

**Lafayette Township Board of Trustees and
Lafayette Township Fire District Meeting
March 7, 2022**

Trustee Martin Warchola, called the meeting to order at 7:00pm

Roll call: Warchola, Fullerton, O'Neil, all in attendance; Laura Ruebensaal, Fiscal Officer-absent

Other township departments in attendance: Alliss Strogan, Zoning Inspector; Fire Chief Jerry Winkler; Rick Evans, Service Department; Bill Thorne, Legal Advisor; Scott Marcum, police department. Other county offices represented: Denise Testa from CPC; Nate Eppink from Medina County Park System.

Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Marty Warchola, Chair asked the board whether they had the opportunity to review & read the meeting minutes from the meeting of 2.21.22? Any comments? Any issues? Motion was made by Trustee Fullerton to accept the minutes; seconded by Trustee O'Neil. All in favor? Aye- Minutes have been approved.

- On the agenda you will see the "Consent Agenda", that is an error, we do not have a consent agenda today. Reports come on the third Monday of the month, not the first.
- Start out with any public participation.

Public Participation.

- **Chris Rogers, Lisa Knight speaking about flood issues on 7382 Lake St.**
 - We visited a few weeks ago about this issue, we are here again. The situation at Lisa's house; there have been two more floods since we were here last time. There is currently 3 plus feet of water; a minimum of 5 right now. Again, we are pleading for help. The township water comes on her property, doesn't leave fast enough, creates a lake that is destroying this house. Lisa brought a visual aid. She brought a jar of water she extracted from her furnace. (Lisa took jar out of her purse) This is what is in my house, in my back yard and in the pond across the street. Last year I had water tested that was in my basement; at a state lab and it did test positive for E. coli. I am sure there is still that in here.
 - **Marty:** Were we able to determine anything?
 - **Chris:** Rick & I went to the engineer's office, since the last meeting, and sat down with them. I don't know that we have a plan yet. We sat down with them, they provided us with these (maps); an overlay of all the lots. One with a current arial photo and one from about 20 years ago. Long story short; the Knight's house is east of a ravine, and it was an open ravine, and it drained, I think, all the way down to Chippewa Lake at one time. What they told us, at the next property over, adjacent property, they applied for a permit years ago to put a culvert in, and fill it. But they were only allowed to put so much soil on top of it; like 3-4 feet. I think the intent was to only put so much in, so that if it overflowed, it wouldn't back up to their property. Since then, I don't think there are any permits on record for it or anything. It appears that downstream from there; there has been a catch basin put in, and the natural ravine has been filled in over the last 20 years. And it is impeding flow.

- **Chris Rogers:** If I may make one comment too; at least one other permit was asked for and the engineering department rejected it with comments. The comments went ??, and the people downstream built it anyway. And it is all in those files. There are pictures, measurements, all this stuff, no one was ever held accountable.
- **(?):** They took the 24" pipe on the permit; dropped it to 12" and leaves the property at 8". There is no possible way for the water to get out of there fast enough.
- **Chris O'Neil:** If that is true, basically, (multiple people talking) Are you familiar with the pond at the top of Lake Street? That drains beneath Lake Street, into a tile that runs across their property down to the back where there is a catch basin. And then it goes to that ravine in the back yard.
- **Question:** does it just drain naturally?
- **Chris O'Neil:** As time goes on, it's only going to get worse. And it will wash out Lake St., cause damage to the street.
- **Marty:** okay. Are you continuing on with the county engineers? To see what else can be done?
- **Chris:** yes, we talked to them about some options.
- **Ty:** Is there a possible solution using just the Knight's property? Coming up to Chestnut, and making our own pipe? Can we re-direct, lower it to where it used to go?
- **Chris:** It might be possible.
- **Ty:** we would have to go from their backyard, where it abuts Chestnut, down towards where that catch basin is right now. Most of it, I believe, would be on right-of-way.
- **Rick:** It would be in the right-of-way
- **Ty:** until it hits private property on the end.
- **Rick:** The catch basin is right in the corner of Riedel's' and ? Dillard's'.
- **Ty:** at some point our work would have to go on private property if we were to go along Chestnut.
- **Marty:** okay, let's continue, get a plan formulated. We are going forward, doing something. I'm sure, not as quick as you would like to see it. Don't blame you.
- **Lisa:** I know, but I can't live in my house. At all.
- **Marty:** I understand. And as I said last meeting. I can't make any promises. We can at least try to exercise every possible option and see what we have available. Thank you.
- **Anyone else?**
- **Denise Testa & Nate Eppink:** Good evening, my name is Denise Testa, from Medina County Planning Services; and I am Nate Eppink, the Director of Medina County Park District.
 - **Denise:** we are here to provide an update on the Lafayette Township Euclid Drive to Lake Road Access. Essentially replacing the bridge. Nate is here from the MC park system.
 - **Nate:** As many of you know, the Medina County Park District bought the former amusement park in 2020. We are just about done with our master plan. We will be able to put that on-line in the near future. As part of that acquisition, we own part of Main Drive; and we've been working with the county. The county has been able to go after a federal grant, that will not only re-pave Main Drive, but will replace the bridge that goes to Euclid Ave. The county is coordinating that work and the Park District will benefit when we develop the former amusement park. *Nate- speaking to Denise:* If you want to talk about the main drive component; I can talk about some of the wetlands and the retention basins we are working on.

