The regular meeting of the Green Township Board of Trustees held on January 27, 2020 was called to order at 5:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Chairman Linnenberg moved to approve the minutes for the regular meeting of January 13, 2020. Trustee Callos seconded the motion. All voted Yes.

Chairman David Linnenberg addressed the topic of a proposed substance abuse recovery center planned for the Monfort Heights area.

Chairman Linnenberg’s Statement: I have decided that tonight I need to briefly be a “delegation”.

I have become aware that a local family non-profit is interested in building a substance abuse recovery center in Green Township. A 15,000-20,000 square foot house, as they refer to it. Just so everyone is aware, a substance abuse recovery center is NOT where people go to get sober. It is to help with recovery for the addict as well as their friends and family after they have achieved sobriety from drugs and alcohol, a place for AA or NA meetings, or a place to talk to others dealing with similar issues.

I was also informed that Mercy Health has intentions to donate the land they own behind Bob Evans on North Bend to this non-profit to build the house. Mercy does not intend to be affiliated with this cause other than a potential board member or two. They have owned this land for roughly a decade and see this donation as a way to help address a serious relapse problem in Hamilton County.

 As a Green Twp. Trustee I have concerns for two reasons. First, I have not seen any business plan as to how this house will be run. I have not learned how this will be paid for. How many staff will be there? How they will pay for the day-to-day? Most importantly, who will run the facility? I have asked for this information and will share it when received.

Second, I have concerns with placing this house so close to St. Ignatius, one of the largest grade schools in the state. My concerns could be me being naïve. My concerns could be absolutely wrong. When we have asked the non-profit for a comparable type of facility, their response is a site in Marietta, GA, not in the city of Cincinnati or Hamilton County. I am going to be concerned.

I have expressed my concerns to Mercy. I have had phone conversations with Michael Kramer, President of Mercy West, Dan McCarthy, Mercy real estate, Bob Ryan, Cushman and Wakefield, Mercy’s outside real estate agent. Last Friday I spoke with the President and CEO of Mercy, John Starcher.

So where are we today? Mercy is partnering with the local non-profit to get this house built. They see the drug and alcohol issue daily and want to be part of the solution. A house like this in theory will cut down on addicts relapsing. This aligns perfectly with the mission of Mercy Health.

Mercy has heard my concerns on the potential site behind Bob Evans. Mercy has assured me that they will work with the non-profit to explore potential other sites; however, the site behind Bob Evans is still a possibility. Mercy owns the site and there will be very limited zoning changes needed. As Trustees we have very little say in this situation. It’s like the “how many chicken restaurants do you need” question. We can’t control what we can’t control.

To conclude, we are waiting to receive a business plan for how the day-to-day of the house will be run and how it will be financed. While the non-profit does not owe us this, they understand that it will alleviate many concerns. Second, we are talking with the non-profit and Mercy on the location of the house. I will gladly update my fellow board members and the public as I learn more.

We will have time for public comments if needed at a future meeting.

Trustee Triffon Callos’ Statement: Location – Near a large parochial school with over 1,700 students – residential neighborhood – restaurant – gateway which we have invested significant money.

Business Plan – I cannot personally support this, regardless of location, without a documented business plan that would address the many questions and concerns of not only the board, but the community as a whole.

Community Buy-In – This should be of paramount of importance – need to engage all parties involved and present a clear plan – St. Ignatius, MHWO community association, etc. Having the community engaged and informed would allow for a greater opportunity of success as a whole.

Mercy – transparency with the potential donation of land. When the hospital went in years ago – they were out speaking to the community. Michael Kramer (CEO of Mercy West) will be the one having to answer tough questions if they transfer this land, not the CEO or the real estate team. I had a meeting with Michael Kramer and expressed my overall concerns with this location and lack of a business plan.

Core community beliefs -- Home value, public safety and education. All (3) of these areas could potentially be affected with this proposed location.

Police Department – Should have a seat at the table and make sure any public safety concerns are addressed and their voice is heard. This would potentially be a drain on the resources of our department.

Last, we have all in some way been affected by someone who has experienced drug or mental health issues – we understand that a need is present for these individuals towards full recovery. But, without a proper business plan and location – this is not something that I can or will support.

