

December 7th, 2020 Jersey Township Trustees Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 o'clock P.M. and the Pledge of Allegiance was given. Trustees Bright, Wetzel, and Fry and Zoning Inspector Witney were all present. Marko Jesenko II (son of Fiscal Officer Marko Jesenko I) attended in place of his father, who arrived near the end of the meeting.

An annexation agreement regarding a 52-acre site was discussed and New Albany City Manager Joe Stefanov provided an overview of the agreement and answered the trustees' questions. Mr. Stefanov explained that the agreement was an Expedited Type 1, where the township has a voice and say in the details of the contract. The agreement will be between Jersey Township and the City of New Albany, and other involved parties include the Roaming Company, AEP, and the Wagner family. A larger goal of the agreement is to involve as many parties as possible to eliminate the creation of islands and minimize gaps to the greatest extent possible. Trustee Wetzel questioned Mr. Stefanov about the specific details of the approval process for the agreement. Trustee Bright moved to accept the annexation agreement and Trustee Wetzel seconded the motion. Vote: Bright- yes, Wetzel- yes, Fry- yes.

Chris Connelly answered the trustees' questions about property tiffs for school districts over Zoom. He explained that the creation of tiffs for Jersey Township would require notification for both the Johnstown and Licking Heights Districts and that both school districts would require a tiff each. Trustee Wetzel motions for adopting a resolution for establishing tiffs and for nominating himself to distribute them. Trustee Fry seconded the motion. Vote: Bright- yes, Wetzel- yes, Fry- yes.

Minutes for the November 16th meeting were read by Marko Jesenko II. Trustee Bright moved to accept the minutes as read, and Trustee Fry seconded the motion. Vote: Bright- yes, Wetzel- yes, Fry- yes.

A permitting path for battery storage was discussed by Michael Armm and Christina Wolf, who joined the trustees over Zoom. Mr. Armm introduced the idea of an energy storage facility on Jug Street, and Wolf gave a PowerPoint presentation and answered further questions. Ms. Wolf and Zoning Inspector Witney have both been working on a permitting path for building the facility on the Wagner Property. The facility buys cheap energy at night (saving energy) and sells it back from those who didn't use it. Trustee Bright asked about who retains responsibility for disposing batteries, and Wolf explained that the company disposes of them. Trustee Wetzel asked about the life expectancy of the batteries, and Wolf answered that they last for 10 years. Then Trustee Wetzel asked about safety features for the facility, and Wolf reassured him that each storage cabin has a fire prevention system and smoke detectors (the battery system is monitored at all times). Wolf also claimed that the company would pay to train the fire department on safety protocol at the site.

Zoning Inspector Witney updated the Trustees on matters under his provision. He mentioned that a new residence was established at 1213 Putnam Road and that the Bethel Prayer Center is preparing for church development. Also, he stated that 8 acres around a TV tower were rezoned and with BZA approval. Capital City Pools had a meeting regarding concerns about their parking area.

Trustee Bright announced that Monroe Fire had begun to build their new building. The State of Ohio Auditors wanted to bill Trustees' Bright and Meyers on a closed account; Bright contacted the prosecutor's office and the received an email saying that an account regarding the fine was confirmed as closed and that he should disregard the billing email.

West Licking – a special Zoom meeting was held to transfer funds, the normal meeting was cancelled because of Covid, Wetzel answered.

Trustee Fry was contacted by a resident about how they could handle tree branches which were close to power lines and he recommended that they contact a professional.

Trustee Wetzel received a complaint via email about the township insurance (United Healthcare) only having a 3% increase (though it is normally 15%). Wetzel motions to renew insurance at a 3% increase, and Trustee Fry seconds. Vote: Bright- yes, Wetzel- yes, Fry- yes. Trustee Wetzel then provided updates on the