

The regular meeting of the Green Township Board of Trustees held on March 27, 2017 was called to order at 5:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Trustee Rosiello, present; Trustee Linnenberg, present; Chairman Callos, present; Fiscal Officer Straus, present.

Chairman Callos moved to approve the minutes for the regular meeting of March 13, 2017. Trustee Linnenberg seconded the motion. All voted Yes.

Sandi Kuehn, President and CEO, of the Center for Addiction Treatment (CAT), and Tracy Winkler, Board Member, were present to discuss the services and programs offered to Green Township residents. Ms. Winkler stated that Ohio has the highest overdose rate in the United States for heroin and opiates. Hamilton County leads the State of Ohio in overdoses and is the epicenter of this epidemic. Ms. Winkler stated that CAT programs do make a difference in the community. Sandi Kuehn, 3740 Sunburstridge, stated that the center has been in operation for 47 years and offers front end services in treatment. The center has 24/7 nursing and a physician who is directing the withdraw process for every patient. They also offer short-term residential services and treatment programs for opiate addicts. Currently, the Center for Addition Treatment is undergoing an expansion project on their 3-acre campus. When the expansion is completed the center will be able to expand programs, services, and expand the detox capacity from 18 beds to 33 beds.

Trustee Rosiello asked why the west side is the epicenter for the heroin and opiate problem.

Ms. Kuehn stated that she does not know why the west side is the epicenter for the problem. Ms. Kuehn reported that the heroin epidemic does not affect the African-American community. The heroin epidemic is composed of 85% Caucasian, 65% male, and is starting much younger than years ago.

Chairman Callos stated that heroin and opiates are a problem affecting many, and that it is a drain on first responders as well as a drain on financial resources.

Chairman Callos and Trustee Rosiello asked for information about their treatment programs and services to pass along to Green Township residents.

RESOLUTION #17-0327-A

Chairman Callos moved to pass a resolution accepting and approving the financial reports as submitted. Trustee Linnenberg seconded the motion. Trustee Rosiello: Yes; Trustee Linnenberg: Yes; Chairman Callos: Yes.

RESOLUTION #17-0327-B

Chairman Callos moved to pass a resolution establishing the position of Part-Time Fire Inspector and authorizing the hiring of Mark Wagner in the position effective April 1, 2017 with a starting salary of \$17.00 per hour. Trustee Linnenberg seconded the motion. Trustee Rosiello: Yes; Trustee Linnenberg: Yes; Chairman Callos: Yes.

Fire/EMS Chief, Doug Witsken, reported that the Part-Time Fire Inspector position will give Fire Marshall, Rick Bell, some much needed assistance. Fire Inspector Wagner will be working approximately 12 hours per week.

RESOLUTION #17-0327-C

Chairman Callos moved to pass a resolution requesting the Hamilton County Auditor to remove the assessment on real property placed by the Township on (Book 550, Page 0041, Parcel 0288). Trustee Linnenberg seconded the motion. Trustee Rosiello: Yes; Trustee Linnenberg: Yes; Chairman Callos: Yes.

Administrator Birkenhauer, reported that a valid assessment had been filed on a property after a foreclosure had been filed. The purchaser and their Attorney agreed to a partial repayment of the assessment. Attorney Hyle felt that it was in the best interests of the Township to settle rather than going to litigation.

RESOLUTION #17-0327-D

Chairman Callos moved to pass a resolution approving the update of the Solid Waste Management Plan of the Hamilton County Solid Waste Management District. Trustee Linnenberg seconded the motion. Trustee Rosiello: Yes; Trustee Linnenberg: Yes; Chairman Callos: Yes.

Administrator Birkenhauer reported that he was able to give some input regarding the Hamilton County Solid Waste Management Plan. Green Township is preparing for a more robust recycling program in hopes that

recycling rates will increase exponentially. The District has an \$800,000 budget to reward Townships and municipalities that have chosen to recycle. Therefore, the more that residents and businesses recycle the more money the Township receives from the Recycling Incentive Fund. The plan also will place a renewed emphasis on commercial recycling. The District does advertise to encourage recycling in Hamilton County. Under the Plan recycling fees will remain stable which will keep prices down in Green Township.

RESOLUTION #17-0327-E

Chairman Callos moved to pass a resolution approving the hiring of Charlie Speicher as a Seasonal Part-Time Employee in the Public Services Department with a start date of April 1, 2017 at \$15.00 per hour. Trustee Linnenberg seconded the motion. Trustee Rosiello: Yes; Trustee Linnenberg: Yes; Chairman Callos: Yes.

Development Director Goetzman reported that Charlie Speicher has worked for the Public Services Department for the last two years from April to December and has proven to be a valuable and reliable employee.

Trustee Linnenberg asked if the Public Services Department is receiving applications for summer help.

Public Services Director Lambing stated that they have received four.

RESOLUTION #17-0327-F

Chairman Callos moved to pass a resolution approving the hiring of John Kleinschmidt as a Part-Time Maintenance Technician at the Green Township Senior Center with a start date of April 1, 2017 at \$16.00 per hour. Trustee Linnenberg seconded the motion. Trustee Rosiello: Yes; Trustee Linnenberg: Yes; Chairman Callos: Yes.

Development Director Goetzman stated that with the transfer of Scott Braun to the Public Services Department there is need for a permanent part-time employee at both the Nathanael Greene Lodge and the Green Township Senior Center. The position will be approximately 24 - 30 hours per week, 4 days per week to start. There will be a cleaning service on the additional day.

RESOLUTION #17-0327-G

Chairman Callos moved to pass a resolution to approve the bid of \$775,893.20 from John R. Jurgensen Company for the Green Township 2017 Street Rehabilitation Contract. Trustee Linnenberg seconded the motion. Trustee Rosiello: Yes; Trustee Linnenberg: Yes; Chairman Callos: Yes.

Public Services Director Lambing reported that the bid is \$59,000 less than the Engineer's Estimate.

Trustee Linnenberg stated that Westwood-Northern Boulevard is not on the 2017 Street Rehabilitation Contract because it is a Hamilton County road.

RESOLUTION #17-0327-H

Chairman Callos moved to pass a resolution to approve the bid of \$770,135.75 from R.A. Miller Construction Company, Inc. for the Green Township 2017 Curb Rehabilitation Contract. Trustee Linnenberg seconded the motion. Trustee Rosiello: Yes; Trustee Linnenberg: Yes; Chairman Callos: Yes.

Public Services Director Lambing reported that the bid is \$37,000 less than the Engineer's Estimate.

RESOLUTION #17-0327-I

Chairman Callos moved to pass a resolution to approve the bid of \$200,194.00 from Fred A. Nemann Company for Bridgetown Road Sidewalk - Phase 1-C (South Road to Library). Trustee Linnenberg seconded the motion. Trustee Rosiello: Yes; Trustee Linnenberg: Yes; Chairman Callos: Yes.

RESOLUTION #17-0327-J

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

1. 4419 Homelawn Avenue (550-0111-0114), Motion made by Chairman Callos and seconded by Trustee Linnenberg. All voted Yes.
2. 3685 Muddy Creek Road (550-0131-0153), Motion made by Chairman Callos and seconded by Trustee Linnenberg. All voted Yes.
3. 3541 Reemelin Road (550-0062-0126), Motion made by Chairman Callos and seconded by Trustee Linnenberg. All voted Yes.

Administrator Birkenhauer made the following announcements:

1. The 911 Traveling Memorial Steel Unveiling will take place at the Green Township Administration Building on March 30, 2017 beginning at 2:00 p.m.
2. The Green Township Easter Egg Hunt will take place at Veterans Park on April 8, 2017 at 1:00 p.m.
3. There will be a meeting of the Green Township Land Use Planning Committee on April 4, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. at the Green Township Administration Building, 6303 Harrison Avenue, to hear a request filed by the V&G Rack Company to consider a request to change the Land Use Plan designation on the west side of North Bend Road between Crestknoll and Rack Acres (550-0062-0046 and 550-0062-0169). The property is currently designated Transitional Residence. The applicant is requesting a change to General Office.

Fiscal Officer, Tom Straus, reported that he recently met with Fifth Third Bank regarding Township investments. The Township recently purchased a \$500,000 Fannie Mae Bond that is receiving 1.8%. The Township also invested \$250,000 in a CD at 1.8%. Currently interest rates are going up therefore the Township is trying to adjust investments accordingly.

Township Attorney, Frank Hyle, was excused.

Township Administrator, Frank Birkenhauer, reported the deadline for submitting the Gateway Beautification Interchange Proposals (RFQ's) was Friday. The Township received RFQ's from nine very qualified firms. A qualified company will be chosen and presented to the Board for approval in the next few weeks.

