



KINGSTON NEWS

1ST QUARTER, FEBRUARY 2017

Chairman's Chat

By Bill Shively, Trustees Chairman

Hello Everyone! This is Trustee Bill Shively, and I will serve as Chairman of Kingston Township Board of Trustee for 2017. The Trustees, at the February 7th Monthly Board Meeting, approved the purchase of a new 2015 Western Star 4700SB dump truck and snow plow for \$124,900. This never titled truck will be a major improvement to the township road maintenance equipment.



The Ohio Publics Works Commission (OPWC) application for Blue Church Road improvements did not make the cut for funding in 2017. We will re-evaluate the project for possible funding later this year.

The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) has informed the Trustees of a possible new roundabout to be constructed at the intersection of State Route 61 and Wilson Road/State Route 656. The accident history at this intersection is a cause for action. The township may be asked to help fund a portion of the project. Stay tuned to the newsletter for updates.

The Trustees have discussed how to fund a new township hall without a tax increase to the residences. The new building can be funded by rent we receive from the township 119 acres of

farmland. The Trustees will work to get all the details and funding in line. This project may be on the November ballot for your approval to proceed with building construction--not to raise taxes!

I would like to congratulate Zoning Secretary Dave Stites for being elected Chairman of the Delaware County Regional Planning Commission for 2017, and Trustee Steve Volpe for completing the Ohio Township Association (OTA) Leadership Academy at the Winter Conference in Columbus.

I would also like to thank Craig McCord for his continuing service to Kingston Township as a Member of the Board of Zoning Appeals. Craig was reappointed to the board by the Trustees on February 7th to serve a five year term through December 2021.

It's going to be a busy year for Kingston Township. If you have a question or concern, please call me at 740-272-3668.

2017 TRUSTEE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

At their January 3, 2017 Organizational Meeting, a number of appointments and resolutions were passed including:

- Bill Shively elected Chairman
- Dewey Akers elected Vice-Chair
- Steve Volpe elected Executive Member
- Porter Kingston Fire District Board—Dewey Akers
- Delaware County Prosecutor retained as the township's legal counsel
- Delaware Health District Advisory Board—Bill Shively
- Established the first Tuesday of the month for Trustee Meetings at 7:00pm
- Bob Talbott renamed Zoning Inspector

- Dave Stites renamed Zoning Secretary and rep. on the Regional Planning Commission Representative
- Renamed current Members of the Zoning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals
- Renamed Doug Crowl Road Superintendent and Cemetery Sexton
- Continued current Zoning Fees and Cemetery Fees and Rules
- Set the Mileage Reimbursement Rate at \$.535 cents per mile
- Certified official roadway mileage as 17.93 miles
- Approved \$912 for Emergency Services Fee Assessment
- Approved \$1,674 for Regional Planning Membership Dues
- Approved \$3,018 for Health District Apportionment
- Adopted a new Credit Card Usage Policy

KINGSTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS APPOINTMENT



John Blommel

At their December 6, 2016 Monthly Meeting, the Trustees appointed John Blommel to fill an existing Member position vacancy through December 2019. The Trustees thank John for his willingness and interest in serving the residents of our township by serving on the board.

John has resided in our township since 2003 and has owned and operated his own company, Central Ohio Appraisal Services, Inc. in Delaware County since 1994. He earned a B.S. in Business

Administration from Miami University and possesses extensive background, certifications and experience in the area of farm and residential real estate appraisal.

An urgent need still exists to fill one position on the Board of Zoning Appeals. The position is an Alternate Position that runs through December 2020. The Alternate attends all meetings but only has voting authority in the absence of a Member.

The Board of Zoning Appeals is comprised of 5 Members and 1 Alternate and meets on an as needed basis hearing variance requests, appeal of orders issued by the Zoning Inspector, conditional use requests and revocation of authorized variances and conditional zoning certificates. The positions receive \$40.00 compensation per meeting. The Board averages about 4-6 meetings per year.

Interested Kingston Township residents should submit a letter or e-mail of interest to the Zoning Office (zoning@kingstontwp.org). Appointments are made by the Township Trustees during their monthly meetings so applicant attendance at a meeting will be required.

Kingston Township still needs your help!

ZONING REPORT

2016 Year End Zoning Report

- 24 Permits Issued
 - 9 New Build Homes
 - 7 Accessory Structures
 - 4 Decks
 - 2 Room Additions
 - 2 In Ground Swimming Pools
- 1 Lot Split Approved
- 5 Agricultural Exemptions Approved
- 10 Complaints Filed and Closed
- 4 Board of Zoning Appeals Hearings--3 Variances and 1 Conditional Use for home occupation were heard.
- 4 Zoning Commission Meetings held.

