

Elizabeth Township Quarterly

Winter 2004

FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES UPDATE

The township's full-time fire department is scheduled to begin operations on Jan. 1. The fire department will operate out of the former Slone Excavating building at 2287 Children's Home Road, as does the township's EMS service, which began on July 18. New Carlisle personnel are manning both the fire department and emergency medical services.

Trustees are moving forward with a renovation of the fire and EMS building. They voted to award contracts for the renovation to the following companies: Jess Construction of Arcanum (\$179,800); Rossler Electrical of Greenville (\$44,647); R.J. Lemmons for heating, ventilating and air conditioning (\$18,150); and Sarver Plumbing of Arcanum (\$14,990). Those contracts total \$257,587.

FARMLAND PRESERVATION UPDATE

Members of the Elizabeth Township Land Conservation Advisory Council have been meeting for the past several months to put in place a strategy that will help maintain the township's agricultural and rural landscape.

The council is comprised of township landowners who advise the township trustees on programs to help protect farmland, open space and the rural character of the township. The council also will serve to keep township residents informed of programs and issues relating to land use.

The council had Howard Wise, executive director of the state Office of Farmland Preservation, attend a meeting to discuss the state's farmland preservation program, including a purchase of development rights program.

The council has recommended that the township participate in the state program. Informational meetings are planned this winter to inform landowners of the program.

The council also has recommended that the trustees form a township land conservancy to work with landowners interested in preserving their land. The land conservancy, or land trust, will hold easements, accept land donations, and assist landowners in evaluating the best options available for protecting their land. Thus far, trustee Ron Swallow and township residents Laura Bygs and Carl Newbright have agreed to serve on the land trust. **The trustees are seeking four more township residents to serve.**

The council also has recommended that the township, in conjunction with the Miami County Auditor's office, encourage township landowners to enroll in an agricultural district. An ag district can help protect land from certain assessments, primarily sewer and water lines, as well as provide an affirmative defense against nuisance lawsuits. Land in an ag district also is awarded more points in the scoring criteria for funding under the state farmland preservation program.

The council is putting together for trustee consideration a more comprehensive land protection strategy that is not totally dependent on the purchase of development rights. The council may evaluate the township's zoning, what programs can help keep agriculture viable in the township, what activities outside of the township may have a negative impact on the township, and help provide a point of contact for those landowners interested in various land protection options.

Advisory committee members are Jay Benham, Tom Brown, Laura Bygs, Louise Curtis, Nancy Nims, Bill Sutherly, Ron Swallow (trustee representative), Harold Watters (ex officio member), and an ex officio member from the Miami Soil & Water Conservation District. The advisory committee makes recommendations to the trustees.

For additional information or dates when the council meets, please contact the township office (335-1920) or Ron Swallow (339-1084).

INTERESTED IN SELLING YOUR FARM'S DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS?

The Ohio Department of Agriculture is now finalizing the application for the third round of its purchase of development rights program.

Elizabeth Township plans to submit applications for funding on behalf of interested township landowners. The applications should be available the first week in January.

Landowners who would like to consider applying for the program should contact trustee Ron Swallow (339-1084). Information packets will soon be available.

A REMINDER ON ROADS

Township trustees are responsible for snow removal along only some of the roads that run through Elizabeth Township. Roads such as State Route 41, 201 and 202 are cared for by the state Department of Transportation. The county plows roads such as Walnut Grove, LeFevre and Tipp-Elizabeth. Elizabeth's trustees maintain 15.1 miles of roads, including the following: Adams, Benham, Cedar Cove, Dayton-Brandt (from State Route 41 to LeFevre), Gearhart (from Tipp-Elizabeth to Elizabeth-Bethel), Hickory Hollow, Hufford, Lehman, McCandliss, Marshall, Mill, Rudy, Sanders, Sayers (from State Route 41 to LeFevre), Shaggy Bark, Weddle and Widener.

NOTES FROM RECENT TRUSTEE MEETINGS

Though taken directly from the township clerk's minutes, the following notes represent highlights - not a comprehensive account - of recent township trustee meetings:

Fire & Ambulance

- Trustees approved a three-year contract (2004-2006) to provide emergency medical services to Casstown. Under the terms of the contract, the village would pay the township \$1,000 per year.
- Trustees voted to contract with Fab Metals to make a sign for the township's new fire and ambulance station.
- Trustees approved a second restroom for the new station.