Trustee Tony Rosiello’s Statement: I’m not opposed to a substance abuse recovery center being built in Green. There is certainly a need. We see the numbers just from the opioid crisis. But, at this point, we have more questions than answers. What’s the plan? We need this for business and operational. Questions include staffing, security, monthly business expenditures, hours of operation and so much more. Are there are any situations where overnights could happen? So now, we may have a facility offering a place for substance abuse people and possibly mental health issues. What agency or trained professionals will run this type of facility? What programs are offered? I do not believe this is a good location. At the very least, it’s too close to a 1,700 student elementary school. I see this as a possible and huge community problem like we had with the former Tri-Star Motel. Many of you remember the motel was located directly across the street from St. Ignatius. Many drug and other problems plagued the neighborhood for years until the township tore down the problem. Now, we have word is getting out about the land located behind Bob Evans. Our job is to listen to our community, act when necessary, and compromise when appropriate. At the moment, we just do not have enough information to have this facility anywhere. Again, substance abuse and mental health together is concerning. If you need and want to have any community “buy in”, and we do, we have to know the complete plan, not just a concept.

**RESOLUTION #20-0127-A**

Chairman Linnenberg moved to accept and approve the financial reports as submitted. Trustee Callos seconded the motion. The resolution passed unanimously.

**RESOLUTION #20-0127-B**

Chairman Linnenberg moved to approve the hiring of Landen Brent, Timothy Keeton and Emily Jeffries as Part Time Firefighter/EMTs with start dates of January 30, 2020 and starting salaries of $15.69 per hour. Trustee Callos seconded the motion. The resolution passed unanimously.

Assistant Fire & EMS Chief Kevin Hummeldorf explained the need to add Part Time Firefighter/EMTs to the staff to help to fill in available shifts.

Fiscal Officer Tom Straus swore in Part Time Firefighter/EMTs Landen Brent, Timothy Keeton and Emily Jeffries.

Firefighter/EMTs Brent, Keeton and Jeffries thanked the Board of Trustees, Fire & EMS leadership, family and friends and expressed their excitement to begin their careers with Green Township.

Chairman Linnenberg welcomed the new Firefighter/EMTs to Green Township.

**RESOLUTION #20-0127-C**

Chairman Linnenberg moved to approve the hiring of Cameron Youngblood as a Green Township Police Officer with a start date of January 28, 2020 and a starting salary of $29.99 per hour. Trustee Callos seconded the motion. The resolution passed unanimously.

Police Chief Jim Vetter listed the many qualifications of Cameron Youngblood.

Fiscal Officer Tom Straus swore in Police Officer Cameron Youngblood.

Police Officer Youngblood thanked the Board of Trustees, Chief Vetter, family and friends.

Chairman Linnenberg, Trustee Callos and Trustee Rosiello welcomed Officer Youngblood to Green Township.

**RESOLUTION #20-0127-D**

Chairman Linnenberg moved to accept the bid of $802,522.80 from Adleta Inc. for Curb Rehabilitation Contract. Trustee Callos seconded the motion. The resolution passed unanimously.

Public Services Director Joe Lambing stated the amount is $196,477 under the Engineer’s Estimate.

**RESOLUTION #20-0127-E**

Chairman Linnenberg moved to accept the bid of $749,030.12 from John R. Jurgensen Company for Street Rehabilitation Contract. Trustee Callos seconded the motion. The resolution passed unanimously.

Public Services Director Lambing stated the amount is approximately $57,000 under the Engineer’s Estimate.

**RESOLUTION #20-0127-F**

Chairman Linnenberg moved to accept the bid of $168,695.00 from Queen City Mechanicals, Inc. for Weirman Ave. Storm Improvements. Trustee Callos seconded the motion. The resolution passed unanimously.

Public Services Director Lambing stated the amount is approximately $15,200 under the Engineer’s Estimate.

**RESOLUTION #20-0127-G**

Chairman Linnenberg moved to declare property surplus and donating property to Hamilton County USAR Team. Trustee Callos seconded the motion. The resolution passed unanimously.

**RESOLUTION #20-0127-H**

Chairman Linnenberg moved to authorize the execution of a memorandum of understanding with Women Helping Women to participate in the Domestic Violence Enhanced Response Team Project contingent upon the agency receiving a grant to operate the program. Trustee Callos seconded the motion. The resolution passed unanimously.

