

Williams County Township Association
Minutes of May 18, 2023

The second quarterly meeting of 2023 of the Williams County Township Association was held at the Williams County East Annex on May 18, 2023.

The business meeting was called to order by Vice President Mike Elser with Mike Elser leading those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Secretary/Treasurer, Deanne Batterson, completed attendance with eleven (11) members present from eight of the twelve townships in Williams County. Guest present were Jim Watkins (Williams County Health Dept); Todd Roth (Williams County Engineer); Terry Rummel (Williams County Commissioner); Kellie Gray (Williams County Treasurer); Kyle Miller (Williams County Sheriff's Dept); and several others with a total of 22 present at the meeting.

Minutes were read from the last meeting. Motion to approve the minutes by Tod Schlachter, seconded by Bert Brown, and the motion carried.

Deanne Batterson, Secretary/Treasurer, reported on the Treasurer's report. Chrys Maneval made a motion to approve the treasurer's report, seconded by Tod Schlachter, and the motion carried.

Jim Watkins, Williams County Health Dept, reported on the new Health Department building; the two offices will now become one office building and it will be located on the north side of town; property purchased from the hospital. It will be a convenient location in order to work with other county offices. There will be a 10 year .9 levy on the Fall ballot to help make this happen. Bridgewater Township and Florence Township will be the last two townships for septic permits.

Todd Roth, Williams County Engineer, reported they finished County Road O from US 127 through Kunkle. County Road 16 to be striped, spot paving from County Road G to J. They are not doing much spot paving this year. County Road 22, Springfield Township, there will be a bid in July of this year –Reclamation. Chip seal will be starting at the end of June; getting materials from Webers. Dura-patching and ditching – we received ditcher from Pulaski Township. Culvert replacement in Jefferson Township, bridge replacement 8&M. Engineer's office is willing to share equipment, just let them know. There will be a new salt barn which we are still working on. We will tear down the old salt barn. Engineer's office is looking for a place/land to stock pile stone where it is centrally located.

Terry Rummel, Williams County Commissioner, reported the Infrastructure grant was awarded to Stryker; he expressed his concern for the Bona Vesta water issue (flooding), where Pulaski Township had applied for the grant funding as well; reach out to Dennis Miller (Maumee Valley Planning) to get a list of projects where funding is available.

Kellie Gray, Williams County Treasurer, also overseeing the Land Bank projects—looking at ways of cleaning up areas (ie. where old gas stations, etc); Kunkle Gas station had foreclosed 9 months ago and the State of Ohio would not release their lien; had a difficult time moving forward. Kellie also there is more grant money for projects, she will send out email – deadline is July 1st. There are liter issues in Meadowlake. NOCAC has money freed up this year; \$172000 real estate tax paid through NOCAC for those who were behind.

EMS reported they will have a levy (2.9 mil) on the Fall ballot this year; they are losing money with their billing – need more funds their finances are depleting.

Kyle Miller, Williams County Sheriff's Dept, they are looking into obtaining some grant money, there is quarterly training coming up (firearms training – how to work w/firearm failures)

Sherry Fleming/Andy Strouble, visitors, reported on the Aqua Bounty, a land-based aquaculture corporation which plans to build an 11 acre indoor facility in Pioneer Ohio; capable of producing 10000 metric tons of genetically engineered salmon per year. She, as well as others, have concerns about the discharge from this facility into the St. Joseph river. The discharge unit will eventually reach Lake Erie. The discharge permit is currently under review. The permits to install from the Ohio EPA is under review. People are concerned about flooding. Dennis Miller referred her to FEMA, they are working on a flood map of this area. Judge Stelzer recused himself from this case, and we are now waiting on the State of Ohio to appoint a Judge. Aqua Bounty does not have a clear title to proceed yet. Andy showed a map of boundaries of the Aquafer into MI, IN, and south of Bryan. When it rained, all the wells came up last April (there are 7 or 8 wells). The well field is in a flood plane. Half the water will come from Michigan when they start pumping (MI has concerns too). We need to protect our water. June 5th the Ohio Michigan Indiana Group will meet (3 states, 9 counties). Resources (OMI website, Ohio Dept of National Resources, and Williams County Alliance on Facebook) .

Mike Elser mentioned that the Ohio Township Magazine has a picture of Bob Short, Terry Rummel, and Mike Elser with Representative Hoops having lunch together.

Next meeting will be on August 17, 2023 at the Williams County Engineers office.

Bert Brown made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Tod Schlachter, and the motion carried.