

OXFORD TOWNSHIP

MESSENGER

419-359-1735

Fall 2018

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FROM THE TRUSTEES

Fire Service:

We are pleased to announce we have one more Oxford Township resident as a Groton Township Fire Department firefighter. Charles (Chas) Rodgers recently joined and will respond to Groton Township Fire Department Station 2 at Oxford Township whenever there is a fire call. He joins Justin Galloway, Chris Acierto, and Bob Holm when responding from Oxford. Mike Jachym, who was an Oxford firefighter for Groton has taken a full-time firefighter position with the Huron Fire Department. We thank Mike for his service to Groton and Oxford Townships and wish him well. **Chief Jett is still looking for volunteers. If you are interested and would like to stop in at a training session at the Groton Township Fire Department on Portland Rd. (2nd, 3rd, and 4th Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.), you are more than welcome to do so.**

Zoning:

A reminder to everyone, and especially those who have recently purchased property in the township, Oxford Township has zoning regulations. Phil David, Zoning Inspector has reported and dealt with numerous zoning violations this year related to failure to obtain a permit for buildings, fences or pools, also for failure to maintain property, noxious weeds, uncut grass, and junk cars. Zoning is meant for the protection of everyone's property value. When in doubt or if you have questions please call Phil or leave a message at 419-359-1735.

Storage Building and Lot Sale:

Trustees have a rough plan for a storage building on the Kimball property that is needed for equipment and material moved to make room for the fire equipment. We have reviewed various types of construction with builders, as well as Dan Frederick, Daniel Frederick Architects LLC and Milan Township Trustees. Our goal is to build a practical building that will serve well into the future and that can be possibly converted for other purposes. Funds available will play a major role in the decision. Phil David, Fiscal Officer is researching the funding issue. Trustees sold a small portion (about .45 acres) of the property on the northwest corner of the 3+ acres in Kimball to an adjacent property owner. The sale recovered the Township's cost for all of the original 3+ acres.

From Sheriff Sigsworth:

Please lock up your buildings, autos, and equipment. There were 4 reported thefts in Oxford Township in September. Report any suspicious activity to the Sheriff's Office.

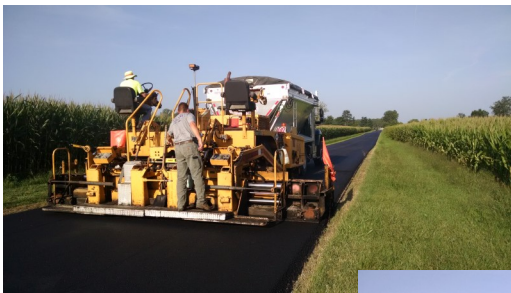
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FROM THE TRUSTEES CONT.

Roadwork:

Our Road Superintendent, David Kelly, with Groton personnel Kerry Jett and Ernie Woolery, and Margaretta personnel Jim Neill, Matt and Harvey Studer, completed paving of Scheid and Wood Roads. Perkins Township assisted with Scheid Road paving project by purchasing the asphalt for the project which was roughly half the total expense. Scheid Road had never been paved, it was only chip sealed over stone and was worn to the point it was down to the stone base in spots.

In discussion for winter preparation, David Kelley informed us that salt prices are up to approximately \$75 per ton, over double of last year's price. The township salt shed is currently full and hopefully, no salt will need to be purchased until 2019.



Recycling:

The Trustees voted to have the recycling bin removed from Mason Rd. across from the Mason Jar. We were informed by the County that the recycler no longer opened recycle bags to segregate the material and that bags of recycle material were being sent to the landfill instead. Also, many materials other than recyclables were being left at the bin and there was a problem with deposits being placed outside of the bin and blowing into neighboring properties. These facts led us to vote to have the bin removed. We also found out late that the waste hauler for the County is no longer finding it as profitable (due to a strong economy) to take in recyclables and may want to charge the County.

