Wayne's Flames

WAYNE TOWNSHIP

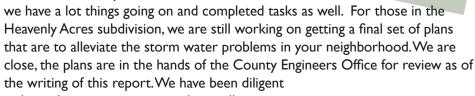
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BUTLER COUNTY OHIO



BY BILL JONES WAYNE TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE

The first full year of being a Wayne Township Trustee has now passed and 2018 was an adventurous year to say the least. Through the cohesiveness of Board of Trustees, the Fiscal Officer Laura Daley and the dedicated staff,



to keep this project moving and we will continue

to do so until the work is completed. Projected date of implementation, as long as everything goes well, should be late spring or early summer of 2019, we shall see.

Through the kindness of the voters of the Township, a fire levy was passed and we are very close to signing a deal to buy a long awaited new fire truck along with updated equipment for the department. It takes about a year from the time of ordering to delivery of a new fire truck so again, if everything goes well, we should see a new fire truck sometime around spring of 2020. Thanks to all who voted for the levy and I am sure you will see positive results and improved service to the people of our township along with greater safety to our emergency responders.

Road mowing in 2018 was not up to par and we have implemented a new program where, with some new equipment, we should be on top of it this year without hiring more staff. The last piece of old equipment has been readied for auction, the new equipment is in place along with adequate staff to keep the roads clean and clear with a little help from Mother Nature. Last year, according to Hook Field in Middletown, we had 41.03 inches of rain averaging 3.4 inches

Continued on page 2.

KEEP WAYNE TWP. BEAUTIFUL!

APRIL 27

JOIN US! A Community clean up where volunteers and township members come together for a common good on Earth Day.

Volunteers will be given routes to collect trash in the ditches along township roads.

Show your pride by working together to keep Wayne Township Beautiful!

8:30 a.m.

Registration at Wayne Township

Fire House

9 a.m. Welcome/Safety

9:30 a.m. Clean up/Groups to Routes

I2 p.m.Lunch provided at Firehourse

DIRECTORY

TOWNSHIP BUILDING

5967 Jacksonburg Road, Trenton, Ohio 45067

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website: www.waynetownship.net

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BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS

Carleen Yeager, Chairman 513.726.5153 Leon Simpson 513.425.9335 Brenda Duncan 513.726.4610 Michael Braun 513.726.4000 Tim Rork 513.726-5202



TRUSTEE MEETINGS

The Wayne Township Trustees regular meeting dates are the 3rd Monday of each month. All meetings are at 7 p.m. and are held at the Township Hall. Every meeting is open and all township residents are encouraged to attend.

Continued from cover page.

per month. April through October inclusive, we had 22.51 inches averaging 3.2 inches per month. In April we had 4.19 inches and in September, we had 6.14 inches so we had a pretty wet year and that does hamper our efforts to keep the roadways mowed.

The Board of Zoning Appeals gained two new faces this year, Gary Witt and Duane Hacker. Jeremy Fruth was moved from an alternate position to a regular seat on the board and Gary and Duane will serve as alternates. We put out a request for any interested party to submit resumes for any board positions and we will continue to review board positions as terms expire and who will be appointed. If anyone is interested, please contact any Trustee for more information.

Internet accessibility for township residents has been an issue that we are trying to improve. Surveys were done and it was determined that some had good service, some had mediocre service and some had none at all. The township is slowing getting more and better coverage by service providers but it will be a while before all have good access. The MidPointe Library in Trenton has 90 hot spot devices for use to library members. Currently, they are applying for a grant where they could possibly get 100 or so more devices. These are devices you can use to tie into cellular signals, create a Wi-Fi connection in your home and gain access to the internet through your computer. We had a couple of these units, gave them to people of the township for testing and found that they did work and worked better than the available service they have in their homes. This is a stop-gap measure for those with little to no service until a more permanent solution can be found. Hopefully this will help school kids with their homework which would require the use of the internet. If you want more information about these units or becoming a library member, call the Trenton Library at 513-988-9050.

