



Kingston Township

February 2009

News

Chairman's Chat

By John Fink

Greetings! I sincerely hope that everyone had a safe and happy holiday season as this time of year is a great time to get together and enjoy the company of friends and family.

Please be extra cautious while driving as it appears that this winter is going to be closer to the norm with more liquid precipitation than snow accumulation. We have experienced several occasions so far where the ground is colder than the air temperature causing the rain to freeze on contact. This has depleted the 50 tons of road salt we purchased prior to winter. We'll purchase more, but if you have been following the news, you are well aware that salt prices have been extremely high since last winter.

Be sure to leave your contact information along with the location of any road hazards when contacting the trustees to ensure your call is returned.

The township recently paid off the ten-year loan to pave the township's roads. The trustees will review a plan proposed by the County Engineer's office to maintain the township's roads at an 80% or above grading scale with 100% being perfect condition. This would be accomplished by utilizing the same amount of money annually that was used to make the loan payments.

The annual Ohio Township Association Winter Conference will be in Columbus the first week of February. This is an excellent opportunity for the township officials and employees to learn about the latest legislative changes, grant opportunities, and road maintenance techniques. I have taken at least one thing I learned each year and utilized it in the township.

In closing, I want to take this opportunity to invite everyone to join us for our monthly trustees' or zoning commission meetings. Your input helps us make the decisions we, as elected officials, make for our township.

Trustees Meetings Move to Tuesdays

At their January organizational meetings, the trustees decided to move their regular monthly meetings to the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. The move was made to avoid

holiday weekend conflicts that often arise with the Monday meetings.

Santa Visits



Santa came to town and the Porter Kingston firefighters escorted him around both townships to be sure he knew where all the children lived. It was a very, very cold and windy day, which caused some delays for Santa's tour. We apologize if you waited and Santa was delayed, but his weather-proofing broke in the wind and had to be repaired. We know Santa is used to the cold weather at the North Pole, but we wanted him to be comfortable.



Upon return to the fire station, Santa was greeted by many eager children ready to talk with him about their wish lists. They also enjoyed hot cocoa and cookies and exploring the fire trucks at the station.

Thanks to the fire district staff and E4 Safety Professionals for sponsoring this fun event and look for Santa again next year just before Christmas.

Trustees News

At their 2009 organizational meeting, the trustees elected John Fink as

chairman and Bill Shively as vice-chairman. Fink will represent the township on the Delaware County Health Board and Dewey Akers will represent the township on the Porter Kingston Fire Board. Dave Stites will represent the township on the Delaware County Regional Planning Commission with Bob Talbott serving as an alternate.

The trustees reappointed all Zoning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals members. They reappointed Delaware County Prosecutor David Yost as attorney for township business and Mike O'Reilly as attorney for zoning business.

The trustees adopted a joint road maintenance agreement with Brown Township and will hold meetings with Berkshire and Porter to discuss similar agreements for shared roads.

The trustees also agreed to provide free cemetery plots for residents who are military veterans. They also reaffirmed cemetery fees and rules that allow winter decorations until March 15 when they will be removed.

Financial Facts

The current population estimate for the township is 2,113 residents. For 2009, our total property valuation (all property within the township) is \$65,774,410. The township's overall budget is \$488,002. The township has general inside millage of 2.3%. With the changes to Blue Church Road, the township now has 17.93 miles of roadways. These factors all affect township revenues.

Kingston Calendar

Meetings occur at the Township Hall, 9899 St. Rt. 521, (Rt. 521 & Carter's Corner Rd.) unless noted* otherwise.

Trustees Meet First Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m.

Zoning Commission Meets Third Wednesdays, 7 p.m.

Trash Pick Up Days: Thursdays (except during holiday weeks*)

Trustees Meeting	Feb. 3, 7:30 pm
Trash Day	Feb. 6
Fire Board Mtg.	Feb. 9, 7:30 p.m.
Recycling Bin Arrives	Feb. 12 (until full)
Trash Day	Feb. 13
Zoning Commission	Feb. 18, 7 p.m.
Trash Days	Jan. 20, 27

At the end of 2008, the township had financial resources of \$448,259 in the Delaware County Bank and \$137,806 invested in Star Ohio. The trustees passed a resolution setting temporary appropriations for 2009 of \$112,000.