NEXUS Gas Line:

The NEXUS project contractor has completed a major portion of the work, with the gas line installed and tested, however there is much work to do to return the topsoil over the right-of-way. NEXUS personnel reached out to the Trustees in an attempt to complete a final inspection of the township roads in accordance with the Road Use Maintenance Agreement (RUMA) signed with the Erie County Engineer. The Trustees advised NEXUS that the sign off will be with the County Engineer. We are in agreement with Tim Lloyd, Deputy County Engineer that final inspection will not be done until next year after all work is complete and all damage can be properly assessed and accounted for. At this point some minor damage is observable on Thomas and Harris Roads.

FROM THE TRUSTEES CONT.

APEX Wind Turbines, Emerson Creek Wind Project:

A representative of APEX Clean Energy came to the Trustee Meeting October 4th and advised Trustees of the following in the first two paragraphs below:

The Emerson Creek Wind Project is in final stages of the permitting process and preparing a permit for review and approval by the Ohio Power Siting Board. Plans are for ten 4.2 Megawatt electric (MWe) wind turbines to be placed in Oxford Township for a total of 42 MWe, all south of the turnpike and fourteen 4.2 MWe turbines in Groton Township. Each Turbine stands from ground level approximately 308 ft. tall to the generator and about 450 to 500 ft. tall to the tip of the blade (depending on type of blade installed). Power lines are mostly underground. Construction is expected to begin in 2020. He also advised us of 1000-1500 acres in Groton Township that APEX has also signed a lease for proposed installation of a solar farm.

The representative also discussed a proposed PILOT (Payment In Lieu Of Taxes) agreement with Trustees. The PILOT would annually pay for 30 years approximately \$9,000 per MWe with typically \$1,000 to the county, \$2,000 to the township and \$6,000 to the school district. The agreement would also include Fire and EMS training, funds for additional Fire and EMS equipment, a RUMA with the County Engineer and a local college energy education program for students to enter the energy industry. The PILOT should be beneficial to the schools as the funds are considered extra income, not taxes and the state will not withdraw funding from the school as they would with taxes. If a PILOT is not accepted, the project will be taxed, there will be no funds for college education, Fire, EMS etc. as in the PILOT agreement.

The representatives left and the Trustees discussed the following:

It is worthy of note for comparison that the Davis-Besse Cooling tower, that most of us are familiar with as a landmark, is 492 ft. tall. Ten 500 ft. tall turbines installed in Oxford Township south of the Turnpike would be a high density installation. Township Zoning requirements are superseded by State Law and the Ohio Power Siting Board has jurisdiction for permitting. The Ohio State setback requirements from adjoining property may be inadequate and adversely impact adjoining property owners and property values. All township property values could be adversely impacted. Development of property will be limited by installation of wind turbines. Some leases for the wind farm were signed many years ago and have been passed on to successive landowners. Trustees will need to consult with other county and township officials before deciding on whether to sign any agreement to insure we get the best deal for the Township, County and School Districts.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

The remaining Public Health Outreach Clinics for this year in Oxford Township are November 20, and December 11 from 9-11 am. Services include: child, adolescent, and adult vaccines, blood pressure screening, lead testing, individual health assessment which includes lipid profile, blood glucose, hemoglobin A1C, and Health Risk Assessment. **Note fasting 9-12 hours before testing is required for individual health assessment, picture ID required, ID of Parent or Guardian, Immunization Records Required for Children.** We provide referral source services, Community Outreach and Health Lifestyle Education. A sliding fee scale will be applied as appropriate. Medicaid, Medicare, other insurances and cash are accepted.

OXFORD TOWNSHIP

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www.OxfordTownshipOhio.com

PUBLIC WELCOME!

The Trustees meet the
1st and 3rd Thursday of
each month at 7 pm at
the Oxford Township
Complex.

Zoning Office hours
currently are every
Tuesday,
7 pm to 8 pm.



**SAUSAGE
& PANCAKE
BREAKFAST**

to Benefit the Groton Township Fire Dept.

**Sunday, November 4th
7:30 am - 12:30 pm**

Come and eat!

**Pancakes, Sausage, Scrambled
Eggs, Hash Browns and Beverage**

**Groton Township Hall
9414 Portland Road, Castalia**

Donation:

**Adults: \$8; Children 12 & under: \$5
3 yrs and under: Free**

*(The Groton Township Fire Department is
the responding fire department for
Oxford Township!)*