Miscellaneous

At the request of the Trustees, the Zoning Commission is considering language changes to Section 7.05 (B) of the Zoning Resolution. Under current language, outdoor storage of trailers of any type, boats, motor homes, buses and equipment of any type for a period exceeding 14 days during any calendar year is prohibited if visible from any adjoining property or roadway. The Commission is discussing potential language changes that more accurately reflects the rural character of the township and resident preferences. The Zoning Resolution is located on-line under the Zoning Tab.

If you have any suggestions or comments to share with the Zoning Commission regarding the language changes, please contact the Zoning Office by telephone or by e-mail.

ROADS & CEMETERIES

Just A Reminder: Contractors or homeowners planning any work (including excavation and driveway culvert pipes) within the township roadway right-of-way must obtain a permit from Kingston Township prior to initiating any work. Please contact Roadway Superintendent Doug Crowl at 740-815-8427. Township roads include Todd Street, Blue Church, Rosecrans, Twigg Hupp, Clark, Blayney, Wilson, Stockwell (portion), Beacom (portion), Berkshire (portion) Roads and Basham and Wildwood Lanes.

The townships grant application for funding through the Ohio Public Works Commission to widen and resurface Blue Church Road from State Route 521 north to the turnaround at Interstate 71 was not approved for 2017. The Trustees will reconsider grant application submission during the summer. Should the project be eventually approved, funding will come from the grant, the Delaware County Engineers Office and Kingston Township.

On February 7, 2017, the Trustees purchased a new 2015 Western Star dump truck with salt spreader and plow at a cost of \$124,900 dollars. The unit will be financed under a low interest, three year lease to own agreement. While the unit is a 2015 year model, it has never been titled and will come with a full manufacturer's warranty. Maintenance

costs and frequency of breakdowns with the current 1997 International dump truck have increased to the point that a new truck is warranted to maintain our roadways year round. To date this winter, over 163 tons of salt have been applied to our roadways for safety.

The Trustees were informed that Nationwide Realty Investors intends to begin major work on Wilson Road within the township in Spring 2017. This work will include base repair, widening and paving adjacent to the NorthStar Development approximately from the sewer plant west to the Berkshire Township line. The final course of asphalt for this new work will be extended east over work completed by the township in 2014 to the bridge over Little Walnut Creek. **Wilson Road will be closed during the roadway construction work.**

The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) has approved a project to modify the intersection of State Route 61 and State Route 656/Wilson. They are looking at design alternatives to improve sight distances and move traffic through the intersection safely including the possible construction of a roundabout. Their target date for construction is reportedly 2020. Additional funding for the project may come from the Delaware County Engineer and Kingston Township. As residents well know, this is a very unsafe intersection which has produced a number of vehicular accidents with injuries and deaths. Questions regarding the project should be directed to ODOT District 6 in Delaware at 740-833-8000.

From December 2016 to February 2017, there were two driveway culvert permits issued during the period, and 3 road kill deer were removed from township road right-of-ways.

DID YOU KNOW?????????

Kingston Township's First Brick House

While driving on State Route 61 between State Route 521 and Wilson Road, have you ever noticed the old, large red brick home on the west side of the road and wondered how old is that house or who built it? Well, some of your questions may now be answered.

When the first settlers arrived in the area in 1807, they found forests and swamps. They cleared the land by hand and built log shelters to live in with thatched roofs. These shelters did not have a fireplace for warmth, and contained crude furniture constructed of roughhewn logs.

With the construction of water driven sawmills on Little Walnut Creek as discussed in the 4th Quarter 2016 Kingston News, the early residents moved from log shelters to wood frame buildings and eventually brick homes. This is where our story begins.

One year prior to the establishment of Kingston Township in 1813, Peter Van Sickle settled along Little Walnut Creek on the east side of the township. He was born in New Jersey in 1749 and was a Private in the New York Militia during the Revolutionary War. As he cleared the land to farm, he likely constructed a crude log shelter to live in. About this same time, a block structure was constructed at Stark's Corner (southeast side of the intersection of State Route 61 and Wilson Road/State Route 656) where early settlers like Van Sickle could seek safety from Indian attacks. Some of the early residents would go to the block structure nightly to sleep. The original block structure has long since disappeared.

Eventually, Van Sickle constructed the first wood frame house in Kingston Township for his family including wife Catherine and son Elias. Van Sickle died January 27, 1843 at the age of 93 and is buried in the Kingston Township side of Stark Cemetery (off State Route 656) with members of his family.

In 1825, John Van Sickle continued his cousins' (Peter Van Sickle) progressive building philosophy by constructing the first brick house in the township. It is believed that Peter G. Van Sickle (another cousin of Peter Van Sickle) fired the bricks for the house himself on his property. After 190 years, this is the large red brick home that you see while driving on State Route 61 today.

In 1830, Peter G. Van Sickle built a sawmill on the west side of Little Walnut Creek. At that time he was one of the wealthiest Kingston Township residents owning 350 acres of land. He died in 1870 and was also buried in the Kingston Township

side of Stark Cemetery with members of his family including his wife Elizabeth.

By Dave Stites and Doug Crowl

Source: Kingston Township Memories In Its Bicentennial Year 2013, The Big Walnut Area Historical Society including the writings of Jeanna Brooks Burrell for the Sunbury News.

PORTER KINGSTON FIRE DISTRICT

Replacement Fire Engine Ordered

Our Porter Kingston Fire District (PKFD) will be even better equipped to respond to structural fires when a new fire truck is delivered in April or May this year. The new Engine 382 will be replacing an existing unit purchased in 1996 which has well served the townships for 21 years. The replacement was necessary due to the age and condition of the existing unit as well as to comply with National Fire Protection Agency Fire Code mandates that require Class A equipment to be 20 years in age or less. By maintaining code requirements, each resident receives a benefit with lower home insurance premiums based on a lower insurance rating designation.

The cost of the new engine will be \$649,000 dollars and is being financed by a low interest rate loan through 2025. Chief Mike Thompson and his staff researched a number of manufacturers and equipment options in preparing the specifications for the new unit. They combined the best of current unit and added a number of improvements to maximize firefighter safety and firefighting capabilities. Five companies submitted bids to build the new unit from Ohio, Pennsylvania, Florida, South Dakota and Wisconsin with Pierce Manufacturing of Appleton, Wisconsin being awarded the contract.

New Engine 382 will be a Pierce Velocity with a number of options including:

- Red in color with a white stripe
- Large block, 450 horse power Cummins diesel engine
- Stainless steel body
- 15 KW, pto driven generator
- Emergency light and siren package
- Carry 6 firefighters and 6 air packs
- 1000 gallons of water on-board
- 1,500 gallon/minute water pump

- High velocity deck gun
- Storage for 109' of ladders, 1,000' of 5" fire hose, 400' 2 ½" fire hose, 400' 1 ¾" fire hose
- Storage for 2 vent fans and 2 reels each with 200' of electric cord
- Expanded compartment space

PKFD currently has a number of firefighting equipment that is fully paid off including a rescue unit, engine rescue unit, water tanker, a Hummer for off road grass fires, a one ton pickup truck and two trailers. Our fire district is financed by a tax levy passed in 2002 as well as grant dollars, and has efficiently and effectively lived within the operating funds available for 15 years. With good fiscal management, the district was able to put about 40% down on the loan for this significant purchase. While the district does not intend to keep the existing engine, the final decision will be made by the Fire Board made up of representatives from Porter and Kingston Townships and chaired by Kingston Township Trustee Dewey Akers.

Chief Thompson was asked if there was anything else that was important to report. He indicated that it was extremely important for the residents of Porter and Kingston Townships to know how much PKFD appreciates their on-going support; for without that support, it would not be possible to incrementally replace critical firefighting equipment like Engine 382.

BLAST FROM THE PAST



Old Blue Church Early 1900's

This picture was taken looking west from the east side of Blue Church Road. State Route 521 runs on the right (north) edge of the photo. The church sat on property which is now the Blue Church

Cemetery approximately where the bell from the church is displayed. Raising of sheep and other livestock was an important part of the early history of the township, and in fact, grazing sheep were used to maintain grass areas in cemeteries throughout the county. This photo was provided by former township resident Donald Case.

CALENDAR

Meetings are at the Township Hall, unless noted otherwise. **Trash pickup days are Fridays except during holiday weeks* where Friday service will be performed on Saturday. **Note Change**

Trustees Meeting February 7, 7 PM
 March 7, 7 PM
****April 3, 7 PM (Monday)**
 May 2, 7 PM
 June 6, 7PM

Zoning Commission February 8, 2017, 7 PM
 May 10, 2017, 7 PM
 August 9, 2017, 7 PM
 November 8, 2017, 7 PM

Trash Days February 3, 10, 17 & 24
 March 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31
 April 7, 14, 21 & 28
 May 5, 12, 19 & 26
 June 2*, 9, 16, 23 & 30

CONTACTS

(740 Area Code)

TRUSTEES

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

FISCAL OFFICER

Greg Roy: 504-0311,
fiscalofficer@kingstontwp.org

DELAWARE COUNTY EMS

Emergency: 911; Business: 833 www.delcoems.org

NEWS & INFORMATION

Zoning Office Telephone: 524-0290

Township Web Site: www.kingstontwp.org

Please contact the Zoning Office by e-mail at zoning@kingstontwp.org or by phone at 740-524-0290 to be added or removed from the Newsletter Distribution List.

