

WCTA Meeting Minutes
March 24, 2022

The first quarterly meeting of 2022 of the Williams County Township Association was held at the Williams County East Annex Conference room on March 24, 2022. This meeting was originally scheduled for February 17, 2022, but had to be rescheduled due to a snow storm on that day.

The business meeting was called to order by President, Bob Short. The meeting started with Bob Short leading those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Secretary-Treasurer Deanne Batterson completed attendance with twenty (20) members present from eleven of the twelve townships in Williams County.

Guest present were Lew Hilkert and Terry Rummel, County Commissioners; Todd Roth, County Engineer; Rachael Sostoi, Assistant Prosecutor; Representative Jim Hoops; Debra Holbrook Beevers, candidate for County Commissioner; and Theresa Gavarone, candidate for Congress. Dalton Carr, Apex Energy, also joined us via Zoom for a presentation.

Lew Hilkert spoke of the Ohio Opiate Law Suit; which established a 501c3 to disperse funds to different regions to help fight against the opiate issue. Williams County is in Region 16, which consist of 7 counties. Each County must have one commissioner, a mayor, and a Township Trustee to service on the board. Mr. Hilkert stated he was going to be attending a meeting next week and the first lawsuit will be for \$400,000.00, where each Township will receive approximately \$7000.00. Mr. Hilkert also stated that he would like to pull the funds together to fight this opiate issue.

Theresa Gavarone, Senator, who is currently running for Congress spoke of her track record of getting things done, as well as informing all of us her desire to serve the public.

Deb Bevers, candidate for County Commissioner, stated her interest in serving the public, spoke of her strengths, and that this was something she has always wanted to do.

Dalton Carr from Apex Energy, provided a presentation on Solar Farms via Zoom. He spoke of the solar project in Jefferson Township, along with various other wind and solar sights. Solar field must be fenced in and 49 mega watts per 450 acres will cover 10000 homes. This energy comes right out of the grid. The plan is to have the Jefferson Township solar field operational in 2023. Mr. Rummel reported, through their research, that the solar field will have a positive impact on the schools. Payment in lieu of taxes; paid out like mileage rate is. These funds are not tax dollars, and does not take away from tax dollars. Where a school may normally receive \$30000, they would received \$153000; which would also be divided out with the library. Terry Rummel also reported they got special training on solar farms before they make their decision. Solar farms will last at least 30 years, but could last for approximately 50 years. Decommissioning money is set aside, and these panels are looked at every 5 years. The substation belongs to First Energy, then the solar panels tap into the sub-station. Apex maintains the ground inside and outside of the fence. Any issues, Apex fixes on their dime.

The minutes were read from the November meeting. President Bob Short asked if there were any additions or corrections to the November minutes. He then asked for a motion to accept the minutes as presented; Tod Schlachter made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Bert Brown seconded it and the motion carried.

The treasurer's report was read by Deanne Batterson. Steve Planson made a motion to approve the report as presented, Steve Batterson seconded it and the motion carried.

Rachael Sostoi, Assistant Prosecutor, reported that the prosecutor's office has been working on a lot of criminal cases. Drugs are a real problem.

Todd Roth, County Engineer, reported that they have been trying to keep the roads patched. They have a new mower with a boomer. Equipment is available if anyone needs. They are having issues in getting new trucks right now. The Engineer's office has committed to two Townships to help with chip and seal this summer; this is about all they can do right now. Sign grants were given to Brady, Jefferson, St. Joseph, Florence, and Springfield Townships.

Representative Hoops reported on the redistricting that is taking place right now. There are some who think that districts still need to be looked at. May effect the May 3 primary. The Federal Judges are planning on making a decision tomorrow. Working on the Capital Budget, every two years; they are looking at eliminating the gasoline tax. Township trustees expressed their concerns regarding the gasoline tax, which is where a majority of the funding is received by Townships to repair roads. Rep Hoops stated he does not support the bill. President Short also state that the OTA does not support the bill and does not look for it to get a lot of traction. Aquafer, from 2019, has to get a permit for anyone taking out so much water. The ODNR Director can shut it down if people see it is affecting an area in a negative way. They are keeping an eye on what is happening with the Aquafer.

There was concern about construction vehicle tearing up the roads in Pioneer. The Pioneer Street project, which is a separate project (not the Aquafer). Dennis Miller had contacted Todd Roth to see about getting funding to help repair the roads. He was informed that it is not an ODOT project, it is the Village of Pioneer project and addressing roads was not considered before project started. It was reported that the Village Counsel is aware of what is going on.

President Short passed out a list of those awarded the ODOT grant funds. No one in Williams County was awarded the grant. President Short reported that Jim Watkins was unable to attend the meeting tonight; President Short had reports from the Annual Health Advisory meeting for anyone who was interested in one. President Short also reported that the OTA Winter Conference was really good with 80 classes for trustees and fiscal officers. President Short stopped by the OTA office in Blacklick and picked up the new OTA DVD, and roads brochures. The DVE cost Bob \$62.50. Bert Brown made a motion to reimburse Bob Short the \$62.50 for the DVD, seconded by Tod Schlachter and the motion carried.

There was discussion on what companies do chip and seal. Companies mentioned were C&C in Montgomery Michigan, Bergman in Genoa Ohio, and Ward Construction. Todd Roth said he will shoot a price sheet for everyone to compare.

President Short asked if anyone was interested in being on the 501c3 board. Bob Short expressed an interest. Tim Nofziger made a motion to appoint Bob Short on the 501c3 board, seconded by Steve Planson, and the motion carried.

The next meeting will be May 19, 2022 at 7 PM; Northwest Township offered to host the meeting.

Motion to adjourn by Tim Nofziger, seconded by Tod Schlachter and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Deanne Batterson
Secretary-Treasurer