- **Denise:** Essentially the map that I've included shows exactly what our plans are. A couple years ago, Rob Penwood, applied for a Critical Infrastructure Grant. And we were very fortunate that Rob's application was strong enough. We received a grant to; #1: improve Main Drive, which is the drive that used to go into the amusement park, as a public street, which will be owned by the park district. This will be terminating into a cul-de-sac. We will demolish the existing bridge; install a culvert replacing the bridge; and then following that bridge installation; we will install a T-Turnaround connecting to Euclid Ave. Euclid Ave is considered a private drive. The reason we have to install a cul-de-sac first before we get to the bridge is because we are going from a public road to a private street. We know that the bridge is currently in very bad shape. Cunningham & Associates in Medina are working on the design for us right now; it is still in progress. Our plan is essentially to begin the process of sending it out to bid; and getting it done within the next year or so. We want to get it done as quickly as possible, but there are a lot of wetlands in that area. Making sure that we are following all policies and procedures as set by the county & the state; as well as the federal government. This handout(map) includes what our plans are right now. The red line is Main Drive, Euclid Ave, where the cul-de-sac is located; the culvert where the replacement and the T-turnaround. While construction is going on, you'll see a dotted line; that is a temporary access drive or proposed temporary access during construction only. We did install a temporary access drive for emergency vehicles only. One we begin construction, that temporary access drive will be improved, so that it can be used on a daily basis during construction only.
- **Nate:** the timeline for the Critical Infrastructure Grant, those funds must be used by March of next year. *Denise:* correct. *Nate:* there has been a lot of talk about this project over the last year. You will start to see action very soon. All the asphalt will need to be down by early November. On the map that you have, north of the red line, where you pull in off of Lake Rd., where the amusement parking lot used to be, those are hydrant soils, they want to be wet. Back in 2020, when we received an award for H2O Ohio Funding, 1.5 million dollars for wetland restoration, that is Mike DeWine's water quality initiative, we have 1.5 million dollars for three sites along Chippewa Lake. The old amusement park being one of them. On the heels of this construction, we are going to build what I call "The Front Door Wetland" here where the old parking lot used to be. Plan to be under construction on that late summer of this year. We'll take a look at proposals from the design build teams to put this together. We are using money from our H2O pool for this section to build that really impressive wetland, that will help to retain stormwater. We are not only creating wetlands for water quality and habitat, but also to slow down flow; wetlands can serve as retention basins that should help some of the flooding issues we experience in the community, it will not solve everything. The more things are developed, that water has to go somewhere, and it's all coming down here. Our work will help, but we can't solve all those issues.
- **Marty:** Thank you very much. Any questions?
- **Alliss:** I'm just curious. Are you putting in a culvert instead of a bridge?
- **Denise:** yes
- **Alliss:** how large of a culvert?
- **Denise:** we are still determining the dimensions of the culvert.
- **Alliss:** I was just curious, 10 feet or under it's a culvert; 10 feet or over it's a bridge.
- **Denise:** We debated about that. That is the plan, but we are still in the design phase. I'm not certain of the absolute dimensions.
- **Alliss:** do they have an estimate of what type of a cost that will be?

- **Denise:** We are working with Cunningham to not only design, but also to create an itemized list of costs so that we know. Since the grant was applied for in 2019, the prices were a lot different back then. We will have to take a look at the budget.
- **Nate:** the money that they received; we are trying to help them extend that as much as possible. Some of the surveying that was required, the Main Drive work, the park district paid for it, it benefits our wetlands project as well. That was money that did not have to come away from construction (grant) funds.
- **Denise:** we are hoping we have a little bit of wiggle room, thanks to Nate & his team.
- **Dianne Wenslow:** when is the anticipated date?
- **Denise:** to start? Completion is March of 2023. Bid in the spring, construction through the summer, rough estimate is 6-week timeline. That includes Main Drive as well as the culvert/bridge.
- **Nate:** that is for the road portion, the wetlands project will start later this summer.
- **Dianne Wenslow:** Are you going to leave the sign that is currently in the Boulevard?
- **Nate:** that is not in the plans, will not be included in the new Main Drive.
- **Ty:** Denise the bridge, will it be 2 cars wide?
- **Denise:** we went round about that as well; it may be a single lane.
- **Rick:** I don't think there was enough real estate back there.
- **Denise:** pretty tight squeeze for a double lane. I believe we decided it will be a single lane, one that is much improved over what is there now.
- **Marty:** will we be able to get the fire truck or EMS across it?
- **Denise:** I understand that the Amazon trucks are the only ones that venture out currently.
- **Marty:** They are very, very brave people.
- **Denise:** or they just don't know.
- **Tim Holzman:** what would be the weight limit?
- **Denise:** I don't know.
- **Tim:** We kind of need to know that.
- **Denise:** it is in the design phase.
- **Marty:** It's being designed with truck traffic in mind. It will be designed to with stand trucks, EMS, going across.
- **Denise:** It will be able to handle emergency vehicles.
- **Nate:** the benefit of that cul-de-sac, school buses can actually pull down there and turn around. Or any other buses. We have offered verbally to the county, some real estate potentially moving those mailboxes out from Lake Road and putting them closer to the cul-de-sac, closer to Big Injun, so folks don't have so far to go to get their mail.
- **Marty:** Thank you very much for coming. Anything else public side? No. Okay, our fiscal officer is not able to be here. Real quickly, Rick anything from the Service Department?
- **Rick Evans/Service Department:** No
- **Chief Winkler:**
 - Had some question about Fireworks legislation in the past. Bill Thorne provided some language for it. Gives the township the ability to limit when they can be set off, as well as ban them. The township does have the authority to restrict dates and times when they can be discharged. Feel it would be worth having a discussion about.
 - **Marty:** Thank you Chief.
 - **Tim:** Not advocating to opt out and have no fireworks, just want discussion
 - **Marty:** would there be any option to restrict based on weather conditions, such as a drought before the 4th per say.

- **Thorne:** Right now, it is wide open. The township can set up the parameters, we can create language for the township. Currently no restrictions at this point.
- **Chief Winkler:** We can put together some recommendations, safety issues.
- **Scott Marcum/Police:**
 - Tyler Howell is our newest officer; he just graduated the academy. Grew up in North Canton, did his undergrad at Malone College, and is ready to begin his field training on Wednesday.
 - Marty swore in Officer Tyler Howell.
- **Alliss Strogin/Zoning:**
 - Redwood is starting to lay concrete. Good thing we are getting the footers inspected. They poured two, one passed, the other did not. I will say they were very fast in correcting it. Very positive response. We will continue to go out and check.
 - Councilman Paul Rose and the new director of planning for the city, contacted myself & Paul Jeffers; the zoning inspector out of Montville, to meet with them last week. They were trying to address traffic problems in the city. All the residents that are building new homes in Lafayette Township and Montville, and the traffic has increased. If you widen 42, or any other roads, once you get to the city, it is an old, historic community and you only have a two-way road to funnel cars onto. The streets in the city are small, they are all residential. Not sure what the city can do to alleviate the traffic. Both myself & Mr. Jeffers mentioned, there are ways you can skirt out around the main streets, if you know them.
 - Golf Course Overlay update; we are close, closer than we have been. We are on the third read-through on the HOAs.
 - **Marty:** Have they finally agreed to the open space?
 - **Alliss:** we are very close to an agreement; I want to see it filed and recorded. I want to re-read it, make sure they filed what we agreed to.
 - **Marty:** Very good. Thank you.
- **Marty:** Any correspondence: No
- **Marty:** I did receive a phone call before the meeting. We will make a change on the website. The BZA president has asked to have his phone number to be removed from the website. Sherri will make the change.
- **Marty:** we are going to break for executive session pursuant to ORC 121.22 section G3. For Pending litigation. Time 7:34pm Roll Call vote: O'Neil, yes, Warchola yes, Fullerton, yes and we will be inviting Legal Bill Thorne. Executive session over at 7:46.
- **Old Business**
 - **Ty Fullerton** talked about the Stallard property that was offered to the Township to purchase for future expansion of the Waltz Cemetery. Decision was made not to purchase at this time. They appreciated that the Stallard's brought it to the township first. Marty commented that if they would like to consider donating it to the Township, they would get a tax deduction.
 - **Marty:** Discussion regarding ongoing IT issues for the fire station and the three companies that are providing quotes for future support issues; Warwick, KGJ and Astro.
 - Discussion regarding meeting with each company, checking into references, whether you will get a good picture from references since a company is not going to give you someone who had issues as a reference.
 - Discussion about ways to make this fiscally responsible; service and provider levels. Talked about not going with the lowest cost provider just to save money, but to get the best service needed to cover issues. Ongoing issues with the fax and the printer.

- Marty would like to include in any contract a 60 day opt out clause.
- Mike Savetski commented that the server is rapidly running out of storage space.
- Big concern is loss of data. Comment was made that there is currently no back up.
- Marty will check on that.
- Ty: My issue is the service is currently horrible.
- Discussion regarding add-on a la cart issues that may end up costing us more money vs. everyday service items.
- Brief discussion about who handles the digital sign in front of the Fire Station; they currently use Brilliant Sign Company who installed the sign.
- Question was asked, are we spending money we don't need to spend?
- Discussion regarding "roaming profiles" some companies do not like to work with that, but we need that.
- Comment that we have a quarter of a million dollars in this building and we need to support it with a good contract. We don't want to stay with who we are with. We are hoping for a one stop contract.
- Discussion about what if we pay for individual service calls and only contract for maintenance/back up. Will that put us on the bottom of the list while the company handles their contracted companies first?
- Question was asked if we do only service calls, when the machines need replaced will the trustees purchase new copiers? Yes, they would.
- Comment that we should check out the references.
- Discussion about ticket system, and that there are currently some outstanding tickets that have not been addressed for over six months.
- Ty Fullerton made a motion to continue talking with KGJ; seconded by Chris. All in Favor?
- Ty-aye; Chris-aye; Marty; abstained.
- **Marty:** any additional Old Business?
 - **Chris:** sat through a website presentation about I-panda, about handling our website.
 - **Marty:** Based on what Sherri can do, don't think we need to go in that direction
 - **Chris:** I will contact them & let them know.
- **Marty:** Anything else under old Business: No
- **New Business:**
 - **Marty:** Our police levy expires the end of this year, if we lose it, we revert back to standard Medina County Sheriff Coverage. I will be meeting with Sheriff Grice and bring some information back to the township.
 - **Marty:** Discussion regarding putting the meeting video on the Township website. Is that something we want to do? Brief discussion regarding this. Yes, it is something we would like to do. Steve Kile was asked whether he would provide the video, and yes, he agreed to. Marty will have Sherri contact him to set up the specifics.
 - **Marty:** Discussion regarding the Lafayette Township Annual Clean Up Day. Last couple of years we switched to vouchers, do we want to keep that or arrange a specific day? Whatever we decide it won't make everyone happy.
 - **Chris:** is there a difference in cost? Comment, it is more bookkeeping to use the vouchers.
 - **Alliss:** In Medina Township they have it at the service garage, have 5 containers and a shred truck. She will share the information with the trustees.
 - Back and forth discussion regarding which way to go. Decision was made to talk to the Medina County Recycling Center which is under new management for additional information.

- o **Marty:** Anything else?
- o **Ty:** Can Sherri put something informational about Waltz Cemetery on the website?
Other trustees are fine with that.

- Marty entertains a motion to adjourn. Chris made the motion, seconded by Ty to adjourn the meeting. All those in favor – Aye. All those opposed-none. Meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm

- Approved:

Martin Warchola, Chair  3/21/22

Ty Fullerton, Vice Chair  3-21-22

Chris O'Neil, Trustee 

Laura Ruebensaal LRuebensaal