

Council of the Village of Yellow Springs Minutes

Miami Township Offices @ 7:00 P.M.

Monday, March 30, 2015

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Township President Mucher. Trustees Crockett and Spracklen were present. Fire Chief Altman, Road Department employee Gochenouer, Zoning Inspector Zopf and Fiscal Officer Silliman were also present.

ROLL CALL

Village Council members present were Council President Wintrow, Vice President Lori Askeland, Gerald Simms, Brian Housh and Marianne MacQueen. Village Manager Patti Bates was also present.

Audience members included Villager Richard Lapedes and YS News editor Diane Chiddister.

REVIEW OF CURRENT SHARED SERVICES AND COLLABORATION

Equipment such as the Township's crack filler and boom mower is shared with the Village. The Township mows around the Village water treatment plant. The Village and the Township work in partnership concerning drainage issues and snow plowing.

Village Manager Bates announced that the Village does not plan to issue pool badges therefore, they will not need the services provided by the Township. Chief Altman stated he will happily report the news to the Assistant Chief Powell.

Village Council President Wintrow asked if there are areas in the Township that are not served well by internet service. Trustee President Mucher stated that he felt nearly the entire Township has service available if desired.

GLEN FOREST CEMETERY UPDATE

Village Manager Bates reported that the transfer of cemetery land is nearly complete. Due to a well and septic system located on the property, an inspection is needed prior to completion of the transaction. Bates stated this process is expected to be completed soon.

Regarding the Township's request to have water and electric services extended to the Cemetery, Bates stated Village Utility Department Manager Johnny Burns has some concerns that need to be discussed. Mucher agreed to meet as soon as it can be arranged.

Mucher reported on the newly established Natural Burial Area. It has been recently certified as a natural burial area and is one of four in the state.

A cemetery software program has been purchased and folks are currently working to enter all available data of Miami Township cemeteries into the program. This will eventually be available on-line and enable people to do research when searching for family, friends, etc. Because Glen Forest Cemetery serves primarily (former) Village residents, Mucher asked the Village to consider contributing annually to the cost of maintaining this software.

MIAMI TOWNSHIP FIRE & RESCUE REPORT

Chief Altman presented a slide show on the Department with recent year-end run figures, personnel status including volunteers, American Heart Association training center, and a brief update regarding plans for a new building.

VISIONING PLAN IMPLEMENTATION & TOWNSHIP ZONING CODE STATUS

Zopf reported that the Township's zoning code has not changed in a long time. The Township did adopt a Comprehensive Land Use Plan about two years ago. The Plan emphasizes a desire to preserve the agricultural character of the Township. Currently, it is very tempting for a farmer to sell their land for housing development. The Zoning Commission is taking a long look at preservation of rural character versus property owners' rights to do what they want with their land.

Wintrow alerted the group to a recent annexation which resulted in the Cemex plant and land being annexed into Fairborn from Xenia Township against the desire of that Township. This may have been a retaliation against the Township, which had refused Cemex's request to be zoned for mining.

Zopf commented that Greene County Regional Planning Commission (GCRPC) had, until recently, been meeting regularly with Cemex to keep abreast of the situation, and that the annexation was unexpected. He commented further that annexation in the State of Ohio favors the annexing entity, not the entity being annexed.

Zopf noted how easy it would be for Fairborn to annex very close to the Village under this policy.

Mucher reported that GCRPC wishes to continue as a regional commission, rather than become a county planning commission department. There is a good deal of economic pressure to merge, but that is opposed by GCRPP. If the latter were to occur, the voice for Villages and Townships would be cut from 100% to less than 30%.

Wintrow commented that Greene County is highly dense and developed, but that the Township is largely farmland. She stated that agriculture is a low priority for this group.

Mucher noted that the Regional Planning Commission is planning to request a small increase in funding to permit them to remain operational.

Trustee Spracklen interjected that the recent change in the CAUV formula for farmers has resulted in more than a doubling of property taxes on farm land, making it very difficult for farmers to hold onto their land and not sell off, or to place land in environmental easements.

Wintrow commented that the lack of acknowledgement of the importance of farming to State and County Planners is highly detrimental and of great concern. Lapedes commented that this is because farming is not seen as a source of jobs, and Wintrow responded that this is an irony, given the focus upon food production as a growing area for job production.

This situation was recognized as urgent by Village Council and the Trustees. It was suggested that the Township write a letter to be sent to State level government representatives. Village Council agreed to adapt such a letter specific to Village concerns and send it in support.

Villager Richard Lapedes expressed concern that the Visioning Plan has laid dormant, connecting the tenets of the Plan to the situation discussed regarding annexation. He added that Village Council, Township Trustees, Yellow Springs School District, Antioch College and Antioch Midwest all possess strong leadership. Lapedes stated that these groups, along with several other key players have a great deal

of sway with regard to the future of the region. Lapedes opined that these entities have not collaborated on a holistic plan for the area, and asked for a ðmegaplanö to coordinate.

Wintrow responded that each of Lapedes' concerns are incorporated in the YS Visioning Plan, which she characterized as ðincredibly relevantö, with 29 of 70 recommendations either completed or in process. She commented that what has not happened is the follow through with a committee to track those initiatives.

Lapedes opined that this is a good time to utilize the talent that is in place and create a board charged with moving the Visioning Plan forward.

Wintrow stated that there have been a number of projects accomplished using the Visioning Plan as a guide, and that the Plan is regularly taken into account by Council, Planning Commission and BZA.

Wintrow commented that Lapedes might consider leading such a group.

Housh stated that there is room for another task force, particularly one responsive to Economic Development concerns.

Wintrow commented that the Visioning document be used as a springboard for a task force which would move those ideas into the future, given the amount of change in the Village over the past three to five years.

Manager Bates supported Lapedes' suggestion. She added that such a group needs to be aggressive in areas such as lobbying state officials. Lapedes added that a grant could be pursued that would pay someone to head this effort.

REGIONAL PLANNING & COORDINATING COMMISSION UPDATE

Mucher reported that the Commission still exists as an independent commission. It is the general consensus of the current Commission members to stay regional in nature, not county run. He added the finances are very tight. The RPCC Executive Committee will soon be meeting to discuss and recommend ways to increase funding.

CEDA/CBE COLLABORATION

The original CEDA was reviewed by the group and it was agreed that there is no need to take any action at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss at this time, a MOTION by Simms and SECONDED by Wintrow was made to ADJOURN. MOTION CARRIED unanimously. 9:15 p.m.

President _____
Karen Wintrow

Attest _____
Judy Kintner