



News

April 2014

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www.kingstontwp.org

Chairman's Chat – By Bill Shively

Spring is here! Good bye old man winter.

The trustees are busy with many projects. At the March meeting, we saw the first rough draft of where the proposed new township hall and park will go. I'm impressed with the plans, and will keep you informed as the planning committee moves forward with this project.

The trustees were informed that the Berkshire Road improvement project in conjunction with Berkshire Township was approved by the Ohio Public Works Commission. Berkshire Road will be resurfaced and the drainage will be improved. This is great news!

Delaware County will replace the Blue Church Rd. Bridge north of Wilson Rd. at an estimated cost of \$475,000. The work will occur July-September of this year. The trustees also approved paying Delaware County to cut down berms on Blayne, Rosecrans, Blue Church, Twigg-Hupp, Todd Street, and Wilson roads in March or April. Delaware County will replace two culverts on Clark Rd., one over Pumpfrey Ditch from October to November and one over the West Branch of Little Walnut Creek from November to December.

We will also resurface Wilson Rd. this year from State Route 61 to Carter's Corner Rd. The trustees have put in a Request for Engineering Assistance (REA) with the Delaware County Engineer's Office for a Wilson Road traffic study. This is the first step needed to seek state funding to rebuild and resurface this road possibly in 2016-17.

The Kilbourne Post Office is seeking your thoughts on how it should operate. They are proposing to reduce the hours and days of operation. Please stop by the Post Office and fill out a survey. We do not want to lose our local Post Office!

Severe weather season is here. Do you have emergency plans in place with your family? Now is the time to put one in place so everyone knows where to go and what to do in case of severe weather.

If you have a question or concern, please call me at 740-272-3668.

Township Hall and Park Planning

The Township Hall and Park Planning Committee held meetings on February 21 and March 7. Architect Tony Schorr reported that the silos on the property were evaluated and are in fair to good shape. He has contacted the American Red Cross and the Board of Elections (BOE). The BOE sent the Federal Help America Vote Act requirements for a polling place. Civil engineers Sans Decker contacted the Delaware County Engineer about a Carter's Corner curb cut.

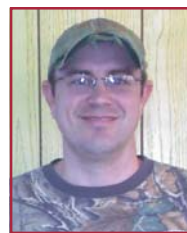
Specific building needs were discussed and a bubble diagram draft was developed and discussed. Draft plans include a foyer, four offices, a small conference room, a catering kitchenette, storage space, a large meeting hall to accommodate 150 people, restrooms, and a possible outdoor patio or deck.



Elevations, features, and wetlands on the property were discussed. From there, a rough site plan was brought to the committee for discussion. After revisions, it was presented at the trustees meeting for discussion along with a revised building bubble diagram. The long-term park master plan draft includes a shelter house the developer will build, picnic shelters, pedestrian and bike trails, open space, natural areas, wetlands, a grounds equipment storage facility, and parking areas.

If you would like to offer your input, the next meeting will be April 4 at 1:30 p.m. at the Township Hall.

Hammond Appointed to BZA



The Trustees appointed Bill Hammond to a seat on the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) through Dec. 2017. Hammond has served on the BZA as an alternate since June 2010. He has lived in the township with his wife and four children since 2005. He works for Nationwide Insurance in downtown Columbus and is an avid hunter.

February Zoning Report Permits

- 3 permits were issued in February:
- 1 above ground pool on Blue Church Rd.
 - 1 agriculture exemption for a building on Blue Church Rd.
 - 1 lot split approved on Kilbourne Rd (5 acres from 92 acres).

Complaints

Complaint about property on SR 61 and Rosecrans Rd. about uncut grass, debris, and a sign. Third and final letter from zoning office sent 11-08-13. Business sign has been removed but less than adequate progress has been made by the owner to clean up trash and debris adjacent to the residence. Mark Fowler of the County Prosecutor's office will send a letter to the property owner to attempt to get compliance prior to litigation proceeding. Prosecutor letter sent 01-24-14.

Property owner came to office 01-31-14 to discuss cleanup. Agreed to complete by April 30th with acknowledgment letter to be sent by owner to Zoning Office. Case pending. Letter from owner acknowledging commitment was received.

Complaint regarding overgrown grass, accumulated trash and debris and excessive motor vehicles on a property located off State Route 61 was investigated by Zoning Inspector Talbott on 12-06-13. In general, overgrown grass is not an issue with the exception of one area that is overgrown and contains trash and debris. There are several vehicles located on the property; however, the vehicles appear to be licensed/parked in an organized fashion and do not present a zoning violation. Letter sent 12-06-13 asking for voluntary compliance in cleaning up trash and debris in the overgrown area. The property owner visited the Zoning Office to discuss the matter on 12-13-13, and indicated that they would address the overgrown area with debris by spring. Case pending.

Miscellaneous

- Site review for NorthStar Section 1, Phase E on March 13th. 64 lots total, 34 in Kingston.
- Request change in zoning application to require a completed driveway permit prior to zoning permit issuance for new build homes on township roads.
- BZA variance hearing scheduled for March 18 for property on Carter's Corner Rd. Applicant seeking side yard setback variance for pole barn.
- Windows XP no longer supported in early April. Trustees approved purchasing new computers.

BZA Vacancy

The Kingston Township Board of Trustees will be appointing one position on the Kingston Township Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA). The alternate position is an existing term that runs through December 2015. The BZA meets on an as-needed basis hearing variance requests, appeals of orders issued by the zoning inspector, conditional use requests, and revocation of authorized variances and conditional zoning certificates.

Interested township residents should submit a letter of interest and a resume to the Kingston Township Zoning Office, 9899 State Route 521, Sunbury, Ohio 43074 or by email to zoning@kingstontwp.org.

This posting will remain open until the position is filled. Applicants will be interviewed by the Board of Trustees during their monthly meeting on April 8, 7 p.m., at the Kingston Township Hall. The applicant must be present to be considered for the position. Please contact the Zoning Office at 740-524-0290 with questions or visit <http://www.kingstontwp.org/Notices.htm>.

DGHD News

Council heard from Shelia Hiddleston, Delaware General Health District (DGHD) Commissioner. She gave an update on the Health District which conducted a community health assessment in 2013 and is drafting community health goals from the information gathered. Hiddleston said the District is one of only a few in Ohio that have applied for accreditation.

She also discussed the 0.7-mills renewal operating levy on the May ballot explaining that DGHD provides essential services that prevent disease, promote health and protect Delaware County residents from a variety of illnesses and injuries. Some of the essential services the Health District provides are fee-based such as inspections of restaurants, tattoo parlors, swimming pools, and safe water. However, there are many more that are provided without a fee such as communicable disease investigation and follow-up; education to children

and youth related to healthy diets, lifestyle and activity; and, fall assessments for the elderly. Through the clinic services, prevention programs, environmental health inspections, and more, the DGHD staff show a dedication that goes above and beyond their core duties.

As this year marks the end of the 10-year public health levy, Hiddleston said DGHD is proud to say that the existing health levy has been at the same millage (0.7 mills) since 1984. It is a well-known fact that the population of the Health District has tripled during that time, which includes close to 170,000 residents that DGHD serves. The levy funds represent a little more than 50 percent of the revenue for the Health District, with a cost of \$19.20 annually per \$100,000 property valuation. On May 6, voters will be asked to continue the health levy for another 10 years to ensure that these services and many more continue. The levy is a renewal and will not increase your current taxes. If you have questions, please call Health Commissioner Shelia Hiddleston at 740-203-2002.

It's Time To Change Your Smoke Alarm Batteries

State Fire Marshal Larry Flowers is reminding Ohioans to make a potentially lifesaving change by changing the batteries in your smoke alarms!

In conjunction with Ohio's fire departments, the Division of State Fire Marshal encourages Ohioans to make a habit of changing the batteries in their smoke detectors at least twice a year – at the beginning and end of daylight savings time.

“Last year marked the lowest number of fire-related deaths in Ohio in 27 years,” said Flowers. “But this is not ‘Mission Accomplished.’ This year, I’m challenging Ohioans to protect their homes and families through the simple act of changing out their smoke alarms’ batteries. We know that working smoke alarms and a well-practiced escape plan with two ways out save lives.”

Flowers said firefighters still find that smoke alarms are often not present in homes or are not functional. Data shows that in an overwhelming majority of incidents where there was a fatality, there was no evidence of a working smoke alarm.

Smoke alarms, when properly installed and maintained, provide early warning when fire occurs. For the greatest protection, install a smoke detector on every level of your home and inside each sleeping area. Also, develop an escape plan with two ways out and make sure every family member knows what to do and where to meet outside if the fire alarm sounds.

Marshal Flowers offers these additional tips:

- Test smoke alarms at least once each month to ensure that they are working properly.
- Vacuum the dust from inside the detector at least once every year.
- Never “borrow” a smoke detector’s battery for another use.
- Change batteries twice a year or if a detector “chirps” to signal low battery power.
- If you have a smoke alarm with a built-in 10-year battery, and it was installed before February 28, 2004, completely replace the unit this weekend.

For more information about smoke alarms and fire safety tips, visit www.com.ohio.gov/fire.

Natural Gas Proposed For Porter and Kingston Townships

Bright Energy, a subsidiary of Consolidated Electric, is prepared to make an investment between \$260,000 to \$600,000 to expand natural gas supply lines into Porter and

Kingston townships. The proposed line would run south on Lott Road from County Road 26 in Morrow County to Chambers Road, east on Chambers to Lott, south on Lott to SR 656, south on 656 to Olive Green Road, and then west on SR 521 to SR 61. This section has been approved by the Bright Energy Board of Directors. An additional extension is also being considered that would bring the line from Lott Road west on Chambers Road to SR 61, north on 61 to Kilbourne Road, west on Kilbourne to the last house on the south side of Kilbourne prior to Blue Church Road. It would also go south of SR 61 from Chambers Road to Beacom Road, west on Beacom to Blue Church Road and then north on Blue Church to the last house prior to Kilbourne Road. Each resident in the potential expanded service area should have already received an initial announcement from Bright Energy.

Bright Energy is moving forward quickly in their planning process. If enough residents commit to the project, their goal would be to have the supply lines installed and connections made before the 2014-15 heating season. Approximately 235 homes could benefit from the project, and the company needs commitments from approximately 85 percent (200) of the homeowners.

The proposed tap fee is \$1,250 which is planned to include road boring (if required) and 100' of service line. The cost beyond 100' to run to each residence would be \$3.00 per foot if Bright Energy does the trenching or \$1.00 per foot if the homeowner does the trenching and filling.

According to Bright Energy, there are a number of reasons to switch to natural gas versus propane, fuel oil, or electric. Natural gas is a lower cost energy source by 40 percent to 70 percent (depending on the fuel), and prices are anticipated to remain stable into the future as more oil fracking continues. The tap fee will be amortized quickly with fuel cost savings in an average of one to five years. Having natural gas availability enhances property values. Finally, the customer is billed monthly for only the amount of gas used. It should be noted that there is no monthly minimum in the amount of natural gas used; however, an \$8.00 per month service charge is billed whether natural gas is used or not.

Interested residents must act quickly! Bright Energy will determine if they have enough potential customers committed by the end of April. Project bidding is currently being done so they can start the project on May 1st. To commit, each customer must complete an application and put \$200.00 down. A financing option is available through Bright Energy (owned by Consolidated Electric).

Bright Energy company representative Bruce Jaynes will meet with each resident personally to discuss the potential cost of connection, project requirements, financing options, estimated cost amortization through fuel savings, appliance conversion to natural gas, and assistance with required project paperwork. **Contact Jaynes by telephone at 866-946-6600 or by e-mail at bjaynes@consolidatedgas.coop.** If you are interested in receiving ongoing updates from Jaynes, simply supply him with your email address. Again, without adequate homeowner commitment, the project will not move forward.

Big Walnut Schools Ask For Your Input

Hello Big Walnut School Community,

I am so excited today to be informing you on this topic. At the February board meeting I reported that the Community Survey would be coming out in the next week or so; well that time has come. The link to the Community Survey is now live and will run through Friday, March 21st at

<http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/1478878/Big-Walnut-Local-School-District-Community-Survey>.

This survey was last done in 2009. We certainly want you to know that we value your feedback as it helps us drive the direction of our district. The Community Survey is critical to our success as a school community, so we want to get as many responses as possible. Please take a few minutes to complete the survey and know that your feedback and input will influence our district into the future. Thank you!

Steve Mazzi, Superintendent

Kilbourne Post Office Input

The Postal Service is either going to completely close the Kilbourne Post Office or make it a four hour per day office. They are coming to the Kilbourne United Methodist Church on Thursday, March 27th at 6:30 p.m. to meet with the community and gather feedback. The Postmaster in Kilbourne has surveys that are available now to be filled out for the Postal Service.

This Post Office is very important to the people who live in Kilbourne as well as many others who use their services. If you have any questions, call Mary Schirtzinger at 740-524-0034 or the Postmaster, Theresa, at 740-524-4831.

Sign up For Our Newsletter

Contact us at kingstonnews@embarqmail.com to have the newsletter emailed directly to you. If you would like a mailed copy, call the Township Hall at 740-524-0290.

Who To Call (740 Area Code)

TRUSTEES

Bill Shively, Ch: 272-3668, 8760 SR 521, Sunbury
Dewey Akers, Vice-Ch.: 803-1529, dakers@kingstontwp.org
Steve Volpe, 965-1802, svolpe@kingstontwp.org

FISCAL OFFICER

Greg Roy: 524-8591, fiscalofficer@kingstontwp.org

DELAWARE COUNTY EMS

Emergency: 911; **Business: 833-2190**
<http://www.delcoems.org>

NEWS & INFO

Township Web Site: <http://www.kingstontwp.org>
Newsletter Editor: Jeanna Burrell **965-1914**
e-mail: kingstonnews@embarqmail.com

PORTER KINGSTON FIRE DISTRICT

Emergency: 911; **Business: 524-5050**
PKFD@rrohio.com; <http://www.PKFD.org>

ROADS & CEMETERIES

Doug Crowl, 740-815-8427 roads@kingstontwp.org

TRASH & RECYCLING

Big-O Refuse: **1- 888-924-BIGO (2446)**
e-mail: service@bigorefuse.com
web: <http://www.bigorefuse.com>

ZONING

Robert Talbott: **524-0290, Fax: 524-5304**
e-mail: zoning@kingstontwp.org

Kingston Calendar

Meetings are at the Township Hall, unless noted otherwise.
Trash pick up days are Fridays except during holiday weeks*.
Trustees Mtg. (new date) ----- April 8, 7 PM
Trash & Recycling Days ----- April 4, 11, 18, 25