We are and have been working on a State Law (ORC 519.21) dealing with wineries, agritourism, farm markets and biodeiseal production. This law has caused great debate throughout the state and currently there is a pending lawsuit involving the Township. The year deadline for this lawsuit is fast approaching so hopefully we will have a decision soon which will open the doors for discussion on this issue and possibly changes or additions to our Zoning Resolution. The Zoning Commission is currently in discussions on this issue.

I briefly want to thank those who really keep our township running; names you usually do not hear at our meetings. Daniel Hoit, Austin Young and John Cassidy are the three people who do all the work but get little recognition or credit. They are the ones who maintain our roads involving mowing, maintenance and snow removal. That is the bulk of their duties but there is so much more. They do a great job with the manpower and equipment at hand and I want to recognize them for their hard work and dedication. Through good fiscal practices, we were able to offer health insurance to these three individuals this year enhancing their personal lives and making better roads to retain good people reducing turn-over. Their work efforts made it possible for the Board of Trustees to come to this decision.

The Board of Trustees decided in our annual organizational meeting for 2019 to have two regular trustee meetings per month instead of just one. The main reason is, there is a lot to discuss, many things to get done and meeting only once a month delayed action and discussions on the issues at hand and also resulted in long meetings. For 2019, we meet the first and third Mondays of each month at 7:00 pm in the Township Hall. The only time this will differ is if any of those days fall on a holiday, usually we will meet the Tuesday after a Monday holiday. We invite and encourage all to come to be a part of what goes on in our township, the issues at hand and decisions made. We encourage participation from those who attend. If you are not able to attend, you can go to the Township Website and watch our meetings on Facebook Live. We want out meetings to be open and available to all as promised not only in campaign speeches but also from day one of our 2018 season with the Board of Trustees.

Again, I would like to thank those who had the confidence to vote me into this position. Campaign promises are being kept to open up the Board of Trustees to all, not just a select few. Decisions and discussions are in front of and open to all so there is true transparency of the workings of our Township. According to the late and great Vince Lombardi, "The achievements of an organization are the results of the combined effort of each individual." You are important to us, so is your input. Please come and be a part of our meetings, we would love to hear from you.

TRUSTEEVIEW

By Mike Truster, Trustee

Hello fellow Wayne Township residents. I hope this newsletter finds you doing well.

At our yearly organizational meeting, the Board of Trustees made some changes in the operation of our Township. We



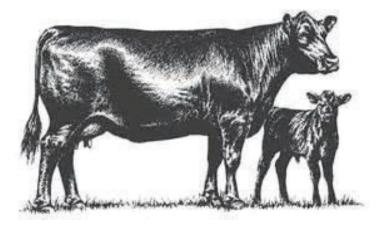
eliminated the position of Township Administrator, however Daniel Hoit is still employed full time at the Township as the Road Superintendent. Also, the Board of Trustees now meets biweekly rather than monthly. We continue to post ALL meetings "live" on Facebook so that ALL residents have opportunity to watch each meeting wherever they are, and so they may be kept up to date.

Meeting bi-weekly allows us to conduct business as a Board more easily, keeping us in line with the Ohio Sunshine Law (also known as the Open Meetings Act requiring all business to be conducted in an open meeting). We felt that meeting bi-weekly would also help to lessen the need of a Township Administrator, and keep our resources more gainfully utilized. Many larger townships have full time administrators, however most townships our size (population and employee wise) do not. The current Board of Trustees is more hands on in the daily business of the township than before, therefore we are able to take the responsibilities that were assigned to the administrator.

Continued on page 4.

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Mike Schenck

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Continued from page 3.

