

Record of Proceedings: June 26, 2012
West Chester Township Board of Trustees - Regular Meeting

Convene: President Stoker convened the meeting at 6:00 p.m..

Roll Call: Mrs. Stoker, Mr. Wong and Mr. Lang responded.

Pledge of Allegiance: Repeated by those present.

Citizen's Comments

Kim Angelo, 6053 Eaglet Drive, expressed her opposition to the installation of a crosswalk on Eagleridge at Eaglet Drive. She has never had a problem nor has she read or heard of any accidents. If the corner is dangerous, she asks that flashing lights and a stop sign be installed. Denny Brown, 6028 Eaglet, expressed his support for the installation of a crosswalk on Eagleridge at Eaglet Drive. Mr. Brown has been a resident since 1990 and feels we need to solve the traffic problem on Eagleridge.

Victor Akinbobola, 6080 Eaglet Drive, expressed his support for the installation of a crosswalk on Eagleridge at Eaglet Drive. Mr. Akinbobola's mode of exercise is walking and he has seen many near misses in past 7 ½ years. He is glad West Chester did not wait for an accident to happen before doing something about the intersection.

Ashley Valentine, 6018 Eaglet Drive, expressed his support for the installation of a crosswalk on Eagleridge at Eaglet Drive. He believes the crosswalk is a safety project that benefits Eaglet's community of over 180 people, many of whom now use the crosswalk. He finds that cars now slow down for the crosswalk. Mr. Valentine is an engineer and guarantees that a engineering study of the crosswalk would have cost at least as much as the actual cost of the crosswalk. He thinks this crosswalk is money well spent to enhance the safety of our community.

Ashley Shircliff, 5997 Eaglet Drive, expressed her support for the installation of a crosswalk on Eagleridge at Eaglet Drive. She walks with her new baby son and two large labs, and appreciates that the sidewalk has been extended. She doesn't have to cut through people's yards or walk longer in the street with them; so she feels much safer. She likes the fact that drivers are slowing down. She believes her son will be safer when he is older and riding a bike.

Presentations

There were no presentations.

Action Items – For Approval by Motion

There were no minutes for approval.

MOTION to approve payment of bills: Mr. Lang motioned approval, seconded by Mr. Wong. There was no discussion. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Requisitions – Greater than \$2,500.00

Mrs. Boyko submitted the following requisitions greater than \$2,500:

1. Adm \$6,774.89 Sayers Company – Renew annual license and support agreement and purchase ten (10) additional licenses for Net Motion wireless application

2. Fire \$4,500.00 Warren Fire Equipment, Inc. – Perform annual bench testing of Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) and masks
3. Fire \$5,879.75 Camp Safety Equipment Company – To replace 11 VHF mobile radios in our fire apparatus to meet federal requirements to covert VHF radio frequencies to narrow band before January 2013. Three of our existing VHF mobile radios can be reprogrammed but 11 need to be replaced.
4. Fire \$2,970.01 Buckeye Power Sales Company, Inc. – Repair Fire Station 74 emergency power generator

MOTION for approval of requisitions: Mr. Wong moved to approve Items 1 through 4, and Mr. Lang seconded. During discussion, Mrs. Stoker mentioned that Item 3 had the same description in the agenda as Item 2. Mr. Wong withdrew his original motion, and Mr. Lang moved to approve Items 1 through 4 as read into the record by Mrs. Boyko, and Mr. Wong seconded the new motion. There was no further discussion.

[Fiscal Officer Note: Item 3 above was corrected per the motion made to reflect Mrs. Boyko's description.]

Motion carried unanimously.

