fund the Township is still up about \$300,000.

Township Attorney, Frank Hyle, stated need for executive session for the purpose of discussing pending litigation, acquisition of property, sale of property, and personnel issues. Action may be anticipated.

Administrator, Kevin Celarek, announced that the Ohio Township Association is holding their summer conference here in Cincinnati at the Netherlands Hotel on Thursday, July, 2008 and Friday, August 1, 2008.

Director of Public Services, Fred Schlimm, reported that the Powner and Bridgetown Road Improvements Project is almost completed. The improvements are already helping with traffic issues in that area. The

Valleyridge Road Connector Project opened last week and may take a little time for residents to get used to that. Residents on Valleyridge that wish to take a left on Harrison Avenue should be using the Valleyridge Connector and use the traffic light at Lowe's. Mr. Schlimm thanked the Green Township Police Department for the time and effort they have given to enforcement of the Property Maintenance Code. Mr. Schlimm also reported on progress at Bridgetown Road and Glenway Avenue stating that the Ohio Department of Transportation is in the process of removing the slip ramps and eventually that intersection will become a traditional 4-way intersection. It is hoped that construction will be completed around Labor Day.

Director of Development, Adam Goetzman, stated that he had nothing to report.

Fire Chief, Doug Witsken, announced that the Fire Department has received all of the equipment purchased for them this year by the members of Mack Fire, Inc. through their annual fundraising raffle. This equipment cost approximately \$13,000. Chief Witsken will be contacting Mack Fire, Inc. to see if they can attend a Trustee's Meeting in August to formally present the equipment purchases to the Fire Department.

Police Chief, Bart West, reported on crime statistics for the first part of 2008. Of the nine major categories that are tracked, six of them are up and three of them have gone down. Chief West also reported on the situation with the Hamilton County Sheriff's Department. The Hamilton County Commissioners have cut the Sheriff's budget, and therefore, the Sheriff's Department is not permitted to pay overtime to fill the beats that they normally fill. Lt. Mike Horton has done an excellent job in trying to fill those beats whenever possible. He has been running beats himself and has even recruited Sheriff's deputies from other districts that have extra people to fill them, but there have been a few times, and will continue to be times, that shifts will have to be filled with personnel on overtime to put the Township at a staffing level we had back in 1983. This situation will continue through the end of the year. After the first of the year the Sheriff's Department is asking for the Township to contribute a large sum of money to continue the Sheriff's patrols in Green Township. The Township does not have the money to pay for Sheriff's patrols. Chairman Winkler has scheduled a meeting on Tuesday, July 29, 2008 with officials from the other Township's to discuss the issue.

Lt. Mike Horton, Hamilton County Sheriff's Department, reported that the Sheriff's Office has completed installation and training of two of its automatic license plate recognition programs.

Trustee Upton read three letters of commendation for services rendered by the Green Township Police Department and one for services rendered by the Green Township Maintenance Department.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on Monday, August 11, 2008 at 5:30 p.m.

Chairman Winkler moved to recess into executive session for the purpose of discussing pending litigation, acquisition of property, sale of property, and personnel issues. Action may be anticipated. Trustee Upton seconded the motion. Trustee Linnenberg: Aye; Chairman Upton: Aye; Trustee Winkler: Aye. The meeting was recessed at 6:04 p.m.; reconvened at 7:35 p.m.

RESOLUTION #08-0728-J

Chairman Winkler moved to change the time of the August 11, 2008 Trustees Meeting from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Trustee Upton seconded the motion. Trustee Linnenberg: Aye; Trustee Upton: Aye; Chairman Winkler: Aye.

Chairman Winkler moved to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Linnenberg seconded the motion. Trustee Linnenberg: Aye; Trustee Upton: Aye; Chairman Winkler: Aye. Meeting was adjourned 7:36 p.m.