Director of Public Services, Joe Lambing, reported that yard waste collection opened on Saturday and will continue until November 19, 2017. The hours are 1:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays only at Kuliga Park. There will not be yard waste collection on Easter Sunday, April 16, 2017. Five Points has a tentative start date of April 13, 2017. However, as of today, they still have not set a pre-construction meeting. Director Lambing then reported that the telephone pole in the sidewalk along Bridgetown Road has finally been removed. He is hoping the additional poles will be removed shortly, and that the pole in the sidewalk at the corner of Bridgetown and South Road will also be removed soon.

Trustee Linnenberg asked about the telephone pole in the sidewalk on Lee Ct. Director Lambing stated that the pole has not yet been removed.

Director of Public Services Lambing gave an update on the Bridgetown Road Sidewalk Project. He directed the Trustees to a PowerPoint slide depicting the project limits. He noted that the first portion, or Phase IA, was constructed inside Kuliga Park. The second phase was identified as the portion completed last year. This year, work will shift to the portion of the project falling between South Road and the entrance to the Bridgetown Library.

Development Director Goetzman stated that the balance of the project has been partially funded through OKI grants. This involves sidewalks included in the 5-Points Intersection Improvement Project, which extends sidewalks from Ebenezer to Markay. He noted that the Township received a Transportation Alternative Grant through OKI for last section of the project, labeled 3A and 3B on the displayed plan, and that construction easement acquisition for the final phase is almost completed. There is only one parcel left to acquire, which is the City of Cincinnati Water Works property where the water tower is located on Bridgetown Road. The Township is waiting for that to work through the process with the Solicitors Office at the City. At that point all of the easements will be in place.

Trustee Linnenberg stated that it looks like Duke has begun to move telephone poles back for the 5-Points phase of the project.

Development Director Goetzman confirmed that that utility work had indeed begun, and that once the Township had completed acquiring easements for the balance of the project, utility relocation would continue into the final section of the sidewalk project.

Fire/EMS Chief, Doug Witsken, reported that the recently acquired

property and house next to Fire Station #54 on Bridgetown Road is being used extensively for training purposes. The building will be used until April and then turned over for demolition.

Trustee Rosiello asked if fire hydrants in the curve of Ebenezer that have been spray painted with graffiti could be painted this year. Chief Witksen stated that he will make sure those are taken care of.

Police Chief, Bart West, reported on Crime Statistics for 2016. He stated that overall more categories of crime went down instead of up. Auto accidents were up by 11 over the previous year. The number of calls that the Police Department responded to went from 19,165 in 2015 to 20,697 in 2016. Considering the heroin epidemic Chief West stated that he is pleased to see most categories of crime have decreased over the previous year.

Police Chief, Bart West, stated that this will be his last report and his last Trustees meeting due to his retirement on Friday, March 31, 2017.

Chairman Callos announced that on Friday, March 31, 2017 Police Chief Bart West will be retiring after 34 years of service with the Green Township Police Department. Chief West has served as Police Chief for the past 10 years and has been instrumental in building the department into a premier law enforcement agency in southwest Ohio. His success was apparent due to the passage of many Safety Service Levies with Township residents showing overwhelming support of the Police Department. Chief West not only served as Chief but has also volunteered in numerous Township events in the community in which he serves and loves. Chief West was also recently appointed to the Monfort Heights-White Oak Community Association Board as well as the Fischer House, these are in to his long time involvement with the Oak Hills Kiwanis and the Western Economic Council. Service to others is truly at the core of Bart's nature and we are fortunate that he will continue to give back to the Green Township community after his retirement from the Police Department.

Chairman Callos thanked Police Chief Bart West for his loyalty over the course of his career. Chief West has shown great commitment to the residents of Green Township, his staff, and numerous boards he has worked with. Chairman Callos stated that he has the highest level of professional respect for Chief West and the way he has conducted himself over his outstanding career with Green Township.

Chairman Callos stated that he and Chief West worked together on numerous issues and it has always been a pleasure working together on important issues that impact the residents of Green Township and the community. Chairman Callos thanked Chief West for his friendship and stated that he is leaving behind an impressive legacy. Chairman Callos thanked Chief West for his advice and leadership that he has witnessed throughout his career and stated that he is leaving the Police Department in a great position. Chairman Callos stated that it shows what a true leader Chief West is to pass off a department in an excellent position. Chairman Callos thanked Chief West for his service to the Department, the Board, and staff. He again thanked Chief West for his friendship and stated that he will be missed.

