

WCTA Meeting Minutes
February 16, 2023

The first quarterly meeting of 2023 of the Williams County Township Association was held at the Center Township Hall on February 16, 2023.

The business meeting was called to order by President, Bob Short. The meeting started with Bob Short leading those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Secretary-Treasurer Deanne Batterson completed attendance with eleven (11) members present from nine of the twelve townships in Williams County.

Guest present were Lew Hilkert and Bart Westfall, County Commissioners; Todd Roth, County Engineer and Ron Buda; and Heather Mercer & Apryl McClaine, Williams County EMS; Kyle Miller, Williams County Sheriff's Department.

Minutes were read from the last meeting. Motion to approve the minutes by Tom Saul; seconded by Steve Planson, and the motion carried.

Deanne Batterson, Secretary/Treasurer, reported on the Treasurer's report. Jeff Burkholder made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report, seconded by Terry Huffman, and the motion carried.

Those present welcomed Bart Westfall as the newly elected Williams County Commissioner.

President Bob Short reported on the Winter Conference, and stated that the State officers complimented the Williams County Township Association. Williams County is a good example as to how Townships should be and how the County all works together. Bob also noted that 3 of the 4 officers attended our annual banquet last November. Bob also reported he received word from Representative Hoops that he was unable to attend our meeting tonight.

Todd Roth, Williams County Engineer, reported on upcoming projects: CR O (Kunkle to US 127); CR 22 in Springfield Twp (mill in places/rehab/pave); CR 16 (G to J – spot paving). Spot paving funds this year will be reduced, they will be doing approximately 25 to 30 miles of chip & seal; stone pricing sent up for 8's to \$4/ton, they are working with Weber's to see if they can get 8's from them; they are ready to build the new salt barn, should have this summer, and will tear down the old one. Permanent marking bid, try to get in earlier this year. Culvert project – bridge on CR 1; 3 other bridges, will bid out 2 and do one in-house. Chip & Seal with Townships- not at this time. Todd advised Townships to get a hold of Ward soon for chip & seal projects. Todd introduced Ron Buda. Todd reported that anyone is welcome to use the Engineers Equipment. Ron Buda reported that this summer they will have three tractors to do the mowing, prior years there was only two; also stated that a few years ago, the Townships helped the County with mowing.

Kyle Miller, Williams County Sheriff's office reported that Sheriff Kochert was in Columbus today. Business as usual at the Sheriff's office. They have quarterly training – situation awareness and defensive tactics; they also are doing their 24 hour state training. Marks radio system is working well, they are able to work side by side with other agencies, and response time is faster, pursuits-able to know where someone is. Sheriff Kochert is looing at Nibert which works with the Federal system. Meth is our biggest problem right now.

Heather Mercer, Williams County EMA, reported in the future they are hoping to have locators on the vehicles so they will know where the officers are. They are doing LPC exercise where they work through Hazmat situations by end of June. In the next couple of months, renewal bills will be sent out.

Bart Westfall, newly elected Williams County Commissioner, reported he is learning a lot and has good mentors. They are working on the asbestos problem at the Courthouse (4th floor) and new windows for the Courthouse.

Lew Hilkert, Williams County Commissioner, reported the transition from the Courthouse to the East Annex went well. Projects-new hanger at the airport, almost complete, and there will be an open house. Lew reported that some flights will be able to stop there to refuel. Lew reported there are two offices there for EMA to use if there were ever a catastrophe / disaster.

President Bob Short gave a further update on the Winter Conference. Several presentations on emergencies and dealing with the media. 60 classes offered and a vast amount of vendors.

New Business:

The Township / County representatives discussed their concerns with the Amish moving into the area. Road damage, buggy accidents, agricultural differences; how will the Amish help pay for road repair when they are not paying gasoline tax, nor vehicle license plate tax? Todd Roth mentioned they are looking at signage to warn drivers about the Amish buggies. Ron Buda is checking to see what lighting the buggies have, as well as driveway permits. They are doing a lot of land splits. It was discussed that we can learn from other counties who have the Amish living in their areas.

It was decided that we need to update the Township Association Informational Card. Deanne Batterson to work with Current Office Solutions to get them updated.

President Bob Short reported that some schools have reached out to them to speak about township government to their classes. It is a great way to encourage the younger generation the importance of getting involved.

The annual Health Department Advisory meeting will be held at Center Township Hall on March 2nd at 7 PM.

The next WCTA meeting will be May 18, 2023 at the East Annex at 7 PM.

Motion to adjourn by Terry Huffman, and seconded by Mike Elser, and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Deanne Batterson
Secretary-Treasurer