Attorney Frank Hyle stated the program will be operational if Women Helping Women are awarded a grant.

Police Chief Vetter stated the Green Township Police Department is happy to partner with Women Helping Women.

**RESOLUTION #20-0127-I**

The following properties were declared as nuisances due to high grass & weeds, or garbage, junk & debris. The Township Attorney was directed to notify the owner of the properties listed below of this resolution:

1. 6123 Colerain Avenue (550-0011-0031) Motion made by Chairman Linnenberg and seconded by Trustee Callos. The resolution passed unanimously.

2. 3380 Harmony Lane (550-0162-0108) Motion made by Chairman Linnenberg and seconded by Trustee Callos. The resolution passed unanimously.

3. 5889 Lawrence Road (550-0160-0157) Motion made by Chairman Linnenberg and seconded by Trustee Callos. The resolution passed unanimously.

4. 4231 Race Road (550-0181-0075) Motion made by Chairman Linnenberg and seconded by Trustee Callos. The resolution passed unanimously.

Administrator Birkenhauer announced the Ohio Department of Liquor Control has sent notice of application from 1935 Anderson Ferry LLC, DBA Sports Depot Bar & Grill, 6701 Ruwes Oak Drive, Suite 9, Green Township, Cincinnati, Ohio 45248.

Police Chief Vetter did not have any objections.

Administrator Birkenhauer announced the Ohio Department of Liquor Control has sent notice of application from Cheviot Foodmart LLC, DBA Cheviot Foodmart, 5634 Cheviot Road, Green Township, Cincinnati, Ohio 45247.

Police Chief Vetter did not have any objections.

Fiscal Officer Tom Straus reported that 10 CDs at $250,000 each and a 2 million dollar Federal Home Loan Bank were recently purchased.

Township Attorney Frank Hyle announced there was need for Executive Session to discuss discipline of personnel and acquisition of property.

Administrator Frank Birkenhauer reported there is a RFQ for 5565 Woodhaven. Several contractors have requested an extension. The deadline has been extended to February 1st and the required walk through has been waved. The property was purchased through the Hamilton County Land Bank which was developed to assist communities to purchase nuisance properties and sell them to a qualified buyer to rehab. The properties are not permitted to be rental units but rather be owner occupied.

Director of Public Services Joe Lambing stated the Gateway Improvements near I-74 are continuing weather permitting. The Public Services Department employees are completing miscellaneous tasks throughout the township.

Assistant Fire & EMS Chief Kevin Hummeldorf did not have anything to report.

Police Chief Jim Vetter announced the next Citizens Police Academy class will take place in the spring.

Director of Development Adam Goetzman stated he is restructuring the job duties of Nathanael Greene Lodge employees to fill the void of the former Director, Cindy Tabler.

**RESOLUTION #20-0127-J**

Chairman Linnenberg moved to approve the promotion of Jill Jansen to Nathanael Greene Office Manager with a salary of $20.05 per hour with an effective date of January 20, 2020. Trustee Callos seconded the motion. The resolution passed unanimously.

**RESOLUTION #20-0127-K**

Chairman Linnenberg moved to approve the promotion of Cheryl Pietrosky to Nathanael Greene Lodge Full Time Event Manager with a salary of $22.65 per hour with an effective date of January 20, 2020. Trustee Callos seconded the motion. The resolution passed unanimously.

Chairman Linnenberg invited Boy Scouts in the audience to introduce themselves.

Scout Samuel Smith introduced himself as the Senior Patrol Leader of Troop 614 from St. Antoninus. He is a student working on his Communication and Citizenship in the Community Badge. He is a student at Walnut Hills High School.

Chairman Linnenberg expressed sorrow for the passing of Green Township resident, former Cincinnati City Councilman and Hamilton County Commissioner Todd Portune and Judge Nathaniel Jones.

Trustee Callos and Trustee Rosiello expressed their sorrow for the passing of Todd Portune.

Chairman Linnenberg announced the next regular meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on Monday, February 10, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.

Chairman Linnenberg announced the need for Executive Session for the purpose of discussion of discipline of personnel and acquisition of property. Trustee Callos seconded the motion. All voted Yes.

Chairman Linnenberg moved to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Callos seconded the motion. All voted Yes. Meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

ATTEST: