

BAZETTA TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Date: January 12, 2010 at 6:00pm
Bazetta Township Administration Building
3372 State Route 5 NE
Cortland, Ohio 44410

Meeting called to order at 6:00pm.

Present:

Presiding Trustee Paul Hovis
Trustee Frank Parke
Trustee Don Urchek
Fiscal Officer Rita K. Drew

- Trustee Hovis introduced himself, thanked everyone for applying for the board and stated the following
 - More people are interested and they will be filling the remaining seats soon
 - Would like Parks Board to meet with Trustees to discuss what each would like to do with the park
 - Once the Parks Board is full, he would like them to meet and select officers
 - Chairperson will serve as the contact for all events in the park
 - Administrative Secretary Metheny will keep the master schedule of events

- Trustee Parke said there is an Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) grant coming up soon
 - He believed it is due in March
 - He said the Parks Board could use Trumbull County Engineers to work on any proposed project
 - Trustee Urchek said this could be used for a parking lot in the pavilion area
 - Trustee Hovis would like to find out what the grant is for and discuss with Roads Superintendent Parke to see what needs to be done
 - Trustee Parke stated that a grant was previously worked on, but was never submitted

- Trustee Parke said the Parks Board might be able to do some fund raising activities to pay for improvements to the park
 - Trustee Hovis has spoken with Atty. Finamore about this and was told that the township can charge for usage of the park structures
 - Beth Barnes said that a big concern has always been how to police the park
 - People will pay for usage of the park, but who will oversee events
 - Trustee Parke said the township can only charge for the big pavilion and the gazebo
 - Trustee Hovis said that the Trustees can talk to Chief Miller and see if they can patrol more frequently when there is a function in the park
 - Beth Barnes believed the township should give a price break to residents since our tax payers already support the park
 - Bonnie Williams said that she has some fund raising ideas and grant writing experience
 - Would like to find out what our the legalities are

- Trustee Urchek would like to see more decorations for different holidays in the park
 - Would also like to get the park used more often and looking nicer

- Bonnie Williams asked if there was only that one park area
 - Trustee Parke said all other areas are state property, not Bazetta property

- Trustee Hovis stated that members of the Parks Board are more than welcome to attend Regular Trustee Meetings to discuss park issues

- Martha Urchek asked if anything is on the schedule besides baseball
 - Trustee Parke stated there is usually an Easter egg activity, but no date has been set yet
 - Trustee Parke would like to see the July 4th picnic back on the schedule
 - Trustee Hovis discussed the possibility of doing a car show over there
 - This idea had been worked on last year
 - Need to find something that will bring more people into the township
 - Trustee Parke said our park would be a great place to have something like “Bazetta Days”
 - Trustee Hovis asked the board to get together and come up with some prioritized ideas

- Martha Urchek asked why there is no compensation for the Parks Board
 - Trustee Hovis said he did not know
 - Trustee Parke noted that Cortland’s board does not get compensated either
 - Trustee Hovis said there is nothing that says this policy cannot change
 - Trustee Urchek asked if this compensation would be given to just board members
 - Martha Urchek said it should only go to board members, as is the case with the zoning board

- Beth Barnes asked if the Parks Board was advertised
 - Trustee Hovis said that it was advertised for 10 days at the end of December

- Bonnie Williams asked about legal ramifications to being on a volunteer board
 - Trustee Hovis said he would discuss this with Atty. Finamore

- Martha Urchek asked what money they were allowed to spend
 - Trustee Hovis said what was currently in appropriations is what was available to the board
 - Trustee Hovis said he is willing to take money out of the General Fund if it is needed

- Trustee Hovis said the key is communication
 - Trustees have been improving communication with other departments and want to do the same here
 - Trustee Urchek stated that he knew that people put in a lot of unnoticed time to get things done

- Beth Barnes asked if it was up to them to decide when their meetings would be
 - Trustees Hovis and Urchek both said it was up to them so long as they stayed in constant communication with the Trustees

- Beth Barnes said she thought the transition could have been handled better
 - People who were on the old Parks Board were not informed that they were not on the new Parks Board
 - Trustees should at least thank the old Parks Board members
 - Trustee Hovis said they would be willing to do this if they knew who the previous Parks Board members were
 - Trustee Urchek said the new Trustees should work with the Parks Board better than the previous board

- Bonnie Williams asked about Parks Board terms
 - Trustee Hovis said Atty. Finamore is supposed to be getting back to him with how the terms should be staggered
 - Trustee Urchek said there should be no waiting period from one term to the next

- Martha Urchek asked if the Parks Board would be opened to more members
 - Trustee Hovis said he has applications from two more people who are interested
 - Trustee Urchek said membership should be offered to the previous Parks Board members

- Trustee Hovis said the board could be expanded from 7 to 9 members
- Trustee Parke said it could even go to 11 or 13 if there is enough interest
- Bonnie Williams said she would like to find ways to get students and children more involved
 - Trustee Urchek said the township could invite the schools if they are interested
 - Trustee Hovis thinks the township can get lots of different groups to come out and get involved with projects
- Beth Barnes expressed concern about activities in the state portion of the park and behind Imagination Station
 - Trustee Urchek said he would be willing to talk to the Police Department to see what could be done to address this situation
- Michael Swiatkwich addressed everyone about the Bikeway Project and Lake to River Greenway
 - Congratulated new trustees and Parks Board members
 - Discussed the details of the Proposed Mosquito Lake Bikeway
 - Noted several letters of support from county agencies and local communities
 - Stated that he is working on community outreach programs to try and gain more support for the project
 - Noted that the project now has a 501(c)3 status
 - Stated that the project is about improving the community and providing sustainable economic development
 - Discussed how bike paths and walkways are green development
 - Discussed possibilities of showcasing the work done in the wildlife refuge
 - Noted that project would promote small businesses that would service the bike path
 - Discussed historical aspects of the area
- Art Kreller asked if documents regarding the Bikeway Project would be on the township website
 - Mr. Swiatkwich said he would discuss that with the Trustees
- Beth Barnes asked if the Bikeway Project would be a walking trail also
 - Mr. Swiatkwich said that it would
- Art Kreller asked if this had anything to do with the proposed lodge
 - Mr. Swiatkwich said the state decided we were not “lodge material” because lodges at Punderson and Geneva were too close

A motion was made by Trustee Parke and seconded by Trustee Urchek to pass Board Resolution **020-10** to adjourn the meeting at 6:50pm.

Vote:

Paul Hovis	Yes
Frank Parke	Yes
Don Urchek	Yes

_____ Dated: _____
 Attested by: Fiscal Officer Rita K. Drew

_____ Dated: _____
 Approved by: Chairman Trustee Paul Hovis