Personnel Items

MOTION made by Mr. Wong to hire six (6) part-time employees to fill vacant positions: FF(Fire Fighter)II/EMT James Riddell, FFII/EMT Andrew Wickerham, FFII/EMT Kyle Ramsey, FFII/EMT Andrew Ahlert, FFII/Paramedic Matthew Shelton, and FFII/EMT Jason Brandt effective July 2, 2012, all at the hourly rate of \$15.30, with a one year probationary period and contingent upon successful completion of applicable testing and procedures. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lang. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Business Items

MOTION to set date for work session to discuss fire service to the northwest area of the Township for July 24, 2012, 5:15 p.m. was made by Mr. Wong, seconded by Mr. Lang. There was no Trustee discussion. **Motion carried unanimously.**

MOTION to declare six (6) properties as public nuisances: Mr. Lang motioned, having reviewed the staff report and affidavit, to declare the properties listed on the West Chester Township Board of Trustees meeting agenda dated June 26, 2012 to be a public nuisance as authorized by the Ohio Revised Code:

- 7761 Noel Court – High grass, weeds, and miscellaneous debris
- 6934 Gregory Creek Lane – High grass, weeds, and miscellaneous debris
- 7923 Merryman Way – High grass, weeds, and miscellaneous debris
- 8037 Pleasure Drive – High grass, weeds, and miscellaneous debris
- Parcel #M5620-080-000-013 (Fields Ertel Road) – High grass, weeds, and miscellaneous debris
- Parcel #M5620-080-000-012 (Columbus-Cincinnati Road) – High grass, weeds, and miscellaneous debris.

Staff is directed to cause removal of the nuisances identified, and monitor these properties for 90 days to require continued compliance. An administrative charge of 25% shall be added to the contractor fee for these properties. Mr. Wong seconded the motion. There was no discussion.

Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION not to object to new liquor permit for Lorven Wings LLC, DBA Frickers, 7844 Kingland Drive, was made by Mr. Lang, seconded by Mr. Wong. There was no discussion.

Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION not to object to a liquor permit transfer from Village Tavern Inc. DBA Cavanaugh's Irish Pub to Jai Laxmi Enterprises LLC DBA The Spot Irish Pub, 7340 Kingsgate Way, was made by Mr. Lang, seconded by Mr. Wong. Mrs. Boyko explained that, though the Board voted to not object to a liquor permit transfer to Jai Laxmi Enterprises LLC, DBA The Spot Irish Pub, at the April 24th Board meeting, a new officer has since been added to the corporation and the Ohio Dept. of Commerce, Division of Liquor Control has asked that the license be transferred again to include the new officer. There was no discussion. **Motion carried unanimously.**

First Reading of Resolutions & Reading of Emergency Resolutions

There were no first readings of resolutions or readings of emergency resolutions.

Citizen's Comments

Mr. Carl Rullmann, 8285 Ventle Dr., (1) advised the Board to stick to its agenda, citing the previous meeting's Citizen's Comments as an example, (2) asked the Board members what have they done in the last 2 weeks to protect, preserve, and defend the Constitution, and (3) acknowledged that Executive Sessions is for discussion of confidential topics, but the Ohio Revised Code nevertheless requires the Fiscal Officer to keep a record of the regular meeting, and he questioned whether the Executive Sessions fulfill the requirement that the topics be confidential matters. He concluded by asking the Trustees, why is the Fiscal Officer excluded from Executive Sessions, at what meeting of the trustees was this change of policy voted upon, and if no vote was taken, what is their authority to make such a change?

Tom Diamantes 6005 Eaglet Dr., spoke in favor of the crosswalk. . He stated the crosswalk is the best thing that has happened to him in a long time. He uses it every day and loves it.

Jill Diamantes, 6005 Eaglet Dr., spoke in support of the crosswalk. Mrs. Diamantes expressed her thanks for the sidewalk because she can now cross the street sidewalk to sidewalk without having to cut diagonally across the street to avoid wet or muddy grass. She also observed the crosswalk and signage alert drivers to slow down. She concluded the crosswalk greatly improved the quality of her daily walks.

Pavel Shalakov, 8832 Timberchase Ct., expressed his support for the crosswalk. He expressed his pleasure at moving to Ohio and Beckett Ridge, but felt the absence of the crosswalk. He runs 30 miles per week and finds the crosswalk helps the traffic slow down so crossing is less difficult. His family uses the sidewalk almost daily and he feels safer now. "Anything to keep kids from dying." The crosswalk helps the entire community.

