

The Board of Trustees of Sugarcreek Township, Greene County, Ohio, in Regular Session on April 19th, 2021, at 7:00 PM, via zoom.

1. **Mrs. Destefani called the session to order at 7:02 pm.**
2. **Mr. Tiffany called the roll with Board Members** Mrs. Destefani and Mr. Cramer being present. Also, in attendance was Donna Hellmann, Kim McCarthy, and Denise Moore.
3. **All in attendance stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.**
4. **Reports**

A. Administration

Mr. Tiffany was present. There was nothing to add to his report.

Mrs. Destefani stated that the Community Clean up Day was a huge success. The community collected over 400 bags of trash. There was a lot of news coverage for the Township on this big project. The Township is planning to do another clean up day in the fall around October 9th, 2021. She thanked the road department for picking up the trash that was collected over the weekend. Mrs. Destefani also spoke about the Wilmington Pike corridor project that will be coming up. Stephanie Goff spoke at the Greene County Township Association meeting last week about how it is one of the major projects happening in Greene County. Mrs. Destefani also asked about the funding for the Townships in Ohio and if there was any news on that.

Mr. Tiffany stated that there was a CLOUT meeting earlier this morning. He stated that unfortunately it does not look promising. The Secretary of the Treasury should have taken steps by now, although they did releases some guidance on how the money should be treated. The money has not been disbursed yet, there is some hope, but the longer the conversation is getting dragged on for the less promising it is looking that we will receive the funding. He stated that he wanted to talk to Attorney Generals office to follow up and see if they can possibly file a lawsuit.

Mrs. Destefani stated that she was happy to see the Carpenter Road realignment on South Alpha Road.

Mr. Tiffany stated that he is hoping to have the project started in June/July. If the design company can get it to the Township by June, we could get the word out and hopefully have a bid by early July. Mr. Tiffany would like to see it completed by the beginning of the school year, but he is unsure if that can happen.

Mrs. Destefani stated that Mr. Cozad did say he was very excited for this project to happen. She also asked for any updates on digitizing the newsletter.

Mrs. Tilford stated that Mr. Tiffany was looking into a Civic Plus program that would help out in that area.

Mr. Tiffany stated that Courtney had a meeting with Civic Plus about the Click it and Fix it.

Mrs. Tilford stated that she sat in on the meeting with Courtney.

Mr. Tiffany asked what Mrs. Tilford thought of the program.

Mrs. Tilford stated that she thought it was great and it would be a very good tool to utilize. Through the tool you can send out blasts, and it will really streamline citizens in the community getting information form the Township. She thinks a lot of people get frustrated when you go to our website and you cannot get an answer straight away. Mrs.

Tilford thinks this will be a lot more streamlined to get people directly who they need to speak with.

Mr. Tiffany stated that the other notification system they have has already been started. It is a new way to communicate with our residents for emergencies and news updates.

B. Zoning

Mrs. Tilford was present. There was nothing to add to her report.

Mrs. Tilford did state that the Grand Communities case did get tabled at the BZC. The Grand Community is trying to rework their plans, and they will likely be at the June BZC meeting.

Mrs. Destefani asked if it was mostly green space concerns.

Mrs. Tilford stated that yes, it is mostly green space and design layout.

Mrs. Destefani asked if the proposed PUD was all condos or what type of housing it is.

Mrs. Tilford stated that it is all condo homes that are for sale, and there are 3 different types of condo style homes. She also stated that she will have an amendment to the Long-Range land use plan on the next meeting agenda for the Trustees. It is for recommendations for changes to the Feedwire - Upper Bellbrook area.

Mrs. Destefani asked what was happening with Guttman properties.

Mrs. Tilford stated that they were looking to change all the elevations for their multifamily side. They added windows and changed some brick locations, they were minor deviations from the elevations. There were enough minor changes to warrant that the BZC take another look at it. The BZC did approve of the modifications after they took another look.

Mrs. Destefani asked what kind of time frame they are looking at to start the development.

Mrs. Tilford stated that the developers stated that they would like to be in with a zoning certificate application within the next few months, but we will see. She also stated that it is hard to know for sure with developments, it always takes some time to get started.

C. Fiscal Officer

Mr. Hodson was not present. There was nothing to add to his report.

D. Fire

Chief Leaming was present. There was nothing to add to his report.

Mrs. Destefani stated that it was a crazy week and asked if there were any comments on the accidents that happened.

