

Parkman Township Trustees Regular Meeting of May 18, 2021

The regular meeting of the Parkman Township Trustees was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

In attendance were: Trustees-Roger Anderson, Dennis Ikeler, and Henry Duchscherer, Fiscal Officer- Susan Wojtasik, Fire Chief- Mike Komandt, John Spelich- Zoning Inspector, Danny Spencer PFD, Ryan Morehead PFD, Dolly Rivera CHC, John Norman, Thad Wojtasik RD, Ted Wojtasik, Stacey Raymond, Jeffrey Raymond, Lance Portman, Nancy Black, Dennis Coz, John Augustine, Dale Komandt. (This meeting was virtual and in-person.) Diane Ryder- Maple Leaf Reporter, Scott Hildebrand, were present virtual.

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

Meetings Resolutions:

Roger Anderson Made a motion to approve May 4th meeting minutes and seconded by Dennis Ikeler. Motion carried unanimously. ([Resolution 78-2021](#))

Roger Anderson made a motion to Approve Bank Reconcile for January 2021 and Dennis Ikeler seconded. Motion carried unanimously ([Resolution 79-2021](#))

Roger Anderson made a motion to Approve Bank Reconcile for February 2021 and Dennis Ikeler seconded. Motion carried unanimously ([Resolution 80-2021](#))

Roger Anderson made a motion to Approve Bank Reconcile for March 2021 and Dennis Ikeler seconded. Motion carried unanimously ([Resolution 81-2021](#))

Roger Anderson made a motion to Approve Bank Reconcile for April 2021 and Dennis Ikeler seconded. Motion carried unanimously ([Resolution 82-2021](#))

Dennis Ikeler made a motion to Spend \$14,200 for Asphalt to Todd Lamb Asphalt and Henry Duchscherer seconded. Motion carried unanimously ([Resolution 83-2021](#))

Dennis Ikeler made a motion to approve spending \$20,000 for grindings from Welshfield Trucking on a blanket certificate and Roger Anderson seconded. Motion carried unanimously ([Resolution 84-2021](#))

Dennis Ikeler made a motion to Spend \$20,000 for #57 Limestone from Arms Trucking and Henry Duchscherer seconded. Motion carried unanimously ([Resolution 85-2021](#))

Roger Anderson made a motion to grant a leave of absence for Tommy Baril from the Fire Department for new job and Dennis Ikeler seconded. Motion carried unanimously. ([Resolution 86-2021](#))

Roger Anderson made a motion to keep the Fire Department on 24/7 until the end of 2021 and Henry Duchscherer seconded. Motion carried 2 to 1 with Dennis Ikeler voting no. ([Resolution 87-2021](#))

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Fiscal:

Fiscal Officer Report:

- Bank Reconciliations need approval from Governing board. January through April.
 - Budget Webinar was today at 11am with Geauga county.
 - Cares Act Report was finalized and turned in with the Office of Budget Management state of Ohio
 - Reached out to High School about offering volunteer time. The guidance counselor is going to put the information out there.
 - Received an email from OPERS offering any members term or whole life policies through Colonial Life. Open enrollment will be June 1st through September 30, 2021.
 - 2 more job opportunities through Board of Commissioners.
 - Information and Referral Assistant for \$13.57/hr.
 - Electrician II – Union Water resources. \$25.84/hr.
- See flyer if interested.

- Attended webinar on Budget through the county. Need to revisit it due to excessive noise in the building.

Fiscal Discussion:

Nothing further was discussed but resolutions were made for bank reconciliation.

ZONING:

1. Second 15-day non-compliant letters sent out to Robert Hersberger, Freeman Miller, Albert Miller and Raymond Mullett this has to do with problems we have had with the building on Bundysburg Road.
2. An application was completed and approved on an outdoor patio. The 25 by 30 patio is to be attached to the home located at 17895 Owen road, all paper work was in order and a permit was issued.
3. An application was completed by Jim Kistler DBA Still Water Farm one LLC the new house is to be located at 16632 Farmington road, all paperwork is pending and a permit has not been issued. There is an old house on the property that will be torn down when the new house is up and approved by zoning.
4. Application was completed by Cindy Miller of 16373 Doty road, Miss Miller is planning a home occupation consisting of herbs and spices, all paperwork was in order and a permit was issued.
5. Zoning information requests on the following:
 - a. Second noncompliant letter sent out to David Prime of Owen road on housing a steel shipping container on his property.
 - b. Parkman Country Store starting to clean up they are ordered to use a dumpster on the site.