We continue to look into grants, and other programs as they are available to help with Township funding and projects; however most grants are geared toward 'extras', and not necessarily township basic needs such as mowing, paving, ditching, etc. As you may or may not know, grants not (typically) 'free' money. They often have a cost share of a percentage (usually 20-30%) and sometimes must be paid back all together over a predetermined time. While this can still be a good opportunity for a township, we as Trustees are primarily concerned with covering our basic duties first; roads maintenance, ditching, mowing, fire services and care of our cemeteries. We have limited funds to work with and must make sure we do not over encumber our budget with loans and fees that have to be paid back. For example, the Wayne Madison road project (this grant was procured and headed up by Madison Township) had total out of pocket cost of \$105,000.00 to Wayne township, that is being paid in payments of \$10,500.00 over 10 years. The storm water grant we received for Heavenly Acres just outside Jacksonburg has a cost share of 10%, we still are working to get the drawings finalized for this project so the County Engineers office can let it out to bid, and therefore are unsure of exactly what our cost share will be for this project. However the original total estimate for the project (made in 2015) was \$320,000.00. So with the increased costs of construction work, the Township is looking at least \$32,000.00 in matching that grant. Fortunately, money has been set aside to cover this cost, and we will likely be able to do some of the work in house, as an 'in kind' contribution. Grants are a great thing, and can be of help to the Township, but they are not free money typically, especially the larger ones.

We are working to make sure that the Heavenly Acres project is completed, and are hopeful to complete this project in 2019. The grant to help fund this project was awarded in 2015, and for one reason or another the project had stalled and was not moving forward. Over the last several months and several meetings we have gotten the wheels moving again, and as of our Board meeting 2/19, the plans are being reviewed by the County Engineers office for final approval. The County will then let this project out to bid, and we hope to see it completed this fall.

Another drainage project we are looking into is the ditch/ drainage issues no Cotton Run Rd. just north of State Route 744. This has been an issue for many years. Last spring, Daniel Hoit and I spent an afternoon walking the road during and after a heavy rain while the ditch was still full, noting where the water was flowing and not flowing. It appeared several driveway culverts are "high" in elevation and some points in the ditch are "high" in elevation. We also noted that the culvert under Cotton Run Rd at State Route 744 has a hole in it, is deteriorating. ODOT (Ohio Department of Transportation) has been contacted regarding this culvert, as it is along a State Route the culvert belongs to ODOT and is their responsibility. The culvert is scheduled (per ODOT) to be replaced in 2019. We are going to survey the ditch line with a transit this spring making note of direction of fall of elevation in the ditch, high spots and low spots in the ditch, and which driveway culverts

Continued on page 7.

ONTHEROAD

By Daniel Hoit, Title

Hello Wayne Township. As I sit writing this article we just came off of a snow and ice storm but we can't help but think about warmer weather being right around the corner. This winter has kept the Road Crew active with snow events that haven't been seen in a while for this area. Ranging from 9 inches of



snow in one day to a polar vortex keeping the wind chill in the negatives, your Wayne Township Road Crew has been dedicated to keeping the Township Roads safe. This winter, just like all the years in the past, Wayne Township joined with the Butler County Engineer's Office and other municipalities to create a large collaborative for salt contract, to get salt at a lower price. Through this collaboration, Cargil was awarded the Salt Contract at \$62.98 a ton. To Date, we have used 200 tons of salt. We appreciate all the compliments and kind words from residents, helps make the job even better!

But as we put the snow plows away, we vamp up for summer projects. Some larger projects that will be happening this year include new striping on Oxford- Middletown Road (Between Jacksonburg and St. Rt. 503) and paving on Tolbert Road (Between Cotton Run and St. Rt. 503). We will also be focusing on Crack Filling and Durapatching to keep all the other roads in top shape for our busy travelers.

Also with spring comes grass growing! Wayne Township just sold off our two 2005 Grasshopper Zero Turn mowers and purchased two 2018 Kubota Zero Turn mowers. These mowers will be used to mow all 4 cemeteries and 5 properties owned by the township. You will also see us along the Roads with the larger tractors mowing the ditches. Please give the tractor some room to work and be cautious when going around.

I look forward to seeing you at KEEP WAYNE TOWNSHIP BEAUTIFUL on April 27th. This is our annual litter pick up where we ask for community volunteers to come and help pick trash along the roads. We will be meeting at the Wayne Township Fire House at 8:30am and lunch will be provided after the event! Free of Charge, bring a friend and help make a difference in your community. This event can also be counted as a volunteer event for a club or organization.

Please remember to slow down when passing our crews while in a work zone. I hope everyone has a great Spring and an even better Summer! W



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