Chief Leaming stated he wanted to compliment the crews that responded to the tree incident. There was feedback from the Care Flight nurses that stated that they were impressed with the care that the fire department gave prior to their arrival. The patient seemed to be doing well they had him stabilized in the ICU and then a bleed happened, and he unfortunately did not make it.

Mrs. Destefani asked if at the car accident if the Jaws of Life were used to get the passengers out of the car.

Chief Leaming stated that the vehicle was struck on the passenger side, but the driver's side was not that damaged, so they were able to pop the door out and get to the driver.

Mrs. Destefani asked if the Fire Department went out and helped with the Community clean up.

Chief Leaming stated that he was out with 3 other fire fighters and they cleaned up all of Swigert Road.

E. Police

Chief Brown was present. There was nothing to add to his report.

Mrs. Destefani asked about the new police officer Mr. Wagner.

Chief Brown stated that he will start next Monday the 26th. He will be on days starting out, with Tyler Mantia for 4 weeks through the FTO program.

Mrs. Destefani asked if that 4 weeks is a shadowing program.

Chief Brown stated that the FTO program is 3 months long, there are 2 Field Training Officers, Mantia and Cagg. Wagner will start phase 1 on Monday, he will be with Mantia the entire time the same cruiser and everything, for 4 weeks. Then in phase 2 Wagner will go to midnights with Officer Cagg and do the same thing for 4 weeks with him. In phase 3 Wagner will be in a cruiser by himself with Officer Mantia following behind all the time for the final 4 weeks.

Mrs. Destefani asked about the school levy signs and the officers going out on calls to check on those types of things.

Chief Brown stated that that issue will always continue. The officers were out Saturday and Sunday, Chief Brown also received many phone calls and emails this Monday morning about the signs.

Mr. Cramer thanked Chief Brown for the job he has done with defusing the situation with Mr. Stafford. He thought Chief Brown handled the situation very well, he again offered his thanks to Chief Brown for his efforts in that situation.

Chief Brown said thank you and that he appreciates it.

Mrs. Destefani stated that she saw that they completed the annual state firearms certification. She asked if the Police Department was having trouble finding ammo at all.

Chief Brown stated that they are in good shape with the patrol weapons and ammo. They have an order placed for practice ammo, but they are doing okay overall. He stated that every police officer has to qualify once every year, it does not require a lot of rounds and the other 3 times that they go out to the range is for training. The ammo that is used for training is quite minimal.

Mrs. Destefani asked if they have to qualify with their service weapons and others or what the test is like.

Chief Brown stated they have to qualify with their handgun, shot gun, and the patrol rifle. It is a very specific course that they have to do, required by the state.

F. Roads and Service

Mr. Harphant was not present. Mr. Owens was there in his place. There was nothing to add to his report.

Mrs. Destefani stated that Stephanie Goff had mentioned wanting to bring back the Snow Rodeo. Where they will have a friendly competition with all of the Townships competing against each other.

Mr. Owens stated that they will definitely do their best, the Snow Rodeo is something they took part in many years ago. It is a fun time, and they get to meet other township's roads and service crews.

Mrs. Destefani stated that Stephanie Goff stated that they may let some people try some of the equipment. She also asked if there have been more signs out in the right of ways that we they have had to pick up.

Mr. Owens stated that they have not had a bad time this go around. He thinks this time most people know where they can and cannot put signs up. Most signs in the right of way are not political signs they are advertising signs for mulch for sale or services for hire.

Mrs. Destefani asked about the F550 that they picked up from Interstate Ford. And if it is in their possession or if it has to go get outfitted.

Mr. Owens stated that they do have it, and everything is operable, there were a few hoses and fittings that went bad that they had to send it in for. This is not a new truck it was a truck that had some recalls that they sent in to get fixed.

G. Information Technology

There was nothing new to report.

Mrs. Destefani asked if everything was recovered from the power surge that happened a while ago.

Mr. Tiffany stated that the new back up is in place and the new bypass switch should be installed by next week.

H. Trustees

Mr. Cramer stated that he was so excited that so many people came out to help with the Community clean up. It was a huge success, and he cannot wait for the fall clean up. He thanked the Police Department for having the crews go out and watch for safety reasons. He thanked the Fire Department for going out and picking up trash along Swigert. Mr. Cramer also mentioned that Mrs. Destefani and himself went to the Engineers Office and got an education on some engineering things and bridges. Mr. Cramer also stated that on May 6th, 2021 there is a National Day of Prayer, it starts at 9 AM at the BellHOP.

