



RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

*Minutes of* **NORWICH TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES** *Meeting*  
**5181 NORTHWEST PARKWAY, HILLIARD, OHIO**  
*Held* **March 24, 2023**

The special meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by Chairman Charles Wm. Buck.

Roll Call - **Charles Wm. Buck, Chairman – Present**  
**Timothy Roberts, Vice Chairman – Present**  
**Jerry O’Shaughnessy, Trustee - Present**

Also Present - **Jamie Fisher, Township Administrator**  
**Dave Baird, Fire Chief**  
**Jake Wells, Assistant Fire Chief**  
**Paul Lambert, Fiscal Officer**

Mr. Buck welcomed the public to the meeting and acknowledged the presence of Hilliard City Council members Cynthia Vermillion, Les Carrier, and Tina Cottone.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION –**

**TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATION**

**Discussion and approval to donate or dispose of unneeded, obsolete, or unfit personal property, specifically six black metal benches at the Safety Services Building (SSB).**

Motion by Mr. Roberts, seconded by Mr. O’Shaughnessy, to approve the donation or disposition of unneeded, obsolete, or unfit personal property, specifically six black metal benches at the Safety Services Building.

Vote: Buck-Yes Roberts -Yes O’Shaughnessy-Yes

Motion passed - #230324.01

**Discussion and approval to accept the roofing material and service proposal from Garland/DBS, Inc. totaling \$387,479 for the shingle roof replacement of the Safety Services Building and for the Township Administrator to sign all documents, a 2023 capital item and a split cost with the City of Hilliard.**

Motion by Mr. O’Shaughnessy, seconded by Mr. Roberts, for the approval to accept the roofing material and service proposal from Garland/DBS, Inc. totaling \$387,479 for the shingle roof replacement of the Safety Services Building and for the Township Administrator to sign all documents, a 2023 capital item and a split cost with the City of Hilliard.

Vote: Buck-Yes Roberts -Yes O’Shaughnessy-Yes

Motion passed - #230324.02

**Discussion of the Dublin Road Annexation application and proposed development.**

Mrs. Fisher shared an update on the process from the Township. She shared that three unincorporated parcels on Dublin Road are in the process of being annexed (expedited type 2) into the City of Columbus. The County commissioners approved the application on March 20, 2023, and that the applicant must wait the 60-day period before presenting to the City of Columbus. After the 60-days, the parcels will go through the zoning process. Mrs. Fisher shared that Tony Rettke, P.S. with the Franklin County Engineer's office shared an original plat and description of the development that the County approved in 2022 for the importance of road right-of-way. She also shared that she spoke with Mr. Mentel on March 23, 2023, and these parcels are being purchased by four partners in the firm he works for. They are currently working on the annexation application for the Bell property to be

included. Mr. Mentel asked for meeting room space for future meetings with residents to approach development with collaboration. She shared that she has been in contact with a number of residents over the past three weeks and will continue to share information with them and work as a resource for them through this development and process.

Mrs. Fisher shared that Chairman Buck, Chief Baird, and herself spoke with the Township Attorney on March 23, 2023, in regard to whether Columbus approves this development, then incentivizes it. If Columbus TIFs this development, and the City of Columbus request Norwich Township to service this development for Fire and EMS Norwich Township would need to enter an agreement similar to our Sugar Farms service agreement. Norwich Township would however be restricted for the *pre-2006 funds* and the City will have to find a mechanism to allow service payments to flow to the Township for Fire and EMS to pay for public infrastructure).

Mr. Lambert shared that he brought a copy of the Ohio Revised Code that details the type 2 annexation. Mr. Roberts stated that this appears to be a “spot zoning” action, something that the City of Hilliard had not approved when he was a City Council member. Mr. Buck shared that the Township has no role in the annexation process but was glad that see so many present to let the Board of Trustees know how they feel. Mr. Buck asked Mr. Roberts and Mr. O’Shaughnessy if the Township should consider hiring an attorney to represent the interests of the Township in this matter. Mr. Roberts said it’s something that would have to be discussed.

Comments from the public included:

- A community member shared that the community members understand that the intention of the developer is to build high-density, affordable housing on the parcels. The neighbors understand that some kind of development is going to happen, but they would prefer that it be either high-density / high-value, or affordable / low density.
- Another community member said that she had heard there would be a commercial component of the development. She opposes both the high-density development as well as commercial development on this site.
- One community member said that the developer has been evasive when he’s tried to reach him for a conversation.
- A community member and parent said that the schools are already overcrowded – there is no room for more kids.
- Councilman Carrier provided a great deal of information about actions the citizens’ group could take, including going through the process of getting a referendum on the ballot in the City of Columbus. He stated that at least 10,000 valid signatures would be required on the petition, and all must be residents of the City of Columbus. He stated that this is really a regional issue, and that the City of Columbus wants to construct “peasant housing” in our community. A good strategy might be to join forces with groups similarly impacted in other areas of the region, he said.

Mr. Buck reported that he and Mrs. Fisher spoke with Chet Chaney, President of the Franklin County Township Association about this matter, and Mr. Chaney offered to give advice to the Trustees. Mr. Buck also shared that the Fire Department was recognized as an ISO 1 rating. Mr. O’Shaughnessy said he hopes the developer is willing to work with all the constituents toward a good outcome. Mr. Roberts shared that it is a concern and he wants to work with the developer to get the best possible development for these parcels. Mr. Buck shared that Kevin Corvo started a new communication platform for the community and encouraged participants to attend the City of Hilliard Council meetings.



Motion by Mr. Roberts, seconded by Mr. O'Shaughnessy, to adjourn from the special meeting at 11:00 AM.

Vote: Buck-Yes Roberts -Yes O'Shaughnessy-Yes

Motion passed - #230324.03



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Charles Wm. Buck, Chairman



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Paul Lambert, Fiscal Officer