Personnel

- Township trustees' salaries for 2004 will be \$18,654; the township clerk's salary will be \$25,553.

- Trustees approved a salary of \$5,000 for 2004 for township zoning inspector Gerald Thorstad.

- Trustees approved health insurance reimbursements of up to \$5,000 for township officials (trustees, clerk, zoning inspector and township employees). Previously, the limit was \$3,500, and the township zoning inspector and employees were not eligible for reimbursement.

Of interest

- The township's general fund had \$38.4 million as of October 2003.

- The township will pay the Miami County Sheriff's Office \$84,460 to continue a heightened police presence in the township in 2004.

- Trustees voted to assess all parcels in the Shaggy Bark subdivision \$35 a year through 2007 for lighting.

- Trustees voted to become members of the Honey Creek Watershed Association by paying a \$1,000 annual membership fee.

- The township has been approached about assuming ownership and maintaining the cemetery at McKendree Church.

- Don Clarkson of Adams Road asked if the trustees were planning to address the water running off a township road onto his property.

- Tom McClurg of Tipp-Elizabeth Road remarked that several headstones are in need of repair at the Mann Cemetery on Tipp-Elizabeth Road.

BILLS GREATER THAN \$5,000

- Miami County Engineer's Office (paving of Mill, Marshall, Lehman, Sanders and Adams roads): \$80,040

- W.S. Electronics, radios and accessories for new fire and EMS service: \$9,335

- Freisthler Paving (crack sealing on Rudy, Benham, Gearhart and Dayton-Brandt roads): \$18,750

- Wagner Paving (grading and paving of EMS parking lot): \$14,968

- New Carlisle (fire and ambulance personnel, 4th quarter 2003): \$68,169

- Christiansburg Fire Department (6 months of fire and ambulance coverage): \$11,941

- Casstown Fire Department (6 months fire coverage): \$9,691

- Durst Brothers Excavating (repairs on McCandliss and Sayers roads): \$12,198

- Miami County Treasurer's Office (2002 and 2003 contract fees): \$160,845

- Clark's Air Conditioning and Heating (work on new fire and ambulance station): \$15,017

- McCall Sharp (DD Phase and CD Phase at new fire and ambulance station): \$11,520

- Durst Brothers Excavating (finish berming on McCandliss, Hufford and other roads): \$13,741

- Durst Brothers Excavating (work on Rudy and Hufford roads): \$9,355

BUILDING PERMITS/VARIANCES

- Larry and Judy Hess, new house at 3255 E. LeFevre Road

- Tim and Sharon Holzen, new house at 3108 Gearhart Road
- Paul Broerman, new house at 2561 Rudy Road
- Aaron and Kathy Musick, new house and agricultural outbuilding at 1205 Hufford Road
- Warner Bowling, new house at 3040 Gearhart Road
- Rex Manemann, add front porch at 2677 Rudy Road
- Tom Ashworth, add living room and 3-car garage at 7175 Walnut Grove Road
- Jeremy Paulus, add a porch at 10 N. Dayton-Brandt Road
- George A. Baker, enlarge kitchen, utility room, bathroom and bedroom at 4243 E. State Route 41

ZONING UPDATE

The township's board of zoning appeals on Nov. 25 unanimously approved Raymond and Phyllis Bair's request for a conditional use permit. The permit allows the Bairs to rent out the former Royster Clark property to Slone Excavating for six months.

Township officials are appreciative of Suzy Wallace's years of service as secretary of the township's zoning commission and board of zoning appeals, and extend their condolences to her family. Suzy passed away on Dec. 10.

CONTACT US

Quarterly newsletters are mailed to registered township voters. If you know of a resident who is not registered to vote or a township landowner who lives outside the township, but who would like to receive the next newsletter, please contact the township trustees by phone (335-1920), fax (335-1927) or e-mail at eliztshp@voyager.net

The trustees meet at 8 p.m. on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at the township house, 5710 Walnut Grove Road. If you would like to be placed on a meeting's agenda, please contact the township trustee office with as much advance notice as possible.

Your trustees are Paul Gearhardt, Ron Swallow and Dave Wagner. Your clerk is Larry Lavender.

Elizabeth Twp. Trustees
5710 Walnut Grove Road
Troy, OH 45373