- c. Professional Title on John Miller on parcel 25-013850 also same title company on Donna Tod parcel 25-002400.
- d. John Sullivan new house Hazy Morning Drive all pending at this time with Dray Builders.
- e. Parkman township BZA met in regular session and approved an area variance for Chris Gingrich of Agler road.
- f. An application was sent out to Noah Byler of 18028 Madison road, Mr. Byler built a fence without a permit now he has to pay for the permit, plus submit a site plan.

Zoning discussion:

John Spellich said as of May 28th they will be going back to regular zoning hours.

Fire:

1. One overhead door was found to have a defective photo eye on Sunday 5/16/2021. Door Works was contacted the morning of 5/17/2021 and completed the replacement of the defective eye before 10am. This defect would not let the bay door close and would have left the station unsecure if not replaced.
2. Quarterly maintenance and air sampling of the SCBA compressor is scheduled for 24 May. This is a quarterly requirement.
3. Received preliminary cost for some upgrades to the station with contracted installers to do site visits over the next few weeks when they return to the area for feasibility and hard cost estimates.
4. We are looking at 2 locations to have dry hydrants installed in the township. We will be visiting the property owners over the summer to request permission to have these installed.
5. 2022 budget request to be finalized after we have a plan for the future of the fire department and given to the fiscal officer.
6. Fire code complaint to be investigated this week due to a general code complaint.
7. A survey was given to elected officials to gauge the understanding of the fire department.
 - a. 3 of 4 were completed.
 - b. One had notes written the survey for justification of the response.
 - c. Some valuable information's was received.

Fire discussion:

Chief Komandt added to the report that they are having trouble with Jeep. Had trouble dealing with the brush fire after getting stuck in field and after getting back on the road it did not want to go back in drive. After contacting the mechanic, hoping he will get out Thursday or Friday. Also hoping he can finish with the winch. Chief Komandt also reported he received a written request from Mr. Baril requesting one month leave of absence to get started in a new full-time job, starting June 13th.

Roads:

- The Soltis road culvert project has struck a major problem. As the road is currently open we will be needing to close it again to finish. While digging to install the last piece of pipe and head wall we found that we were digging in an area which is super, super soft and wet. We reached 8 ft and were still digging soft soupy material which was pushing up out of the ground. The county engineer's office was contacted and we will be reevaluating the project this next Monday morning.
- Numerous dust complaints have been coming in and we are finally scheduled for some material to be sprayed this week.

- Flags have all been put in town including some added to Church and Center St.
 - Met with Henry at the park and as we have time will be fixing some of the fences and minor repairs around the park.
 - Once dust control is applied to all roads we will be installing the mower back onto the tractor and will begin mowing roadsides.
- Roads discussion:
- Dennis Ikeler explained problems with Solitis Rd project. They have a quagmire problem and are suppose to meet with county engineers next Monday to try and resolve problem. Dennis Ikeler also said that they have been getting a lot of dust complaints. They are not going to be able to do anything until tomorrow. Hopefully in the next couple weeks they can have all the roads sprayed.
- Dennis Ikeler submitted to the Fiscal Officer a wish list budget for next year. We went through it quickly because Dennis Ikeler didn't schedule a time and she already had an appointment. Susan Wojtasik said it would get her started and that some of the things on the list, we would like to get done this year. Edward St and Mill streets in order to pave them we were looking at \$14,200 in labor and materials.

Community House:

We are starting to get people inquiring about booking events. We have a couple contracts pending. The Blood Drive is going to every other month as they will be using the Fairgrounds again in Burton.

Community House discussions: The Blood drives are going to be every other month. Roger added that Dolly Rivera requested for the Trustees to approve the agreement for the Rentals just aligning the agreement so it was easier to understand. People were getting confused as to what the pricing was from the old agreement. Henry Duchscherer also added that we were getting the furnaces upstairs serviced. Roger asked since they are getting a microwave for the kitchen, if they should get one for the upstairs and Henry Duchscherer said No

Overlook Park:

Berkshire Little League will be playing their home games here. They lent us a professional drag to use this year as our drag was stolen. The fields have been treated for weeds and Harley raked. Bases have been put out at both fields. We are getting a quote to fill the cracks on the Basketball and tennis Courts. We should have the Volleyball Court fixed by Memorial Day.

Overlook Park discussions:

Henry Duchscherer read the report and added that he is getting a quote from Troy Craig for filling in cracks on the courts and we are going to keep up with that.

Cemetery:

Henry Duchscherer said we could get the Cemetery sign painted for \$350

OLD BUSINESS:

Fire House Bunkhouse/Levy - Roger expressed that he went over the old numbers and suggested that they continue 24/7 until the end of the year and if the Levy doesn't pass that they will go to 12 hours a day starting January 1st. He ran it out to 2027 at 12 hours a day with no equipment, such as trucks, to use as a rough draft. Roger Anderson started in May with \$650,000 and they have received Approximately \$40,000 in EMS Billing

this year, so we are already above what we normally have. Chief Komandt said that as of yesterday we are up 52 more calls than last year this time. Roger Anderson said that we are covering for the east, west, and north of us because everybody is having the same problem, not enough people. Roger Anderson said that because we have enough money to do 24/7 through the end of the year, he would like to make a motion. Included in the numbers Roger Anderson put in the leased lodging and realizes that is still up for debate, and he quoted it to the high side just to be sure.

Roger Anderson also stated that he understood that Dennis Ikelter wanted a survey to the people to find out their thoughts and ideas. Dennis Ikelter at this point presented a rough draft on a survey to go out. John Augustine, a citizen of the community, asked if the numbers would deplete all funds for the future for equipment. Roger Anderson responded saying that John hadn't been here in quite a while and that there had been \$140,000 added to the fire fund from Cares Act to recoup the cost of firefighters' wages. Roger stated that there is no specific fund for equipment.

Dennis Ikelter read what he had put on the survey. It named statistics of the Parkman population as of 2010 survey. The survey also stated the facts about Parkman and services provided. The survey asked all residence to return them by 6/30/2021 in the self-addressed envelope. Any questions can be asked by contacting any of the Trustees. Dennis stated that he felt like he needed to get feedback to help relationships between departments and the residence.

Susan Wojtasik, Fiscal Officer was attempting to answer the residence question about depleting equipment fund, stated that there was \$300,000 in capital Outlay funds for the Fire department, should a situation arise.

Dennis Coz, a resident, stated that it was not helpful for the Trustees to get in a "pissing match" right before an election. Dennis Ikelter defended the Trustees saying that the conflicting issues had to be discussed, and that possibly it did affect the outcome. The Fiscal Officer added in that it seemed like recently there was a lot of bad press lately and if the Trustees could use the Memorial Park Improvement Project to bring the community together, that it might be helpful. Lance Portman chimed in stating that "bad news sells best." Roger Anderson said not only was it not bad but it was inaccurate, in which the Fiscal Officer agreed. Dennis Ikelter said "Well we can't control the press." Susan Wojtasik just repeated that it would be really good if we could bring the community together with it, that would be good and Dennis Ikelter agreed.

Dennis Coz suggested that they use a list for comments. Roger Anderson wanted to know if it was just one per household and Dennis Ikelter said yes. John Augustine suggested it go in the Parkman Paragraph but Dennis Ikelter said we need answers now and can't wait for it to come out. John Augustine also suggested we leave a place for letters to the editor from the community to give their opinions in the future, and stated it was just something to think about. Dennis Ikelter said it was something we could address before the next Parkman Paragraph comes out.

Henry Duchscherer suggested we separate comment to departments and Dennis Ikelter said he was not opposed to it. Susan Wojtasik suggested possibly a committee to go out and talk to the Amish community, to get them involved.

John Augustine made a comment about the Levy and said that because so much funding has been cut from the state and Federal level that it has caused stress on the local level including schools and that residence are just fed up with taxes whether or not a community needs the money or not. John Augustine said because

property tax has gone up so much that it is affecting people in the community, a big portion that is retired and on fixed incomes. He said the Trustee should be calling the State Legislature daily if necessary to be heard about us getting our fair share of the money. Dennis Ikeler said that we have contacted them and had them here and they pretty much said it is not going to happen. In which Jack Augustine responded that maybe we should reach out through the Parkman Paragraph for residents to vote out the people running and get someone that will support us.