Trustee Linnenberg stated that when he was appointed as Trustee he was told that he does not have to worry about the Chiefs. He stated that in his years as Trustee he has not heard a negative comment about the Police or Fire Department. He stated that the Chief is not only the Chief, but a resident, and took great pride in that. He thanked Chief West for serving on committees and being a positive influence in the community. Trustee Linnenberg stated that his retirement will be a sad day, but he is happy for Chief West. Trustee Linnenberg wished Chief West well in his retirement.

Trustee Rosiello stated that he and his wife are both happy for Chief West. Trustee Rosiello stated that Chief West was the DARE Officer for both of his daughters. Trustee Rosiello stated that it is a pleasure to call Chief West his friend and stated that Green Township has the best trained and equipped Police force. Chief West has always put the Township and its residents first. Trustee Rosiello stated that Chief West has also volunteered on many projects and committees for Green Township. Trustee Rosiello stated that he is proud of all that Chief West has accomplished and knows the Department will be left in capable hands. He wished Chief West good luck and best of health in the years to come.

Director of Development, Adam Goetzman, spoke on behalf of the Department Heads and staff. He stated that it has been both an honor and a privilege to have worked with Chief West in service to the Township. He stated that Chief West will be missed by both his staff as well as the Administration, Public Services, and Fire Department. Development Director Goetzman wished Chief West all the best in his retirement.

Police Chief West thanked the Board of Trustees and all the great staff he has worked with over the years. He stated that he has had the opportunity to work with great staff. Chief West stated that the Green Township Police Officers really are the best, and all of the staff in Green Township is top notch. Chief West stated that he has worked with some great members of the Board of Trustees over the years, but this Board is top notch. Chief West thanked the Board for the friendship and the opportunity to serve as Chief and thanked them for supplying him with all the resources to hire the best and support his department. Chief West stated that he is very proud that the Trustees connect with Township residents every day. Chief West stated that hiring good people is the key to success, in that they care about people, about the community, and they do a good job. Chief West thanked the Board for all of their support.

Chairman Callos stated that it has been an honor to work with Chief West and that Chief West is the face of the Township and represents the Township with professionalism. He thanked Chief West for his excellent leadership and the Board could not have asked for a better leader, friend, and Chief.

Trustee Linnenberg read several thank you letters.

Trustee Linnenberg reported that there was recently an article in the Enquirer on the Township's Gas and Electric Aggregation Programs. The article showed that Green Township has one of the lowest rates for both gas and electric. Trustee Linnenberg thanked Chairman Callos for his leadership on the Gas and Electric Aggregation Programs which have saved the residents of Green Township millions of dollars.

Trustee Rosiello stated that if residents can get a better deal on gas or electric they are free to leave the Gas and Electric Aggregation Program at any time with no penalty.

Administrator Birkenhauer reported that for the first time Green Township is offering a "green energy" option to choose from. The opt-in rate is .549, which is slightly above the Township's opt-out rate of .539.

Chairman Callos asked if the Gas and Electric Aggregation Program information is up-to-date on the Green Township website.

Administrator Birkenhauer stated that the information may not be up-to-date on the website but it will be updated shortly.

Trustee Rosiello stated that items posted on Social Media sites can be very misleading and there is nothing more important than Township safety. If someone feels endangered the first thing they should do is get to a safe place and call the Police Department. There was a situation recently where allegedly something happened and was spread around social media. The incident did not happen and was spread around via Facebook. The information did not go to the Police Department first or to the store where the incident supposedly happened. Trustee Rosiello stated that the Board cares about its residents and encouraged everyone to turn to the Police Department before turning to Facebook, because when you have 8,000 views of something, incorrect information spreads very quickly.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on Monday, April 10, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.

Chairman Callos made a motion to recess into Executive Session for the appointment of personnel and acquisition of property. Trustee Linnenberg seconded the motion. Trustee Rosiello, Yes; Trustee Linnenberg, Yes; Chairman Callos, Yes. The meeting was recessed at 5:49 p.m.; reconvened at 6:59 p.m.

Chairman Callos moved to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Linnenberg seconded the motion. Trustee Rosiello: Yes; Trustee Linnenberg: Yes; Chairman Callos: Yes. Meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

ATTEST: