

Parkman Township Trustees

Regular Meeting April 15th, 2025

The regular meeting of the Parkman Township Trustees was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Joyce Peters, township trustee chairperson.

In attendance were Trustees – Joyce Peters, Henry Duchscherer, and Lance Portman, Fiscal Officer – Denise Villers, Administrative Assistant – Stacey Urbanowicz, Fire Chief – Mike Komandt, Residents – John Augustine, Jerry Jacobs, Roger Anderson and Dylan Diemert of Parkman Fire Department (late).

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and an agenda was made available.

Meeting's Motions and Resolutions:

Lance Portman made a motion to approve the April 1st, 2025, Regular Meeting minutes and Henry Duchscherer seconded the motion. All voted yes, motion carried unanimously.

Lance Portman made a motion to resolve to execute the Attorney General's overpayment plan for fire department employee Dylan Diemert to repay for the years 2022 – 2025 in the amount of \$7,058.00. The amount of \$100.00 per pay is to be deducted over a three-year period or until it is paid in full. Henry Duchscherer seconded the motion. All voted yes, motion carried unanimously. *Roll Call Vote: Joyce Peters – Yes, Henry Duchscherer – Yes, Lance Portman – Yes. (Resolution #066-2025)*

Joyce Peters **motioned** to increase the hourly pay for Jacqueline Clay by 50-cents per hour as she has obtained her fire inspector certification. Henry Duchscherer seconded the motion. All voted yes, motion carried unanimously.

Joyce Peters made a **motion** to accept the resignation of Courtney Sanders from the Parkman Fire Department. Henry Duchscherer seconded the motion. All voted yes, motion carried unanimously.

Joyce Peters made a **motion** to accept the resignation of Elizabeth Sanders from the Parkman Fire Department. Henry Duchscherer seconded the motion. All voted yes, motion carried unanimously.

Joyce Peters made a motion to send Matt Welch to University Hospitals to have an NFPA cardiac stress test done prior to returning to duty. Henry Duchscherer seconded the motion. All voted yes, motion carried unanimously. *(Resolution #067-2025)*

Lance Portman motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 p.m. Henry Duchscherer seconded the motion. All voted yes, motion carried unanimously.

Departmental Reports

Fiscal Officer

- Approve the minutes for the April 1st, 2025, regular trustee meeting. See *Motions and Resolutions*.
- Resolution needed to approve the repayment plan for the employee over-payment (found in our audit). Asking for \$100.00 per pay be withheld and returned to the Fire Fund until the “debt” is repaid. This resolution will then be forwarded to the Auditor of State and our APA. *Joyce Peters read the finding of recovery that she received from the Auditor of State. Dylan Diemert was inadvertently paid \$17.00/hr instead of \$15.00/hr from 2022-2025. The Auditor of State said that the agreement that was come to, was that \$100.00 per paycheck would be deducted until it was paid in full, and it will take about three years. There are also provisions for if Mr. Diemert defaults on the payments. If he defaults, the Attorney General can collect the money as well as interest and penalties. See Motions and Resolutions. Mike Komandt then stated that he spoke with Bill Ward from the state who told him that there were three different options to repay the money. He then stated that he had been trying to talk Dylan through this to see what he was thinking and that Dylan Diemert hadn't agreed to repay anything. Joyce Peters said that Dylan has to. Denise Villers said that Bill Ward didn't give her any of the options that Mike Komandt spoke of. Mike Komandt said that Dylan hadn't received anything back after his reply to Mr. Ward. Denise Villers received a letter from Bill Ward on April 1st and Mike Komandt said that Dylan Diemert received an initial letter on March 17th from Mr. Ward and another letter on March 31st by certified mail. Mike said that the 31st is the same day that Mr. Ward called Mike and Dylan was sitting next to Mike. Mike said that when Dylan went to get the certified mail it was on the third attempt and that they were getting ready to send it back. Denise Villers asked if Mike Komandt had anything other than a phone call about the other options. Mike said that he didn't but that he would email him “right now.” Joyce Peters said that Dylan Diemert, “knew that he was being overpaid and he kept collecting.” Mike Komandt said that there was an email sent to fiscal that said that Dylan was being overpaid. Joyce Peters said that the email is, “non-existent.” Denise Villers said that she didn't find the email and Joyce didn't find it. Mike Komandt said (speaking to Denise Villers), “the email didn't go to Joyce, it went to you.” Joyce Peters said that ordinarily when you've had questions about fiscal, you've copied to me or emailed to me directly on any problem that came up, I'm just going to assume that you might have done that and neither did...” Mike cut her off and said, “the state has the email that I sent to them. That's why it's in the letter that the email was sent on that date...” Joyce said that her bigger point is, would you just say one time and for whatever reason that you didn't get a response, that you would not try again? Mike Komandt said that he did the same thing with Mr. Stewart's wrong payment when he emailed. Joyce Peters then said, “does that not tell you that she didn't get the email?” Mike said that he never got a reply that it was fixed. Joyce said that it's neither here nor there. Joyce said that Dylan made one attempt to correct his payroll, then proceeded to keep collecting it for*

two years. He owes the money back. Mike Komandt then said that it's also very well known that the guys aren't always at their paystubs making sure that everything is correct. Joyce said that that's on them. He obviously knew that it was wrong if you say that he told you. Joyce said that when you make one attempt to correct it, and don't see any change, the right thing is to try again, not keep collecting it for two years knowing you weren't entitled to it. Denise Villers asked Mike Komandt to get something in writing from Bill Ward stating that there are other options to pay the money back other than a phone conversation. Joyce Peters read the part again where if Mr. Diemert were to default on the payback, he will be fully liable to pay it back and the state will use every legal avenue to collect. Joyce Peters said that the township is not going to be responsible to pay back what Mr. Diemert owes. Yes, a mistake was made, but the bigger mistake was that Mr. Diemert knew that he wasn't entitled to the pay rate he was receiving and made only one attempt to right the wrong. Dylan Diemert arrived at the meeting at a later time (before starting Old Business) and asked why he had to, "pay for someone else's mistake." Joyce Peters told him, "Because that's the way it is. I had to pay back my employer." Dylan said that he, "reported it to his supervisor who reported it to the lady who cuts the checks." Joyce Peters asked him why he didn't try a second time when it didn't get fixed. Dylan claimed that he tried to have his pay corrected multiple times. Joyce asked him where the emails were. Dylan said that he sent multiple emails. Joyce asked if he sent them to Mrs. Villers. Dylan said that it's not his responsibility to email the trustees or the fiscal officer. Joyce told him that it is his responsibility if his paycheck is incorrect...then Dylan cut her off and said that he reported it to his direct supervisor. When Joyce tried to clarify what Mr. Diemert said he angrily said, "I reported it to my direct supervisor, who then reported it to her. There is email proof of it. It is not my fault that she didn't check her email and not correct my pay for over two years. That is not my fault. It should not all be on me." Joyce Peters said that the state disagrees with you, that's how it goes. You should've tried more. Dylan said that he didn't have to. It's not his job to make sure that the fiscal officer is doing her job right. Joyce Peters told Dylan to back off. Dylan then said that Denise Villers messed up his paycheck last week for reimbursement. Joyce Peters then told Dylan to stop yelling. Joyce then said that mistakes happen, and Dylan agreed with her. Dylan said that he did his "due diligence" by pointing it out two years ago. Joyce said that he chose to keep collecting money that he wasn't entitled to and didn't try again. It is his responsibility to report it more than once to get it fixed. Dylan said that, "he didn't think so." Dylan then asked Mike Komandt to look back because he thought that there were 2 or 3 emails. Mike said that he only had one email that he did forward to the state. So, then Dylan stated that he has to go to the trustees and Denise Villers, and Joyce said, "why not?" Then Dylan said again, "it's not my responsibility to talk to you guys. There's a fire department liaison and a chief. Why do you have him if it's my responsibility to go to her (meaning the fiscal officer)?" Joyce said that you didn't come to me. Dylan asked why it was never corrected. Joyce told him that Denise Villers never received the email, it doesn't exist in her files. She said that Mike often copies her when he emails the fiscal officer and that she never received it either. Dylan then asked who voted that he had to pay the money back. Joyce told him that the

state and the Geauga County prosecutor said he has to. Denise Villers said that they asked them to prepare and offer repayment. Dylan said, "so you guys can't just say 'it is what it is', mistakes just happen. The fire budget hasn't been impacted that terrible, we have the money in staffing." Joyce Peters said that you are NOT entitled to it. Mike Komandt said that the money has to be repaid somehow. Joyce Peters said that Dylan had a responsibility to get it reported. Then Dylan said "that's fine, we'll work out an agreement." Dylan claims that he never received a letter. Joyce Peters read the agreement that was written up by an attorney in the event that he defaults on the agreement. Dylan then argued that he works full time for Ronyak Paving and can't work at the fire department the hours that he used to. Joyce Peters said that he's still responsible to pay the money back. Joyce Peters told Dylan again that the email can't be found. Dylan then said, "sure, coincidence. I'd cover my tracks too." Joyce Peters said that she would like to see a copy of the email that was sent because Dylan claims that the email that was claimed to be sent to Denise Villers is on Mike Komandt's computer. Joyce said that it still doesn't matter because one try to correct the matter isn't sufficient. Dylan kept getting the pay rate even though he wasn't entitled to it and it was his responsibility to get the matter fixed. She said that that is what the state told her when she had to pay back seven months of overpayment even though she never looked at her paycheck. Resident John Augustine asked if Dylan didn't pay it back, who would be responsible to take him to court to pay it back. Joyce Peters said that either Parkman Township would or the Attorney General would because all payments get reported to the Attorney General. Joyce Peters said that the point remains that Dylan has to agree to what has been presented. Dylan then said, "or what? I'm tied up in legal fees for the next couple years?" Dylan said that he wanted a copy to take to his attorney before he agreed to anything. He said that it was voted on that he had to pay it back. He then asked what the time frame was before he had to start paying it back. Denise Villers said that there wasn't a time frame yet, they had to get it to their prosecuting attorney. Joyce Peters asked if the certified mail that Dylan received after the third attempt to notify him let him know if he owed money. Dylan brought up a copy of the letter that was on his phone for Joyce Peters/Denise Villers to read. Joyce Peters asked Dylan if he responded to Mr. Ward within five days. Dylan said that he emailed him and was told by Mr. Ward that he was going to forward Dylan's email to his legal team and "go from there." This was on March 31st per Mike Komandt when Mike and Dylan were on the phone with Mr. Ward. Dylan asked when his payments start. Joyce said that they start when the settlement is signed by Dylan, the township and the prosecuting attorney. Dylan asked why he wasn't asked about a payment plan. Joyce told him that it was determined by the state, not the township. Joyce Peters said that we're done arguing, but you need to take this to an attorney and this needs to be signed and taken care of as soon as possible. Joyce apologized to everyone at the meeting after Dylan left for what took place and the meeting continued on with Old Business.

Zoning

1. Received from Planning the following application, 24-150 copies of an executed and approved deed on real property held by Beverly A. Gates. The deed coincides with a survey map reviewed and signed by Parkman Township Zoning on December 14, 2024.
2. Henry Miller of 16897 Old State Road completed an application for a two-story addition to his house. All paperwork was in order and a permit was issued.
3. Daniel Class called Zoning and wanted information on property on Nash Road. Mr. Class is planning a fun park consisting of water slides, a splash pad, and a go cart track. Zoning suggested that he put his proposal in writing so Zoning could decide where something like his idea would best fit in the township.
4. Received a complaint that a fence was being constructed at a property on Madison Road. Zoning did an onsite inspection and talked to the owner. He said the fence is for agricultural use. No permit is needed.
5. Daryl Smith of 16731 Main Market Road completed an application for a 26 x 40ft accessory building. All paperwork was in order and a permit was issued.
6. Received from Planning application #23-025 being a division of land held by David & Ruth Hostetler parcel #25-036601 and John Troyer Parcel #25-036600. Zoning received legal descriptions and survey maps on both parcels and reviewed and returned one map back to Planning. All Parkman Township Zoning resolution requirements were met. Also received from Planning legal descriptions and survey maps on application 25-026 showing a proposed division of land being one large lot split containing 8.79 acres on parcel #25-117080 held by Samuel & Elizabeth Weaver. All Zoning requirements were met, and one survey map was returned to Planning.
7. Non-compliant letters were sent out to the following: James Baril of McCall Road and Ted Wojtasik of Main Market Road. After at least five letters being sent out to both property owners, Non-Compliant Packets are being put together and notices will be sent to the prosecutor's office requesting legal action be taken on both property owners.

Zoning Discussion – Any discussion was held during each section.

Fire

- Scheduled engine and squad for service in Middlefield. Alignment to follow each service.
- We have been receiving grant award items and placing them into service as they come in and training is completed.
- Month of May we will be getting cars for training and putting them at the north garage. This will be an all-month thing.
- Ms. Clay has obtained her fire inspector certification. Please adjust her pay rate accordingly. (Resolution).
- Chief needs to meet with fiscal after the meeting in private.