Due to a drop in revenue to the township, the trustees' salaries decreased to \$8,490/year and the fiscal officer's salary is \$12,733/year. Zoning staff salaries stayed the same with no cost-of-living increases. The trustees increased the highway superintendent/cemetery sexton's hourly wage. Zoning board members will receive \$25 per meeting. Mileage reimbursement was set at \$.53 per mile.

Purchases over \$1,000 will require three competitive price quotes.

Township officials and employees receive a \$2,000 reimbursement for health care costs not reimbursed through other primary health plans.

The township will pay \$.40 per capita based on the population of 2,113 or \$845.20 for county emergency services.

The Delaware County Regional Planning Commission membership fees for this year increased 12% to \$1.04 per capita or \$2,198.

The Health District apportionment fee is \$2,570.22

Zoning News

At their December meeting, the Zoning Commission elected Doug Harsany as chairman and Jeanna Burrell as vice-chairman.

The township's zoning resolution has not been updated since its initial adoption in 2001. The Zoning Commission has begun reviewing it to correct any deficiencies, bring it in concert with the master plan, and update it related to changes in state law. The process currently being used

was proving very time consuming and would require laymen to interpret state law and its implications on local zoning. As a result, the Zoning Commission recommended that the trustees hire Delaware County Regional Planning Commission (DCRPC) staff to consult on this project.

At their 2009 organizational meeting, the trustees approved spending up to \$8,000 to have DCRPC assist the Zoning Commission in reviewing the entire zoning resolution. DCRPC will bring their expertise with zoning law and how zoning efforts have worked in other communities.

In other zoning news, the Zoning Office reported that 17 permits were issued in 2008 compared with 32 in 2007.

Attorneys are still reviewing the NorthStar Final Plan but appear to be close to agreement and approval. The township has received a survey of the township hall land being deeded to the township. The Zoning Office will solicit bids for an environmental site analysis and soil borings of the land.

The Pastures at Blue Church lawsuit filed by The Robert Weiler Company remains under active litigation. The township is awaiting a judge's ruling on a motion to dismiss the case.

New E-Mail Addresses

The trustees have new e-mail addresses linked to the township's web site. Add these to your address book:
Dewey Akers-dakers@kingstontwp.org
John Fink-jfink@kingstontwp.org
Bill Shively-bshively@kingstontwp.org

Newsletter By E-mail

If you'd prefer an e-mailed, full-color newsletter in .pdf format, send an e-mail with your name and mailing address to:
kingstonnews@embarqmail.com.

Who To Call

(740 Area Code)

TRUSTEES

Dewey Akers, Ch. 740-803-1529

e-mail: dakers@kingstontwp.org

John Fink, Vice-Ch. 524-0283

e-mail: jfink@kingstontwp.org

Bill Shively 524-2612

e-mail: bshively@kingstontwp.org

FISCAL OFFICER

Greg Roy 524-8591

e-mail: kingstontwp@midohio.net

NEWS & INFO

Township Web Site:

<http://www.kingstontwp.org>

Newsletter Editor

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e-mail your name & address if you'd like to receive the newsletter via e-mail.

ROADS & CEMETERIES

Twp. Maintenance

Ed Moore 614-530-9969

PORTER KINGSTON FIRE DISTRICT

Emergency 911
Business 524-5050

e-mail: PKFD@rrohio.com

web: <http://www.PKFD.org>

TRASH

Rumpke 800-828-8171

e-mail: brian.price@rumpke.com

web: <http://www.rumpke.com>

ZONING

Robert Talbott 524-0290

Fax 524-5304

e-mail: zoning@kingstontwp.org

Recycle Bin, 2nd Thursdays until full, Twp. Maintenance Bldg., 5755 Blue Church Rd. at St. Rt. 521

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Kingston Township Trustees
c/o Greg Roy
7295 Blue Church Rd.
Sunbury, OH 43074