

# Elizabeth Township Quarterly

Summer 2004

## **FARMLAND PRESERVATION UPDATE**

Owners of 20 farms in the township have applied for the state's agricultural easement purchase program. Through the program, willing landowners whose farms score high enough are paid for their land's development rights.

The value of a farm's development rights is the difference between its value as developable real estate and its value as farmland. If, for example, a farm were appraised at \$5,000 an acre if developed as housing and at \$2,000 an acre for agricultural use, its development rights would be valued at \$3,000 an acre.

At their March 17 meeting, trustees voted 2-1 to let the township contribute 25 percent of the cost of the development rights on any township farm that qualifies for the state program. The state Department of Agriculture would pay 50 percent of the cost of the development rights, while the landowner would donate the remaining 25 percent of the value of the development rights. Trustees Ron Swallow and Dave Wagner voted yes on the resolution, while Trustee Paul Gearhardt voted no.

Prior to that vote, trustees voted 2-1 to not contribute 25 percent of the cost of development rights for any township farm that qualifies for the state program, but is located in a flood plain. Swallow and Wagner, who voted for that resolution, said they felt the purpose of spending township money on farmland preservation was to protect farmland from residential development. (Farmland located in a flood plain cannot be developed for housing, though its mineral rights can be sold for quarry development.) Paul Gearhardt voted against the resolution, saying trustees never formally stated they were trying to protect farmland solely from residential development.

## **A DIFFERENT KIND OF SCHOOL BOARD**

As the township prepares to assume ownership of the Miami East South Elementary school building, trustees want to hear your advice and ideas for putting the 89-year-old building to good use. The trustees are seeking residents for an advisory board that would brainstorm ideas for the building. If you're interested in serving on the board, please contact the trustees at 335-1920.

## **FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES UPDATE**

The township's new fire truck was placed in service on Jan. 1 to supplement existing fire contracts with nearby jurisdictions. The fire department operates 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.

A \$257,587 renovation of the fire and EMS building is under way. Improvements include:

- installing an external fire escape/stairway
- electrical, plumbing and heating and air conditioning work
- installation of showers and a kitchen.

#### **NEED A RIDE?**

All township residents are eligible for the Miami County Public Transit service. The cost of a one-way trip within Miami County is \$3, and senior citizens ride at half price. First-time riders need to provide their name, home address, mailing address, phone number, emergency contact, birthday and any special needs they may have. To learn more, or to schedule a ride, call 335-7433 (RIDE).

#### **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*

- The New Carlisle Fire Department estimated the annual cost of providing manpower for the township's fire and EMS service at \$298,345.
- Some highlights from the first six months of the township's EMS service:
  - 27 runs, 17 for residents and 10 for nonresidents
  - Response times averaged 9 minutes

##### *Personnel*

- Trustees elected Ron Swallow president and David Wagner vice president at the trustees' organizational meeting.
- Trustees approved paying a filing/administrative clerk up to \$13 per hour to assist the township clerk.

##### *Of interest*

- Trustees anticipate expenses of about \$1 million in 2004, including:
  - \$300,000 for the township's fire and EMS service
  - \$250,000 for farmland preservation
  - \$200,000 to maintain Miami East South Elementary
  - \$100,000 for improvements on Hufford Road, crack sealing and other road improvements
  - \$50,000 for a salt bin
  - \$20,000 for dry hydrants
  - \$17,000 for the Adams Road storm sewer project
  - \$3,000 for computer equipment
  - other potential costs: contracts for EMS/fire, additional sheriff patrols, insurance on Miami East South Elementary school building.
- The township's general fund had \$38.58 million as of December 2003.
- The Miami County prosecutor's office informed the trustees that the township may have to compensate an Adams Road resident for

storm water that runs off Adams Road and across private property. Trustees addressed the problem through the installation of a grate across the end of the cul-de-sac and installing catch basins along the ditch line. After acquiring an easement at no cost, trustees approved paying Durst Brothers \$17,900 to do the work.

- The township's inventory was valued at \$1,215,801 at the township's annual inventory meeting Jan. 12, up \$824,332 from the previous year, primarily because of the start-up of the township's fire and EMS service.

- Those who are developing a new or existing lot in the township, or who are replacing or expanding an existing residence, are now required to submit an application with a site plan to the Miami County Health District. The health district is requiring such a step to prevent property owners from building on top of an existing septic system and to prevent any actions that might jeopardize proper treatment and disposal of sewage in the future.

- Scott Donaldson, Miami East's athletic director, approached the trustees to see if they would be willing to pay more for the Miami East South Elementary building to provide money for the schools' athletic fields.

- Trustees voted to let Paul Calvert to make/purchase an Intel computer system, including software and computer training at \$78 per hour.

- Trustees rescinded a motion to have the township become a paying member of the Honeycreek Watershed project.

#### **BILLS GREATER THAN \$5,000**

- Durst Brothers Excavating (work on Rudy and Hufford roads): \$9,725

- Westfield Group (liability insurance): \$10,849

- Fire Safety Services (equipment purchases): \$9,082

- Howell Rescue Systems (equipment purchases): \$13,212

- New Carlisle Fire Department (1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2004): \$79,946

- Durst Brothers Excavating (storm sewer project on Adams Road): \$14,000

#### **BUILDING PERMITS/VARIANCES**

- Patrick H. Agee, 7617 E. State Route 41, new house

- Frederick Rhoades, 10 N. Children's Home Road, new garage

- Keith T. Fisher, 711 N. Alcony-Conover Road, new house and full basement

- Keith Thompson, 3210 Gearhart Road, new house

- Oliver Upton, 7760 E. LeFevre Road, new house and storage building

- Brian Kadel, 420 N. State Route 201, new house

- David Moore, 8656 Casstown-Clark Road, horse barn/storage building

#### **ZONING UPDATE**

- The following residents are serving on the township zoning commission board in 2004: Amy Eidemiller, Richard Sutherly, William Hamiel, Mark Mitchell and Dwayne Taylor.

- The following residents are serving on the township board of zoning appeals in 2004: Gerald Elleman, Robert Smart, Robert Quinton, Jay Benham and Don Hiegel.

- Mona Taylor is the new secretary for both boards.

- Board members are to be compensated \$50 for each meeting attended, up from \$30 in 2003. The secretary will receive \$75 per meeting plus reimbursement for expenses, up from \$50 per meeting in 2003.

#### **HISTORY NEXT DOOR**

When Elizabeth Township decided in December 1914 to consolidate its one-room schools into a single building, the township was at the vanguard of statewide consolidation. In fact, Elizabeth Township would be the first of Miami County's 12 townships to build a centralized school.

The centralized school had its controversy. Residents in the northern part of the township wanted the new school to be built on State Route 41, midway between Hufford Road and State Route 201. Ultimately, however, the school was built one mile farther south, at 5760 Walnut Grove Road. It was dedicated in October 1916.

The township's eight one-room schools were sold for between \$210 and \$450 to private individuals. Many are used as residences to this day.

- from *A History of Elizabeth Township* (1998)

#### **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](mailto: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*