Mrs. Destefani stated that Kim McCarthy posted in the chat about possibly getting no littering signs for the township.

Mr. Tiffany stated that there are options they could look into and he thinks it would be effective in helping the cause.

Mrs. Destefani stated that Mr. Martins 100th Birthday celebration is this upcoming Saturday. It is at Greene County Skydive and Mr. Martin will be receiving awards from 6-7pm. Mrs. Destefani also mentioned the meeting she attended with Stephanie Goff, she was talking about safety studies and none of the intersections in the Township made it into that study. So that is a good thing that the traffic and high crash areas are not in the Township. Mrs. Destefani did attend the Greene County Engineer meeting on April 6th, it was for solar array issues. It was an open forum for community members to come and get information on solar panels.

5. Public Comments – Agenda Items

Ms. Moore stated that David Muir at ABC news does little spotlights on the national news every evening. She stated that they could maybe contact ABC news and get a small section done for Mr. Martins 100th Birthday.

Mr. Tiffany stated that there is national news coverage already for Mr. Martin's birthday celebration. But they can certainly look into it.

6. **Old Business**

- A. City of Bellbrook, Bellbrook Sugarcreek Parks and Schools Meeting - June 7th, 5:30 pm

7. **Consent Agenda Items**

- A. Payment of Bills
B. Approval of Minutes
C. Increase Appropriations for EMS Fund – 2021.04.19.01

SUGARCREEK TOWNSHIP
RESOLUTION NO. 2021.04.19.01
IN RE: Increase Appropriations for EMS Fund

WHEREAS, the need exists to increase appropriations for the 2281 EMS Fund for purchase of the Assistant Fire Chief's car; and,

WHEREAS, the Fiscal Officer has certified the availability of these funds within the 2021 Budget and has provided this Board with the funding numbers and the Township Administrator has provided the amounts to be appropriated:

<u>Fund Name</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
2281 Ambulance & Emergency	\$183,200.00	\$226,200.00

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the increased appropriations shall be made in accordance with the law.

- D. Appointment of Full-Time Police Officer Darren T. Wagner II – 2021.04.19.02

SUGARCREEK TOWNSHIP
RESOLUTION NO. 2021.04.19.02
IN RE: Appointment of Full-Time Police Officer Darren T. Wagner II

WHEREAS, the continuing need exists to maintain proper staffing within the Sugarcreek Township Police Department; and,

WHEREAS, a vacancy exists within the classification of full-time Police Officer; and,

WHEREAS, the vacancy has been posted for application in accordance with township policy and the current labor contract; and,

WHEREAS, an assessment center was conducted which included testing in basic exercises, review board and personal interviews with the Chief of Police; and,

WHEREAS, after a review of all the candidates, Police Chief Michael A. Brown recommends this appointment, and confirms that there are funds available for this position in the 2021 operating budget,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Darren T. Wagner II is hereby appointed as full-time Police Officer effective April 26, 2021, at a pay rate of \$27.43 per hour, payable on a bi-weekly basis, and subject to a one (1) year probationary period ending April 26, 2022.

- E. Appointment of Part-Time Fire Department staff – Ethan Tavner - 2021.04.19.03

SUGARCREEK TOWNSHIP
RESOLUTION NO. 2021.04.19.03
IN RE: Appointment of Fire Department Staff
Ethan Tavner

WHEREAS, the continuing need exists to maintain proper staffing within the Sugarcreek Township Fire Department; and,

WHEREAS, vacancies exist within the classification of Part-time Firefighter /EMT; and,

WHEREAS, Ethan Tavner has the necessary qualifications to serve in the capacity of Part-time Firefighter I/EMT for the Sugarcreek Township Fire Department; and,

WHEREAS, funds are available for this purpose within the Fire Department's 2021 Operating Budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Ethan Tavner shall be appointed to Part-time Firefighter I/EMT within the Sugarcreek Fire Department at the rate of \$15.00 per hour; and,

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, the above-mentioned appointment for Mr. Tavner will have an effective date of April 19, 2021 with a one (1) year probationary period ending on April 19, 2022.