- I am requesting that the fire department receives copies of the requisition forms that are turned in with a purchase order number assigned to aid in keeping the paperwork and budget easier track.
- Will have budget request for 2026 turned in by end of month

Fire Department Discussion – Mike Komandt received notice of resignation from Liz and Courtney Sanders. *See Motions and Resolutions.* Mike Komandt also said that Matt Welch notified him that he received clearance from his medical provider to return to duty. Mike would like him to have a cardiac stress test done. *See Motions and Resolutions.*

Roads

- We have been working on trying to maintain the roads. The asphalt plant opened for the season this week so, hopefully, after a few of our other current projects are complete we will fill the holes in our chip/seal and asphalt roads.
- All equipment has been serviced and is ready for the year. We went through all the flags and replaced broken or bent poles and are ready to be placed on the utility poles before Memorial Day.

Roads Discussion – Any discussion was held during each section.

Community House

- We have 2 bookings for April and 3 for May. Easter Egg Hunt is April 19th @ 11:00 am. (Set up will begin at 8:30)
- EPA is coming April 23rd to check the water system.
- MK Roofing is coming April 15th to fix the roof. *The roofers are coming the week of the 21st.*
- We have election day May 6th and a Blood Drive May 28th.

Overlook Park:

- We are going to harley rake the ball diamonds when it dries out. We are going to try and not use chemicals on the fields to kill the weeds.
- We are getting quotes to resurface the basketball and tennis courts. *Henry Duchscherer said that tennis court will be painted to include pickleball courts.*

Community House/Parks Discussions – Any discussion was held during each section

Cemetery

- We have a full burial this coming Saturday 4/19

Cemetery Discussion – Mike Komandt said that the fire department will put up the flags on May 7th. Roger Anderson asked if the big flag will be replaced. He said that there's only one crank for it. A second one will cost around \$160.00. After some discussion, a second crank will be ordered as well as more flags.

Old Business

- Kitchen project – Joyce Peters said that Steve Bosak came and checked everything in the kitchen plumbing out. He will come up with a quote and also wants to be here when the demolition is done. Henry Duchscherer spoke with Fisher Flooring to have them come and look at the floor. Joyce said that Mike Craver may have worked out the wall project.
- Gazebo Roof/CH flashing – The order is verified and will be shipped on May 10th. The roofing will be started when the materials arrive.
Community house flashing: Joyce Peters said that it never got passed. It will cost \$190.00. The plan is to do it on the 21st. The copper flashing on the gazebo was damaged and laying on the ground. Joyce would like to see if it's salvageable. Joyce signed the contract for the \$190.00 repair.
- Solar farms – The commissioners were at a Geauga County meeting. Claridon Township approached the commissioners and asked for a ban for their township for greater than 50 megawatts. The townships can control anything less than 50 megawatts (which requires a parcel less than 300 acres). Joyce received a copy of Claridon Township's resolution so that Parkman could use it to make one. Parkman would just have to rewrite it to make it their own to fit the township needs. They would need a map, and a description of their borders and then submit it to the county commissioners. Henry Duchscherer is for banning solar farms. Joyce Peters wants to know if Zoning will have their ban for less than 50 megawatts before the township meeting.
- Grave transfer – The trustees received a notarized letter from the daughter to make the switch. Lance Portman made a contact to schedule it sometime this summer.
- Memorial Day/Bell dedications – Joyce Peters has the families on board for the honorees and the band. They won't have the VFW this year as they don't have the people. She still has to see if the Scouts can participate. Ann Wishart of the "Maple Leaf" is writing a story about the school bell and mill stone in Parkman.
- Horse shelter – Henry Duchscherer said that it's terrible and that it's going to be a barn next year.

Old Business Discussion – Any discussion was held during each section.

New Business

- Legislative report – Joyce Peters went through many of the items that have been passed with House Bill 315.

New Business Discussion – Any discussion was held during each section.

Public Comment

- Roger Anderson asked when the concrete pad was going to be poured. Lance Portman said that it's going to be poured in line with the stone beds. They are

going to try to get it done in June of this year. Roger also said that the ditch on Hosmer Road close to Farley Road is about to cave in.

Adjournment: Lance Portman motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 p.m. Henry Duchscherer seconded, all yes. Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting on May 6th, 2025, starting at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes prepared by Stacey Urbanowicz, Administrative Assistant.

Meeting minutes submitted by Denise Villers, Fiscal Officer.

Meeting Minutes Approved by

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lance Portman", written over a horizontal line.