Roger Anderson again made a motion that we continue 24-hour staffing through the end of the year, so at least we have something. If we take it away from the residence for not voting for the Levy and I think that is wrong. Plus, we have an elderly population, limited resources around us and I don't want to see people dying because of longer response times. And not having someone else. He said "That's a motion. I can't even get support from the board for 24/7 for the rest of the year." Henry Duchscherer then seconded it. Dennis Ikeler asked about what it would cost through the rest of the year and based on numbers from May 1st. Dennis asked what it would cost if we just staffed 12 /day and Roger Anderson responded that it would be a difference of \$35,000 through the rest of the year. Dennis Ikeler and Roger Anderson argued about what the chart said and Roger Anderson said "I wrote it, it does say that." Roger again explained it and talked about the differences. It would cost about \$125,00 more from full staffing and 12-hour staffing per year. That also includes 3% for raises. And again, that included \$16,000 for temporary bunkhouse, although that has not been approved. Henry Duchscherer then asked where we were at with staffing now, since the last one was 79%. Roger Anderson said he did not bring that number with him but Chief Komandt said we were at 80%. Henry Duchscherer wanted to know if those numbers will ever get better and chief Komandt responded that he does not have a good answer since the perspective new employees were waiting on Levy passing and there is no way to predict what the future holds. January 89%, February was 91%, March was 90%, and April was 80% hour for hour. Henry wanted to know if we were having trouble on weekends and Chief Komandt responded yes to the past weekend. They had someone on military leave, guys starting new jobs and call offs. Guys are also calling off for vacations since they will not get time off after starting their new full-time jobs. Henry Duchscherer said he wanted to go back to having volunteers and Chief Komandt said we haven't stopped having volunteers, we do not have volunteers to fill in.

Danny Spencer asked if he could talk. He explained that just as we had talked about earlier in the meeting that the population of the community has a lot of elderly people. Also, not a large amount of younger people wants to do this job and that goes across the country. They also don't want to do this on their off time. Everyone needs to make money to pay their bills. We can't get people that are getting paid. If you look at our roster, we primarily don't get people who live in this town. We recruit from outside and have multiple people that live in the Akron Area and Windham. When having volunteers, you have to have many more people than you need because only a small amount actually goes out on calls. We have people who stop in to investigate serving and after they go through the process, they just never show up again. We volunteer time out of our days when we are off to train. I work 3 jobs and just recently got hired full time. Volunteerism in this town does not exist. Because our population does not support it. At which Stacey Raymond was addressed to as why she was laughing and she responded because she was allowed to. Stacey Raymond says Troy has 20 volunteers. Danny Spencer responded that he grew up in Troy and started in Troy and that if you check the actual stats, the same 4 people show up on calls and that is with a township that support the age group needed. Henry Duchscherer asked if the fire department has had contact with those who were volunteers. For the ones that are still certified, they all quit on the spot and according to your manual you cannot hire them back. Many of the past that were volunteers have aged out. This requires a lot of strength to run in and out of fires. Also, the hours are very demanding as far as being able to get up and to a fire. When you work a 24 hour

shift it is difficult to turn around and run back out for a fire. It is just the world in which we live. Most of the young people have moved out and on their own. The young people cannot afford to reside in our community. We would love to have volunteers. Henry Duchscherer responded by saying they were making excuses.

Dennis Ikelter asked how many people who are still certified that didn't quit on the spot. Chief Komandt responded slowly that there were 3 but they were working tons of hours at other jobs that just no longer show up. Roger Anderson stated that there is a motion on the floor and he votes yes and Dennis Ikelter said he votes no. Henry Duchscherer said he voted yes. He added that we needed to find a way to entice volunteers, since everyone else has volunteers.

Roger Anderson then said the people we have on our fire department are dual certified. We spend out \$5000 per person just to keep them certified and if they can't go out on call what is the purpose of spending all that money. We had volunteers that would only drive a truck and direct traffic. Henry challenged Chief Komandt as to whether or not he went out on a call by himself and asked what could he do by himself. He said he could do anything but take them to a hospital and would need another EMT to do that. He always calls mutual aid if in that situation.

Danny Spencer then suggested they put out an advertising campaign and waited to see the response so that they would see what kind of reaction they got from the community. They could offer more money to volunteers and see what happens so we don't have to get data back and see if these volunteers really exist or not, and they agreed. Thad Wojtasik suggested that because we have a lot of younger kids coming up maybe they could restart a cadet program. Susan Wojtasik suggested that it be one of the questions on the survey as to whether people are interested in being cadets or volunteers and Henry Duchscherer agreed.

Roger asked Dennis that since he voted no on the 24/7, what his idea is for the future. He said the way things are going that we are going to run out of money in in 2 to 3 years. Roger said he just gave him a document showing otherwise. He said if the Levy went down they would go back to 12 and then it would go beyond that time. But we don't know if we will have any firefighters left either. There is no way to predict.

Jack Augustine asked to make some suggestions and said we should look into going to a fire district and that it would cost less money but the Trustee said they already visited this and it does not save any money. John Augustine also suggested they go to contracted services and that that could save them some money to fill their holes. He suggested Community Care would hard bill and they could save us money. Stacey Raymond spoke up and told him to ask Middlefield how well they are covering their calls. The response time is higher and the cost is higher.