**F. Declaration of Excess Property- Police Department – 2021.04.19.04
SUGARCREEK TOWNSHIP**

RESOLUTION NO. 2021.04.19.04

IN RE: Declaration of Excess Property – Police Department

WHEREAS, the Sugarcreek Township Police Department has identified equipment, which is no longer needed for operations, and;

WHEREAS, the item listed below has an individual value of \$2,000.00 or less.

- 2010 Cadillac SRX, 4 door SUV, gray in color

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that this Sugarcreek Township Board of Trustees hereby declares this property to be excess and directs the appropriate disposition of this property.

**G. Proclamation of Recognition – Mr. Martin celebrates 100th birthday
PROCLAMATION OF RECOGNITION
Jim “Pee Wee” Martin - 100th Birthday**

WHEREAS, Sugarcreek Township resident James H. Martin and is celebrating his 100th birthday on April 29th and this Board of Township Trustees wishes to recognize Mr. Martin on this momentous occasion for his longevity and contributions to the United States of America and the world during his lifetime; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Martin was born on April 29, 1921, in Portage Pennsylvania and moved with his family to Indiana where they stayed until Jim was the age of 10. In May of 1931 Jim's father's employer, United Aircraft Company, moved to Dayton; and,

WHEREAS, During World War II, Jim first enlisted in the U.S. Navy when he was 21 but after being told the submarine he was being assigned to would not be ready for six (6) months, he went across the hall and enlisted in the Army to be a paratrooper; and,

WHEREAS, Jim “Pee Wee” Martin, a Toccoa original, was a member of the “Screaming Eagle” division, some of the first Allied soldiers to set foot into occupied France. Mr. Martin was given the nickname “Pee Wee” during training for his small stature. He served with G Company, 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment (PIR), 101st Airborne Division. In addition to parachuting into Normandy, Pee Wee also participated in Operation Market Garden and the Battle of the Bulge; and,

WHEREAS, Jim married Donna Veverka on March 10, 1946 and they purchased 50 acres of Sugarcreek Township land that following August. They chose Sugarcreek Township based on three things: no railroads, good clean water, and a short 30-minute commute for Jim to get to his Tool Manufacturing job in Dayton; and

WHEREAS, together over the course of the following 10 years, Jim and Donna built their home from the ground up, paying as they went, beginning with the barn where they lived in until the house was completed. The Martins raised their 5 children in Sugarcreek Township, were married over 70 years, and Jim still resides in this home today: and,

WHEREAS, Jim “Pee Wee” Martin is a hero in the eyes of all who know him, yet he says simply, “When you volunteer for something, train for something and are paid for something, you can’t call yourself a hero”; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Martin believes the secret to living to be 100 years old is to, “Just live! Don’t worry about things you can’t change”.

NOW THEREFORE, the Trustees of the Board of Sugarcreek Township hereby honors and recognizes Sugarcreek Township resident, Mr. James H. “Pee Wee” Martin, joining with countless others to congratulate him on the celebration of his 100th birthday and thank him for his service during his life to his community, the world, and these United States of America. **Happy 100th Birthday, Pee Wee!**

H. Proclamation- National Day of Prayer

PROCLAMATION A NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

WHEREAS, a National Day of Prayer was first recognized as a single day by the Continental Congress on July 20, 1775; and

WHEREAS, such a day has been observed nationally since April 17, 1952, when President Harry S. Truman signed a bill proclaiming a National Day of Prayer must be declared by each following president at an appropriate date of choice; and

WHEREAS, in 1988, the law was amended designating that a National Day of Prayer is to be observed on the first Thursday of every May; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees recognizes that Sugarcreek Township is home to citizens of many faiths and that prayer has long been a positive force that serves as a source of inspiration and hope to countless individuals; and

WHEREAS, the Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Area Ministerial Association is hosting a community-wide National Day of Prayer gathering at the BellHOP Cafe, 26 N. West Street at 9:00 am on Thursday, May 6, 2021,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, this Board of Trustees recognizes May 7, 2020, as a Day of Prayer.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, this Board of Trustees encourages all residents to recognize the continuing need for strong positive values to guide our Township, State and Nation.

Mr. Cramer motioned to approve Consent agenda items. Mrs. Destefani seconded Roll was called with the vote being as follows:

Mrs. Destefani – Yes
Mrs. Daugherty – Absent
Mr. Cramer – Yes

8. Discussion Agenda Items

Mr. Tiffany stated that they need to talk about the recommendation form the Township for the next Park District Commissioner. The Township has to send a recommendation letter to the court of their decision. Mr. Tiffany stated that the consensus between all parties was to recommend Mr. Tischer for reappointment. There was a lot of discussion that happened about it.