PORTER KINGSTON FIRE DISTRICT

Emergency: 911; Business: 524-5050

Email: PKFD@rrohio.com www.PKFD.org

ROADS & CEMETERIES

Doug Crawl, 815-8427, roads@kingstontwp.org

TRASH & RECYCLING

Waste Management: 866-797-9018

On-line: www.wm.com

ZONING

Robert Talbott: 524-0290, Fax: 524-5304,

zoning@kingstontwp.org

SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION SERVICE

740-368-1921

DELAWARE COUNTY CODE COMPLIANCE

740-833-2200

DELAWARE GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT

740-368-1700

TRASH CONTRACT EXTENDED

The township refuse contract with Waste Management was extended three (3) years till December 31, 2019 by the Kingston Township Trustees during their November 1, 2016 Monthly Meeting. The current quarterly rate of \$38.64 will remain the same for 2017 with a 2% raise in the rate for both 2018 and 2019. **The 2018 quarterly rate will be \$39.42 and \$40.20 for 2019.** Cart rental will remain at \$2.75 per cart per month through the period.

During their deliberations, the Trustees agreed that initial service problems encountered during the change from Big O to Waste Management have been resolved. When investigating several recent service complaints brought to their attention, the Trustees found that the complainants had not paid their refuse bill or got their refuse to the curb late.

Because of the type of collection trucks (front open bin emptied overhead into the main compaction

unit) used by Waste Management, the Trustees have received complaints about blowing loose trash along our roadways on collection day. The solution rests with all township residents where the Trustees ask that all loose trash be bagged instead of just piled in individual refuse cans. For service contact Waste Management at 866-797-9018 or on-line at www.wm.com.

ICE SAFETY TIPS

Whether ice fishing or skating on local reservoirs such as Delaware and Alum Creek or one of the many ponds in Kingston Township, here are a few ice safety tips from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) that winter sports enthusiasts should keep in mind before venturing out onto frozen water.

Things to consider before you go out:

- Ice conditions vary from lake to lake. Find a good local source like a bait shop that is knowledgeable about ice conditions on the lake you want to fish on.
- Purchase a pair of ice picks or ice claws, which are available at most sporting goods stores.
- Tell a responsible adult where you are going and what time to expect you back. Relaying your plan can help save your life if something does happen to you on the ice.

What to know about ice:

- You can't always tell the strength of ice simply by its look, its thickness, the temperature or whether or not it is covered with snow.
- Clear ice that has a bluish tint is the strongest. Ice formed by melted and refrozen snow appears milky, and is very porous and weak.
- Ice covered by snow always should be presumed unsafe. Snow acts like an insulating blanket and slows the freezing process. Ice under the snow will be thinner and weaker. A snowfall also can warm up and melt existing ice.
- If there is slush on the ice, stay off. Slush ice is only about half as strong as clear ice and indicates the ice is no longer freezing from the bottom.

- Be especially cautious in areas where air temperatures have fluctuated. A warm spell may take several days to weaken the ice; however, when temperatures vary widely, causing the ice to thaw during the day and refreeze at night, the result is a weak, "spongy" or honeycombed ice that is unsafe.
- The MDNR does not recommend the standard "inch-thickness" guide used by many anglers and snowmobilers to determine ice safety. A minimum of four inches of clear ice is required to support an average person's weight on the ice, but since ice seldom forms at a uniform rate it is important to check ice thickness with a spud and ruler every few steps.

- kicking your feet, pull yourself onto the surface by sliding forward on the ice.
- Roll away from the area of weak ice. Rolling on the ice will distribute your weight to help avoid breaking through again.
- Get to shelter, heat, dry clothing and warm, non-alcoholic and non-caffeinated drinks.
- Call 911 and seek medical attention if you feel disoriented, have uncontrollable shivering, or have any other ill effects that may be symptoms of hypothermia (the life-threatening drop in the body's core temperature).

Source: www.michigan.gov/dnr under Ice Safety Tips

Venturing out on the ice:

- The MDNR does not recommend taking a car or truck out onto the ice at any time.
- If you are walking out onto a frozen body of water with a group, avoid crossing ice in a single file.
- Never venture out alone without telling a responsible adult on shore your plans.
- Test ice thickness with an ice spud before you settle on a spot.
- If you are with a group, avoid standing together in a spot. Spread out.
- Wear a life jacket and bright colored clothing.
- Take a cell phone for emergency use.
- Look for large cracks or depressions in the ice and avoid those areas.
- Remember ice does not form with uniform thickness on any body of water. Underwater springs and currents can wear thin spots on the ice.

If you fall through:

- Try to remain calm.
- Don't remove your winter clothing. Heavy clothes won't drag you down, but instead can trap air to provide warmth and flotation. This is especially true with a snowmobile suit.
- Turn in the water toward the direction you came from - that is probably the strongest ice.
- If you have them, dig the points of the ice picks into the ice and, while vigorously