Vinod Rawal, 6019 Eaglet Dr., expressed his support for the crosswalk. He feels it's one of the best things to happen in the last 20 years. He also asked for signage and was told it was already up.

Bharati Rawal, 6019 Eaglet Dr., spoke in favor of the crosswalk. Mrs. Rawal appreciates the crosswalk greatly because she has walked there almost daily for 22 years.

Mark Haverkos, 7356 Wethersfield Dr., asked the Trustees what's required to get repairs to streets in his area when he's been told in the past there isn't money in the budget.

Kala Smith, 6008 Eaglet Dr., spoke in support of the crosswalk. Mrs. Smith is a stay at home mom with a toddler, who walks for fitness and used to walk daily to the school. Before the sidewalk she had to walk through someone's yard which was very awkward. She has almost been hit several times. She was elated when she learned the side walk was coming. It helps her and her son walk every day. "It's like a life jacket when you are swimming. . . . It's that extra measure of safety."

Sabrina Cramer, 8808 Timberchase Ct., spoke in support of the crosswalk. Miss Cramer spent three years walking to and from Lakota West every school day. She stated that it's extremely dangerous in the dark or during inclement weather. Because of the crosswalk she feels her little brother and sister will be able to walk to school without worrying so much about being hit.

Tony Klimek, 5970 Eaglet Dr., spoke in support of the crosswalk. Mr. Klimek thinks it is making our community safer. Instead of the sidewalk ending abruptly, the crosswalk provides a complete pathway for pedestrians. His son had to stop walking to school because of the danger. Mr. Klimek told the trustees that this was their job—public safety. "This is what local government is all about; serving the people. Thanks again Trustees Wong and Stoker."

In Cho, 5981 Eaglet Dr., expressed his appreciation for the crosswalk. Mr. Cho said he was so excited about the crosswalk that he wanted to bow to everyone. Mr. Cho then gave a very deep bow to both the trustees and the audience before again thanking the trustees.

Fahad Ali Mir, 8800 Eagle Creek Ct., spoke in support of the crosswalk. Mr. Mir said the crosswalk was badly needed. He works very long hours so he does his walking at night. He found walking on someone's front yard is uncomfortable and walking on the road is scary. The crosswalk helps him feel safe while walking at night.

Debbie Steel, 6018 Eaglet Dr., spoke in support of the crosswalk. Mrs. Steele is happy for the crosswalk and for her friend Cho. She supports the idea of a sign saying "Blind Person Crossing" to alert drivers. She and her children use the crosswalk two or three times a week.

She also read many letters/emails in support of the crosswalk from the following:

Bob Shelton & Dena Howell, 6052 Eaglet Dr. who use the crosswalk at least twice daily and feel it makes it safer to cross. They've seen others using it also.

Lisa Dozier and Jeff Fales, 8820 Eagle Creek Ct. use the crosswalk two to three times per week and report that motorists seem to be more alert to pedestrians crossing the road.

Bonnie Simpson, 8792 Eagle Creek Ct. feels that crosswalks are good things, and if just one life is saved because a driver had to slow down or stop, how many dollars would that be worth?

Gene and Donna Kennedy, 8810 Eagle Creek Ct. stated the crosswalk was long overdue. They both use the crosswalk and have seen students having trouble crossing Eagleridge before the crosswalk was constructed.

Sharon Palm, 6075 Eaglet Dr. reported that they came to a Beckett Ridge board meeting to see if everyone supported it. Everyone on the board agreed it was necessary and would be an improvement for the area. It's now easier for the drivers to see where the pedestrians might be crossing.

Norma and Howard Milliron, 6076 Eaglet Dr., are happy to know there is a place for the children who have a nearby bus stop and the elderly to use.

Kim Pollock, 6041 Eaglet Dr. uses it daily on her walks and appreciates it. She did not like having to walk through neighbor's yards to cross the street.

Deb Bentley, 6047 Eaglet Dr., reported that her son's bus had to change routes to accommodate the speeding traffic. One father had to jump into traffic to stop a speeding car from hitting some kids. The crosswalk is all about the safety of our community and not political at all.

Rosy Park, 6062 Eaglet Dr. stated that her family really appreciates the new crosswalk. They notice that now cars slow down considerably at the crosswalk. One thing she likes about Beckett Ridge is how many places they can walk to and the crosswalk makes it that much more pleasant and safer. She thanked Lee Wong and the members of the government that supported the crosswalk.

Chris Dendy, 6062 Eaglet Dr. stated that the crosswalk definitely improves safety by giving kids and drivers clear boundaries, and is much cheaper than putting sidewalks on their side of Eagleridge.

(Fiscal Officer's note- Additionally, Ms. Steele submitted emails from the following, all residents of the immediate neighborhood: Gene Hendel, Bob Moese, Ashley and Chad Shircliff, Tony and Jan Klimek, Jo and Tom Diamantes, Richard Robison, Nita Sachdeva, Bev and Jeff Gates, Teresa Schleimer, Nan and Dave Hartup, Jeannine Kring, Hagen and Kim Cramer, Mike Finn, Susanne Anton, David Wendt, Honghong Ecker, and Megan Owen.)

Point of Order was made by Mrs. Boyko, expressing the Board's past practice, when redundant comments were made on the same topic, the Board conferred and determined that any new information would be accepted as opposed to continued redundant comments. Mrs. Stoker asked the other two Trustees for their input: Mr. Lang expressed no opposition, preferring they simply noted their support. Mr. Wong asked Ms. Steel if she had any letters opposed to the crosswalk. Ms. Steel said she had one letter expressing indifference to the crosswalk installation, but that person is glad now that it is there. Otherwise everyone was for the crosswalk. She said she had a total of 25 letters representing 65 households throughout the neighborhood, plus two letters from parents on Rupp Farm supportive of the crosswalk. Mrs. Steel concluded by saying she felt the crosswalk was a matter of safety, and thanked the trustees for it.

Mark Finn, 8871 Timberchase Ct., spoke in support of the crosswalk. "If you watch the news, you hear every night about how some stop sign or crosswalk was built after some child was hit. There's nothing wrong with being proactive. He has seen emails saying this was political. The person in question has the respect of a great number of people in the Eaglet subdivision. My daughter used to walk to West High School, and told her Dad the first day that she walked she almost didn't make it home. The next day she almost got hit going to school. I drove her to school after that until she got her license. If more communities were proactive there might be 100 children who would not have been injured or killed. I feel it adds to the community and helps us all."

Mark Morris, 8876 Eagleview Dr., said he is President of the Home Owners' Association of Village of Beckett; supported the crosswalk, and has nothing against the crosswalk. He believes we need to talk about safety issues on the whole, noting there is but one entrance/exit for his neighborhood. He said that was inadequate during rush hour. He wanted the speed reduced on West Chester Road and Lakota West Drive. He was concerned that people don't know how to

use the roundabout. He was concerned if people would pay attention where there's a crosswalk within 100 yards of the other. It all goes down to safety. He said people in the community want to know if they can get a crosswalk by bringing two people to a Trustee meeting who request one. He was also concerned for the safety of school children walking to school on Beckett Ridge Blvd. He was disturbed by the way the issue was handled.

Mark Welch, 5879 Owl Nest Dr., said nobody can say they're against safety, the Board should have done its due diligence, there were no accidents at the Eagleridge/Eaglet location and the Township can do no better than zero accidents, and there are 13 similar intersections in Beckett Ridge that would cost a total of \$65,000 to install crosswalks at \$5,000 apiece. His problem with the crosswalk was how it was presented and approved, making it "look like a backroom political favor". He said he expects transparency in his local government and said he was repeating his request that an engineering study be conducted on the crosswalk to determine its safety. He said the crosswalk should be removed if the study concluded it reduced safety.

