

Minutes March 23, 2010 Meeting

The Salem Township Board of Trustees met March 23, 2010 in regular session at the Township Hall for the purpose of transacting the business of the Township. President Kirk Ramsey called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. with members Ralph Blanton and Dick Dare present. Mr. Ramsey led all those present in the pledge of allegiance.

Others present were: Donald Lynch, Fred LaFollette, Frank Schlake, Ron Stratton, Lee Short, David Opperman, Bill Harrison, Matt Nolan and Bob Glancy.

The minutes were read and approved and were posted in the township hall.

Cemetery Update

There were no changes in the cemetery records for this time period.

New Business

Mr. Lynch asked the Board why there was not a policy and procedure manual for the township such as Hamilton and Deerfield Townships have. He stated he had a problem with the zoning policy and said he thought that a weak area was the matter of going to court over zoning matters. He specifically asked the township to set up arbitration in zoning matters instead of going to court. He mentioned that the Village of Morrow has hired a law director and suggested that the township should also hire a law director to sit in on all meetings.

Both Kirk and Dick told him that Deerfield and Hamilton Townships were under home rule and followed different guidelines than Salem Township. Also he was told there was a policy manual for the paid employees of the township and fire department, but the trustees and zoning fell under the Ohio Revised Code, and that under the ORC, the county prosecutor's office handled any legal matters for the township.

Matt Nolan from the prosecutor's office then explained that municipalities are required to have a law director, but the prosecutor's office represents all townships. They apply policy equally to everyone. He also told Mr. Lynch they do not take cases to court frivolously as they do not have the time to put in on a case that is not warranted. He was also present to deliver the public records request copies that Mr. Lynch had asked to receive.

Fire Department/Cemetery

Chief LaFollette told the board that Patty Higginson would return to work on Monday, March 29th. He had received three applications for the second summer position. The Board will look over those applications.

The purchase of a mower was brought up. Fred had looked at a John Deere mower at Buchanan's. They were giving a \$2244.00 discount, making the final cost \$6,674.25. Ralph Blanton made a motion to make this purchase. Dick Dare seconded the motion.
Vote: Blanton, yea Dare, yea Ramsey, yea

News on the new fire house: they fired up the generator to make sure it was working. There is a service agreement that is available for a cost of \$918.50 that includes one full maintenance service a year and one light check up at six months. Dick Dare made a motion to purchase the service agreement. Ralph Blanton seconded the motion.
Vote: Dare, yea Blanton, yea Ramsey, yea

Zoning

Lee Short turned in a zoning permit for Mike Kassalen who could not be present tonight.

Cemetery Fees

Kirk brought up the matter of the current cemetery fees and compared them to the fees being charged by Union Township.
Dick Dare stated the fact that the township is running out of grave sites and if there is an indigent burial, it should be required that it be a cremation. Space could be set aside for these burials in a spot that would probably not be sold.
Matt Nolan said he would look into the cremation versus regular burial for an indigent case and let us know if there are any legal issues involved.

After a brief discussion of the cemetery rates, Dick Dare made a motion to change the rates as follows effective May 1, 2010 in order to be more in line with what neighboring townships are charging:

Lot sales – Salem Township residents \$350.00 per grave
Non- residents \$1,050.00 per grave

Opening and Closing Fees - Salem Township residents \$550.00 Non-residents \$650.00

Additional \$100 for Saturday and Holiday services and after 2PM weekdays for both residents and non-residents.

Baby services and ashes are to remain at \$100.00, as well as tent rental remaining at \$25.00

Footers will increase to \$.60 per square inch and charges to exhume remains at \$1,500 plus applicable O/C fees for reburial. Ralph Blanton seconded the motion.

Vote: Dare, yea Blanton, yea Ramsey, yea

Maintenance at the Ward Road Cemetery was mentioned.

Ralph Blanton brought up the shape of Pine Crest and Knollwood Drive and asked if crack sealing would be an option. Fred stated it had helped on Waynesville Road

Fiscal Business

Approval to Pay Bills

The fiscal officer presented checks #8970-#9018, #10007-#10008 which totaled \$100,793.42.

The board examined the bills that were ready for payment and Dick Dare made a motion to pay the bills as presented. Ralph Blanton seconded the motion.

Vote: Dare, yea Blanton, yea Ramsey, yea

For this reporting period the fiscal officer deposited receipts in the amount of \$26,237.09. This amount included receipts #6676– #6701.

With no further business to come before the board, Dick Dare made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 P.M. Kirk Ramsey seconded the motion.

Vote: Dare, yea Ramsey, yea Blanton, yea