

OXFORD TOWNSHIP MESSENGER

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Fall 2021

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TRUSTEES

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FROM THE TRUSTEES

Second Stimulus, American Rescue Plan (ARP) Federal Funds:

A second stimulus from the Federal Government was made available to local governments this fall. Initially only 3 of 1308 townships were considered eligible for ARP funds. 1305 townships were considered "non-entitlement units" by the U.S. Treasury Department. However, after input from Ohio legislators and a few other states with similar township rule, the Treasury Department allowed distribution of funding through the states. Applications were initially required to be submitted by September 4, then extended to September 24. Trustees initially approved submission of an application for funds. Oxford Township was eligible under the rules for approximately \$63,000 in each of two payments, one initially and another in two years. The Township had to prove a loss of revenue (we had none), a depressed income area due to Covid (the township didn't meet the criteria as set forth), a need and ability to improve infrastructure for clean water & sewer, or broadband (we don't operate a sewer or water department or contract broadband). After close review we determined it would be difficult to qualify. In addition, after receiving the application, the state sent us two federal documents to sign, one for terms and conditions, and one for assurances. These amounted to detailed commitments to the federal government which require extensive and costly legal support that would be required to come out of township general funds to ensure compliance. The president of the board contacted township legal counsel. After discussion, it was determined that the "cost was not worth the reward" and that the probability of audit may be low, but the risk of findings (and indebtedness to the federal government) without legal support would be high. As a result of finding compliance with the commitments costly, and the questionable legal eligibility for funding, the Township's application for ARP funding was withdrawn.

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**Election Day
November 2, 2021
at Oxford Twp Hall
6:30a.m - 7:30p.m.**

FROM THE TRUSTEES CONT.

Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) One-Time Township Stimulus:

ODOT is providing townships an opportunity to apply for a grant from their One-Time Township Stimulus Program. The total amount of program funding available statewide is \$8 million. Funding limits per project are set at \$250,000 and ODOT will provide 100% of eligible costs for all project phases. Since Taylor Rd. is currently at the top of our list for repairs under our 20 year road maintenance plan, we are in the processing of preparing a grant application to replace 2 small culverts and one larger culvert as well as re-paving the road from Scheid to Mason Rd. The Erie County Engineer, Ken Farschman and his staff members Tim Lloyd and Ken Fortney are assisting with a letter of support and cost estimates. Additionally, ODOT has reviewed and rated the condition of culverts for the project as poor and Erie Regional Planning Commission and the Erie County Highway Department conducted a traffic study for documentation in the package. We think we have a fair chance at receiving funding and there are “no strings attached”. The application is due by November 19, 2021 and if the grant is received, construction would start next spring or early summer.

Road Superintendent:

The last 1200 feet of Thomas Road asphalt overlay was completed up to State Route 113. Lighting on the inside and outside of the new storage building is completed as well as overhead door motor operator installation. Trustees installed a new sign on the township building that was made by Tim Didion and Matt Crum from a design submitted by trustees.



Park:

The ballpark dugouts are installed thanks to a generous \$3,500 grant from Erie Metroparks that covered half the cost. The picnic shelter and park have been booked throughout the season and the ballpark was well used, when not too wet!



FROM THE TRUSTEES CONT.

Fire and Emergency Services:

To date, your Fire Department has been busy with over 150 calls within Groton and Oxford Townships for fires, accidents/crashes, mutual aid and EMS related calls. I would like to let you know that we have 6 Firefighters on the roster who have completed an 80-hour EMR (Emergency Medical Responder) class and one Firefighter, who is also my Lieutenant, is stationed at Oxford Twp. We also added some equipment to our EMS. Both Groton and Oxford Township Trustees received COVID-19 grant funds that allowed us to purchase two "Lucas 3" CPR Continuous Chest Compression Units which will provide chest compressions to a victim non-stop. We were also able to attain an updated AED Monitor to assist with medical responses within our service area as needed. We sincerely thank the Trustees for this equipment and deeply appreciate their support, along with the residents. I am still looking for Firefighters for the Oxford Twp Station. If you would like to serve your community and neighbors, PLEASE give me a call or meet with us on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. of each month at the Groton Twp. Station – 9414 Portland Road. I can cover the requirements to be a Volunteer Firefighter. Thank You, Kerry D. Jett, Fire Chief – GTFD

Open House Groton Fire Station #2 at Oxford Township

The open house at the station on Ransom Rd was held August 21st and was well attended. Fire department personnel grilled hot dogs and refreshments were provided. Firemen also demonstrated the new Lucas 3 Chest Compression Unit and AED monitor. Carbon monoxide and smoke detector units were given out by request and a few are still available by contacting David Kelley.



Zoning:

The Zoning Appeals board is short two alternate members. Zoning Appeals Board members typically meet within 30 days of an appeal by a property owner and meetings are usually about an hour in length. Phil David, as Zoning Inspector acts as advisor to the Board. Members are paid for each meeting they attend. This is a great opportunity to assist our community in development standards. Any resident interested in becoming a member of the Zoning Appeals Board should contact one of the Trustees or Phil David.

OXFORD TOWNSHIP

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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.

COMING SOON TO GROTON TWP FIRE DEPT

Halloween Happenings

(limited)

Saturday, October 30, 2021

6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. with Trick or treat starting at 7:00 p.m.

NO Hay Rides

****Mask Recommended Please****



Pancake Breakfast

Groton Township Fire Department Auxiliary

Sunday, November 7, 2021
7:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Carry-Out Available

Seating Limited to 6 (six) per Table

****Mask Recommended When Not Eating****