Gene Hendel, 6061 Eaglet Dr., said we have to be proactive, we have to factor in the close proximity of the high school and the school bus stop, and "It's not always about study, study, study".

Hagen Cramer, 8808 Timberchase Ct., said we don't need a study to figure out that it's a safety issue given the proximity of the high school and school bus stop, as well as near injuries. He did agree that there are other areas in Beckett Ridge that need crosswalks, principally those that are near a school, including near Freedom Elementary.

Burt Young, 8513 Eagleridge Dr., said 3 ½ years ago the Beckett Ridge HOA along with the Beckett Station and Points of Beckett HOA's, West Chester Township and the Lakota Schools discussed the problems that would be realized if busing was eliminated. They sought to have the children channeled to the right crosswalks to get them across the street safely, and this crosswalk provides for that. He said the roundabout, though it increased drivers' speed, was a positive thing. He attributed the additional traffic to the lack of busing, as previously provided, creating an infrastructure problem that we must now address. He said, given the change in the history, he wants us to look at the future, not the past. We've been working over three and one half years with the township and with Lakota and the other associations to do just that. He said he would be shocked if other neighborhoods and HOA's do not come to the township seeking crosswalks for their children's safe passage. This crosswalk is just the first step, and it's an appropriate step. He expressed his appreciation for the crosswalk.

Mr. Wong asked as a point of order, if we were going to permit people to speak for a second time, creating a point-counter point situation. Mrs. Stoker advised the person next poised to speak, Mr. Carl Rullmann, to wisely forego such a situation.

Carl, Rullmann, 8285 Ventle Dr., said he really liked the diversity of opinion this evening, especially the freedom that enables diversity of opinion. He said this meeting provided more information with which the matter could properly be vetted, suggesting it should have happened at the beginning of the issue.

Bruce Jones, 5685 McCarthy Ct., said he wanted to comment on the meeting minutes, they were not on the agenda because (1) Cathy said she was not prepared to act on the minutes this evening, and (2) he believes we need to have a discussion about the minutes in order to maintain their accuracy and integrity. He said he had no interest in discussing the integrity of the public records in the secrecy of Executive Session, and noted that criticism of his minutes did not include identifying a single factual inaccuracy. He said he would provide for the accuracy and integrity of the minutes so long as he does them.

The Board of Trustees on August 28 voted to append the following notes to the June 26 meeting minutes per the following:

In response to erroneous comments made by Fiscal Officer Bruce Jones during Citizen Comments during the June 26 Township Trustee meeting; the Board of Trustees has voted to append the following correcting statements of fact to the June 26, 2012 trustee meeting minutes:

1. Bruce Jones' erroneous statement: "I've absolutely no interest in taking the matter of the public minutes into the secrecy of the Executive Session. Absolutely not."

ACTUAL FACT: Trustee minutes are not discussed in Executive Session.

2. Bruce Jones' erroneous statement: "At the last meeting you may recall Cathy provided a statement that she asked be incorporated into the minutes and proceeded to read it. She made repeated references to . . . "accurate minutes" but at no time were inaccuracies in my minutes identified—not one factual inaccuracy."

ACTUAL FACT: Mr. Jones has repeatedly refused to make specific factual corrections to May 22 meeting minutes with respect to substantive facts referenced by Mrs. Stoker that show why she voted for a crosswalk on Eagleridge. These corrections were requested repeatedly in private through emails and meetings and publically during township meetings. Requests for changes included adding the fact that she had said that she "sat in her car observing the intersection before the crosswalk was completed." Mr. Jones also repeatedly refused to include Mrs. Stoker's reference to a gentleman who had been struck by a car while walking along a busy street.

Minutes that are incomplete, particularly in spite of repeated requests to include substantive items which were discussed in the meeting but not included in the meeting minutes, are not accurate.

3. Bruce Jones' erroneous statement: "Furthermore at no time at the meeting of May 22 did you Cathy comment to the effect that you were out there watching traffic on Eagleridge. It's not in the records."

