

**RICHFIELD TOWNSHIP
LUCAS COUNTY, OHIO
BOARD OF RICHFIELD TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

October 18th, 2010

The regular meeting of the Richfield Township Trustees was called to order by Arthur Nevers at 7:00 p.m. at the Maintenance Building, 3951 Washburn Rd., Berkey, Ohio. All present were asked to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Trustee
Chairman: Arthur Nevers – present
Vice-Chairman: John Hassen- present
Donald Eisel - present

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

The clerk provided copies of the minutes from the October 4th, 2010 meeting, current Cash Summary Report, September Bank Reconciliation and Pending Warrants Report.

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Arthur Nevers made a motion to approve the October 4th minutes as corrected. Donald Eisel seconded the motion. Roll call: Nevers-yes, Hassen –yes, Eisel-yes. Motion approved.

PRESENTATION OF THE BILLS:

The attached listings of warrants (6175-6200) were presented for approval:

Donald Eisel made a motion to approve payment of the attached listing of invoices and the corresponding pending warrants. Arthur Nevers seconded the motion. Roll call: Nevers-yes, Hassen-yes, Eisel-yes. Motion approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were no public comments.

FIRE:

A flu shot clinic will be held at the fire station run by the Lucas County Health Department on Tuesday, October 26th from 3:00 – 7:00 pm. The cost is \$20.00.

Flu shots will be offered free to all volunteer firemen, spouses and township employees.

Discussion was held on the Berkey fire siren. A couple Berkey residents were present and requested to silence the siren.

Chief Tate confirmed that we could silence the siren in Berkey for all fire and EMS calls if that is what everyone really thinks is best. But he also stated that he thinks it is important for everyone to clearly understand the reason for the siren activation during dispatching of fire and EMS runs in order for this to be an informed decision. He went on to point out:

- First and foremost we teach our children (and adults) to stay back away from the streets when they hear the fire sirens since there are volunteer firefighters responding quickly from all directions going to the station and sometimes directly to the scenes. This extra warning improves safety for everyone.
- Farmers on tractors pulling grain wagons, pedestrians, bicyclists and some motorists are all warned early when they hear the sirens in the distance and yield the right-of-way to our volunteers and responding emergency vehicles.
- While it is true that currently only a few of our members live within the village limits, the rest of us are not always at home when a call comes in. There are occasions when we are at the park for a baseball game, Keeler's store for ice cream or groceries, Ott's John Deere, Jerry's Marathon, Berkey Farm Store or the Post Office. This extra warning device better prepares the public for the emergency traffic especially in our more populated areas.
- While it is true that we all have an assigned pager, you can't expect our members to wear them 100% of the time. For instance, sometimes our members will step outside of their home with their families for only a brief moment without their pager, whether it is for a swim in the pool or to shovel the snow off the front walk or whatever, only to hear one of the sirens.
- The sirens still do provide notification for a 2-3 mile radius of each siren. If this results in getting even just one additional Firefighter/EMT to respond then I think it is worth it. This is especially critical during the daytime hours when most of our members are away at their regular jobs.
- We have recently changed the programming of the sirens so they are now silent from 9:00 PM to 8:00 AM this at the request of Berkey Mayor Barb Huff. I certainly understand and hope this is an acceptable solution to reduce and limit the siren interruptions.
- When activated for a fire or EMS run the sirens only blow for 60 seconds. For some reason people usually think they sound for much longer than that. And remember they now only sound during the daytime hours of 8:00 AM to 9:00 PM.
- Chief Tate estimates that on average the sirens with the new programming will only activate about 8-10 times per month. The question is whether this frequency warrants silencing the sirens at the risk of possibly jeopardizing safety?

Like I previously mentioned, I think everyone needs to clearly understand what both of our township sirens provide us in addition to alerting us to severe weather. Perhaps once everyone understands the reasoning and purpose, they might feel differently about the sirens and the momentary inconvenience involved. Personally I am most concerned with the safety aspect regarding advanced warning to both our residents and pass through traffic near and around our most populated areas. I would hate to completely silence the Berkey siren only to have it result in some type of accident involving injury or loss of life. This is what we all must consider when making this decision.

Trustee Nevers will contact the Lucas County Assistant Prosecuting Attorney for his feedback and concerns as to safety if the siren were to be inoperative. The siren would be set off only in weather alert and testing by Lucas County.

ZONING:

Zoning Inspector Smith gave a report on the zoning trainings he attended in Blacklick, Ohio.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion was held on contracting with the Village of Berkey for police protection. Trustee Hassen and Nevers attended the Village of Berkey Council meeting on October 11th and discussed the possibility of contracting with the Village. Mayor Huff will put together figures and report back to the Trustees.

OLD BUSINESS:

Discussion was held on the Kilburn Road Bike Path/Paved Shoulder Project.

Arthur Nevers made a motion to accept the Kilburn Rd. paved shoulder project.

There was no second on the motion. The motion was tabled until the next scheduled meeting.

PUBLIC NOTICE:

The following information can be viewed on the Richfield Township website at: www.richfieldtownshiplucascounty.com.

1. Trustee minutes
2. Zoning minutes
3. Zoning including: fees, applications, complaint forms, and the zoning book.
4. Meeting dates and times
5. Contact information for Trustees, Zoning Board and Board of Zoning Appeals.
6. Wolfinger Cemetery information including cemetery fees and rules & regulations.
7. Fire and Rescue
8. Town hall rental rules and fees
9. Roads and Maintenance

- 10. Rubbish Contractor information for garbage pickup
- 11. Community Links.

There being no further business Arthur Nevers made a motion to adjourn at 8:37 p.m., which was seconded by Donald Eisel. Roll call: Nevers-yes, Hassen-yes, Eisel-yes. Motion approved.

Richfield Township Fiscal Officer