Dennis brought up bunk house issues and said he talked to and handed out information on ventilation systems for the fire station to eliminate exhaust fumes with a price of \$25,101. After doing all the measuring and talking with them, this system can be put in to eliminate the exhaust. Dennis Ikelter said that because it has been a big concern that now he has a system to eliminate that. This is the same company that I suggested a while back but didn't pursue it because of the negative feedback. Chief Komandt did call Fuma Vent and talked to the engineer and he said he could not do a tailpipe to door system. Dennis Ikelter said They guaranteed him they could put it in and it would work. John Augustine said he thought it was a good idea and that it has worked in other fire departments. Dennis Ikelter said if they want to contact him his name was Dan Schroder and he is the one that sent all this information. Chief Komandt said he had some people coming in to give some quotes. Dennis Ikelter start asking him why he was getting quotes and Chief Komandt said he didn't know

he wasn't allowed to ask for quotes. Dennis Ikeler said we have talked about this in the past to have people coming up without notifying the Trustees. Chief Komandt said it was in the report. Henry Duchscherer said it was good getting other quotes for something that expensive.

Ted Wojtasik said that after surfing the web today he ran across for some bunkhouses from Stallion Oil Well and there are numerous bunkhouses up for grabs starting at \$500 at Gov.deals.com. Skid mounted and heavy duty for putting in remote places. You might want to look into them. So, for about \$5,000 it could solve this whole problem. Chief Komandt said that could potentially save us \$20,000 and not live in that building. Roger Anderson said it could be a solution for his other issue.

Roger said as far as the Levy is concerned we had to decide before July 20th meeting so we might have time to get the survey back.

Water Quality on 168 – Henry Duchscherer said he was still waiting for information from EPA.

Tire & scrap Recycle Day June 19th – Roger Anderson said dumpster are set up. We will take appliances but NO Freon, Paint, or Compressed Cylinders. This should help get garbage out of our community. Every year we have about 440 cu yards of nastiness hauled out of Parkman. It cost \$1,000 to \$1,500 per year. Trustees have not heard anything from Department of Aging. Thad Wojtasik, from the road department said they usually call about 2 weeks before.

Memorial Day Recipient Roger Anderson said, it will be at our next meeting June 1st.

Dennis Ikeler went back to survey issue and wanted to know how they want to do this. Trustees all concluded they needed to have self-addressed stamped envelope and sections for departments. They will be opened at a public meeting. The Trustees will get the information/envelopes out after making changes and sending them back and forth.

Tom Quate sent out information for Pfizer, vaccination clinic for Parkman. He wanted to know if we were interested in having a clinic for children 12+ years of age or older. Due to low demand and stretched staff they will do a walk-in clinic for about 1 ½ hours and then move on to next township. They can only commit to Thursdays starting June 3rd until July 8th. It would only allow for 1st dose and only 1 second dose clinic per township. Dolly can coordinate with them and see what we can do.

Chief Komandt just received a thank you from Auburn Fire Department for their quick response to traffic wreck on 422 and Shaw for the quick extrication of their patient today

Henry would like us to be careful about what we are buying from ACE hardware store to make sure due to the expense. Just to be aware

Public Comments:

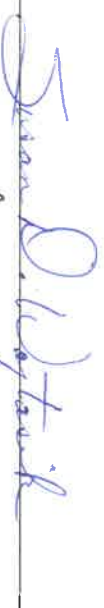
- Stacey Raymond would like it to be in the minutes about Troy not being able to handle their own calls. Susan Wojtasik responded that all meetings are recorded. Roger Anderson said it would be in the minutes.
- Jack Augustine said that he felt like a lot of people feel manipulated when we put on special elections. That he feels like no one will show up but those who will vote for things. He also suggested putting

- gutters on the mausoleum at the cemetery so the foundation is not damaged. He was also concerned about the room in the cemetery. He also feels the charge for the lots in the community are too cheap. Dennis Ikeler responded by saying that the cemetery is paying for itself and it is not too much and a service to the community. As far as repairs to the cemetery's we are cleaning up and repairing both. The lower cemetery is almost done. John was comparing to private cemeteries. Dennis Ikeler said we do not need to charge \$3,000. We have enough gravesites for 500 years. We have more property we have not even touched. John would also like to see us offer natural burials without coffin or anything. People should have an option so it would be another green situation. That is something we can discuss at another time.
- Dennis Ikeler reported that Diane Ryder did join the meeting, sorry for not mentioning sooner.
 - Chief Komandt would like to thank the board for approving staff through the rest of the year.

Motion to Adjourn:

Roger Anderson motioned at 9:05 pm to adjourn the meeting, Henry Duchscherer seconded the motion and motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Submitted by



Meeting Minutes Approved by