Mrs. Destefani stated that they have defended the MOU to stay with this Park District Commissioners decision. It is important that all 3 entities are involved in that process. She also wanted to add that they are a recommending body and not the deciding body for this choice.

Mr. Tiffany invited Mr. Dorn to unmute and join in with the conversation about the Park District.

Mr. Dorn stated he is reading a piece of a letter he wrote. He stated that he represents the Bellbrook Lions Club and the softball and baseball teams from the Lions club have been asking the Park District for over 7 years for new and improved facilities. Every time they have asked the Park District for help with the facilities their reasoning for not doing anything is that there is no money. In January 2019, a committee representing the Lions Club made a generous offer for public private partnership to develop the 40-acre parcel that is already owned by the Parks District. This included entry roads, driveways, and baseball and softball fields, giving the youth in the community the opportunity to play ball without the risk of yearly floods. This would be the first new or improved sports facility for youth in the community for over 30 years. After 10 months of hard work from the committee the offer was rejected by the Park District. During this time, the offer was also presented to Bellbrook City and Sugar creek Township. The project was well received by both entities, but no one from either office offered any assistance. Mr. Dorn stated that the selection for Park District Commissioner started again this year. Greg Merinan is the best fit in Mr. Dorn's eyes because he has deep roots in the Bellbrook community. Mr. Dorn thanked Mrs. Destefani for the phone call she had with him. He stated that they do not want to change anything with the Parks District they just want to add to it. They would love to have a facility for the kids in the community to be able to play and participate in sports.

Mrs. Destefani asked if the letters that are being written to the Township are also being sent to the Park District. Because there are a lot of community conversations happening, trying to cater to what citizens are asking for.

Mr. Dorn stated that they are probably not being sent to the Park District as well.

Mrs. Destefani stated that they are aware of the need for more sports facilities for the youth in the area. And there needs to be a way to make that happen. She asked if Mr. Dorn would be willing to enter into negotiations with Mr. Sparks again.

Mr. Dorn stated that he has not heard anything from anyone in over a year and nothing is getting done.

Mr. Cramer stated that he has received 6 or 7 letters expressing concerns and a want for these types of facilities and there has to be something they can do to address this issue. He asked Mr. Dorn about the 40 acres set aside for these facilities.

Mr. Dorn stated that the Park District owns 40 acres at the corner of Centerville Road and Waynesville Road. There was a design to put 9 fields in there to develop them on a need basis with the roads needed to access them. There was a good portion of money that the Lions club wanted to put towards this project and there was also a group of private donators that wanted to help out this cause. This way the project could get done without citizen money at all.

Mrs. Destefani stated that after the conversation she had with Mr. Dorn, she is planning to reach out to Howard Ackerman to see his true intentions if he plans to continue for the next

year. She also mentioned that she did recommend Mr. Merinan as the second-choice vote if someone decides to step down. There would need to be an amendment to the MOU to have all 6 partners sign it. They were not able to get all those signatures they needed, so if Mr. Merinan dose not make it in this round, they will have to go through the interview process again.

Mr. Tiffany stated that they will have to call a Special Meeting of the Trustees because the clock is ticking on this decision and Mrs. Daugherty being absent this meeting, they would like her to be included.

Mrs. Destefani thanked Mr. Dorn for his comments. She also asked if there were any other public comments.

Ms. Moore stated that she sent a letter about a week ago about issuing a resolution denouncing hate crimes against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. She is wondering what is happening with that, she was hoping it would be on the agenda for tonight.

Mr. Tiffany stated that they were going to talk about it at the meeting tonight. For that conversation to happen all 3 Trustees need to be in attendance.

Ms. Moore also sated that they will be having an Anti-Racism conference if anyone would like to go.

9. Public Comments – Discussion Agenda Items

There were no comments.

10. Trustee/Staff Discussions

Mr. Tiffany stated that there is a need for an Executive Meeting. He would like to discuss the compensation of an employee.

11. Adjourn

Mrs. Destefani moved to move into Executive session. Mr. Cramer seconded.

Roll was called with the vote being as follows:

Mrs. Destefani – Yes

Mrs. Daugherty – Absent

Mr. Cramer –Yes

Theodore L. Hodson, Fiscal Officer