ACTUAL FACT: Mrs. Stoker did indeed comment during that meeting to the effect she had watched traffic; as Mr. Jones himself admitted in his email to Mrs. Stoker of July 13 wherein he stated, "I originally did not recall your comment about sitting in your car observing traffic at the intersection. . . I again reviewed the videotape and at 43:15 minutes into the 5/22 meeting video you made that comment."

4. Bruce Jones' erroneous statement: "Now by law reading from Ohio Revised Code 507.14A . . . The Township Fiscal Officer shall keep an accurate record of the proceedings of the board of trustees at all its meetings, etc. etc. . . . The proposed statement, being inaccurate, without

question was illegal; and I'm not doing that. I'm not modifying the minutes to reflect something that was not true."

ACTUAL FACT: The statement Mrs. Stoker repeatedly asked Mr. Jones to include in the meetings [refer to statement number 3 above] was accurate and her request was legal.

Second Reading & Vote on Pending Resolutions & Vote on Emergency Resolutions

There were no second readings & vote on pending resolutions, or vote on emergency resolutions.

Discussion Items & Trustees Comments

Mrs. Boyko noted West Chester would be hosting a Friendship Concert of the 2012 World Choir Games on July 6th on The Square.

Furthermore, she noted the Ohio Revised Code was recently changed to define what constitutes a "junk" vehicle and has drafted a proposed Resolution for the Board's future consideration establishing policy for the removal and disposal of junk vehicles. She asked for the Board's direction on the matter. A Trustee suggested they move forward and another Trustee said they should have an opportunity for citizen's input. That being the Board's consensus, Mrs. Boyko said it would be an agenda item in two meetings. Lastly, it was noted Fiscal Officer Jones has been speaking from the lectern during Citizen's Comments and the Board agreed that the Fiscal Officer can speak during Citizen's Comments from either his chair or the lectern at his option.

Mr. Lang said he was never against the crosswalk, but was against the process, why he believes a study should have been performed, that he wasn't given an opportunity to vet the project before being asked to vote on it, and suggested a study might address the problem of speeding on Eagleridge.

Mrs. Stoker initiated discussion regarding the role of the county engineer's office in the crosswalk issue and Mrs. Boyko said they concluded there would be no detriment in having the crosswalk installed.

Mr. Wong expressed his appreciation for the citizen participation this evening, and noted the overwhelming support for the crosswalks' installation. He also said, as an elected official, he makes decisions and does so without delay when the issue is as simple as public safety. Responding to a citizen's suggestion he should have lights installed at the crosswalk, he said that would require a majority vote of the Board. Regarding executive sessions, he cited their legal opinion, saying, We have invited you into Executive Session once before. "The Township Fiscal Officer has no legal right to attend executive sessions. That right belongs only to the actual members of the entity, which in this case are the township trustees. Although the Fiscal Officer has a duty to keep accurate and detailed minutes of meeting, that obligation does not extend to executive sessions because detailed and accurate minutes are not required to be kept at those sessions." He said Mr. Jones was not a Trustee, should take time to learn his job before proposing changes, and that he has "never seen so many incorrect minutes".

Mr. Lang said the crosswalk vote was not a "no brainer" because he did not have time to vet the topic, bringing in the whole issue of transparency in government. He cited the Beckett Ridge Homeowner's Association April 17th minutes, saying Mr. Wong presented the crosswalk proposal to them, the cost would be paid by the township, and "the Board agreed to the plan".

June 26, 2012 *Approved September 6, 2012 Catherine Stoker*

Mr. Wong said he and Mrs. Stoker had time to review it and that Mr. Lang was just unwilling to work with this Board. A study would be a waste of time and money.

When asked, Mrs. Boyko said she prepared the crosswalk packet the afternoon of the May 8th meeting and gave it to the Trustees just before the meeting.

Mr. Lang and Mr. Wong exchanged and reiterated points they previously expressed, concluding that they have done nothing wrong.

Mr. Lang concluded his comments by expressing his appreciation to Carl Rullmann and Mark Welch for contributing to the June 30th Butler County Veterans event. He also recalled Mr. Wong saying Liberty Township does not allow their Fiscal Officer in their executive sessions, but he, Mr. Lang, called Liberty Township Trustee Dave Kern who said they invite their Fiscal Officer to every executive session. He called several other townships who universally said they invite their Fiscal Officer to their executive sessions, except when the Fiscal Officer declines to participate in personnel matters. He noted the passing of Jim Rosselot and the loss to our community.

Mr. Wong suggested, as to whether or not the Trustees allow their Fiscal Officer to attend their executive sessions, Mr. Lang check with Colerain Township, and that they'll invite Mr. Jones if there is a need to know.

Mrs. Stoker cited contract negotiations, changes in personnel positions or policies, personnel lawsuits, and disciplinary actions as personnel matters that constitute the bulk of their executive sessions, and no reason for the Fiscal Officer to be present. Speaking to comments made by citizens, she said townships cannot set speed limits. To the issue of meeting minutes, she said they must be approved by the Board, the Trustees can bring up points for the Fiscal Officer's consideration, and the accuracy can be maintained professionally. Mr. Lang suggested that, if no agreement can be made, perhaps a DVD can be used for the minutes. The Board looked to Township Law Director Don Crain for counsel. He came to the lectern and said "the purpose of minutes is to shorten the discussion and to accurately describe what has occurred", they need to be minutes and not a transcript, and the Board and Fiscal Officer needs to work that out amongst themselves.

Mrs. Stoker, responding to Mr. Rullmann's question asking what have they've done in the last 2 weeks to protect, preserve, and defend the Constitution, and whether or not she had written other elected officials protesting unfunded mandates, said the following regarding what she's done to keep this community safe and what she's done as far as letter writing: she moved here in 1987, became active in the community, was among the most prolific letter writers in the area, wrote about an incinerator plant spreading dioxins on the community. Discovered from research that our water system wasn't meeting minimum requirements, noting the higher locations in the community had no water pressure. She also found out writing letters didn't do any good, and complaints for the previous decade to the Ohio EPA had not been heeded. She also wrote letters about our sewer system being overloaded, causing extensive odor along I-75. She also wrote letters about the Skinner Superfund site, noting the Justice Department said it was getting cleaned-up, though it wasn't getting cleaned-up the way it was required to have been. She said the letter writing accomplished nothing, and that you have to do research and knock on doors, and she registered complaints that resulted in findings and orders against the county commissioners, that didn't do any good. She and others went to the Ohio EPA and the U.S. EPA, to no avail. Finally she discovered an environmental enforcement branch of the FBI who told the Ohio to fix it, and they told the county commissioners to fix it, resulting in enough water and sewer capacity for growth. She had numerous allies in these issues who suffered resultant,

very significant, medical problems, some fatal. They stopped the incinerator across from the school after 5 years once an incinerator employee reported the violations. Mike Fox and the TID proposed a license tax until they sued the TID, saving drivers \$20 a year. They started a successful referendum during the holidays to stop county commission approved sales taxes in 2000, saving shoppers over \$70 million. She's not sending out so many letters because they don't do much. She's on the Hero's Fund with George to provide financial benefit to veterans. She's a volunteer dispatcher for senior citizens. She cited quotations from Galatians, Mark Twain, and Winston Churchill as guiding principles.

Mr. Lang then acknowledged the presence of State Representative Margi Conditt. Mr. Wong said he only says what is necessary to say. Mrs. Stoker acknowledged the death of Jim Rosselot, who organized and operated the Farmer's Market along with his wife, Linda. Mr. Wong said he attended the visitation before the meeting and communicated the Township's condolences.

Adjournment

Thereupon Mrs. Stoker then asked for a motion to adjourn, Mr. Land so motioned, and Mr. Wong seconded. **Motion carried unanimously.** Meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m..

Bruce Jones, Fiscal Officer



Catherine Stokes

Catherine Stoker, President