

Elizabeth Township

SURVEY TO SEEK OPINIONS ABOUT LOCAL LAND USE

Township trustees have hired the Columbus-based firm Teater-Gebhardt & Associates for \$36,000 (\$125 per hour with a cap of 30 hours per month) to gather township residents' input, determine ways that landowners could preserve farmland, woods and creek corridors if they choose to do so, and recommend how to put the plan into action by the end of this year.

Township residents will receive a survey this month requesting their thoughts on township land use. Public meetings also will be held this spring to gather input for the plan.

The township could buy development rights from willing landowners as part of the plan.

Landowners would be paid all or a portion of the difference between a property's developable value and its value as farmland. For example, if property is worth \$2,500 an acre as farmland and \$6,000 an acre as developable real estate, the township could pay its owner all or part of the \$3,500 difference for its development rights, which could then be held by the township or a nonprofit organization. The land could then be sold, but never developed.

Protecting private property rights will be a primary consideration in putting together any plan.

Quarterly Update

Winter 2002

NOTES FROM RECENT TOWNSHIP MEETINGS

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

- 2002 annual salary will increase to \$18,000 per year for trustees (for Paul Gearhardt and Ron Swallow, who were re-elected in 2001), and to \$20,900. (Trustee David Wagner and Clerk Larry Lavender must be re-elected in 2003 to receive salary increases.)
- Dave Wagner is serving as president of the township trustees in 2002; Paul Gearhardt is serving as vice president.
- Trustees approved, 2-1, a 3-year contract for fire services with Christiansburg Fire Co.: \$18,285 in 2002, \$19,382 in 2003, and \$20,544 in 2004. Ron Swallow and Dave Wagner voted yes; Paul Gearhardt voted no.
- Trustees approved a 3-year contract for fire services with Casstown Fire Department: \$18,285 in 2002, \$19,382 in 2003, and \$20,545 in 2004.
- Trustees voted to establish a committee to look into the possibility of establishing a building and equipment relationship between the township and other fire departments, with Paul Gearhardt serving as liaison.
- Trustees approved paying the Miami County Sheriff's Office: \$78,846 for the base salary of a regular deputy, as well as reimbursing the county for all fuel and service; \$5,359 to outfit the deputy; \$2,689 for a defibrillator; \$30,900 for a police cruiser and related equipment.

Additional police coverage for 64 hours a week began Nov. 1.

- Miami County Sheriff's Office reported the following report for Dec. 2001: incident reports: 36; adult citations: 45; DUI citations: 5; hours worked: 280.5; miles traveled: 4,503; accident reports: 22; juvenile citations: 2; driving under suspension citations: 4.
- Trustees passed a resolution approving each trustee and the township clerk to be reimbursed up to \$3,500 each for major medical, dental, long-term disability, personal accident and employee life insurance for a group plan.
- Response times for emergency medical services: Tipp City: 11 minutes, 36 seconds (shortest was 5 minutes, 45 seconds; longest was 15 minutes, 14 seconds); Bethel Twp.: 12 minutes, 1 second (shortest was 8 minutes, 6 seconds; longest was 20 minutes, 56 seconds); Troy: 8 minutes, 10 seconds (shortest was 3 minutes, 53 seconds; longest was 10 minutes, 56 seconds).
- Costs to operate Miami East South Elementary School: 1998-99: \$19,071; 1999-2000: \$20,320.85; 2000-01: \$23,416.
- EMS MEETING WITH BOB COUNTS AT 7:30 P.M. ON OCT. 25 (???????????)
- Trustees voted to pay Property Development Services \$2,575 to paint four windows, paint two front doors and transom, repair soffit, replace bricks and haul two loads of topsoil to level out the front lawn and seed areas and level out back lawn at the old township house.
- Township general fund had \$17.71 million as of December 28, 2001.
- Trustees received a copy of a petition to the county signed by 11 residents requesting that LeFevre Road become a township road instead of a county road.

•Mike Artz approached the township trustees about starting a pet cemetery at the corner of Benham and Tipp-Elizabeth roads.

BILLS GREATER THAN \$5,000

- Ace Professional Tree Service: \$11,000
- Scott Stamper (remove 3,000 linear feet of fence along Rudy Road): \$5,000
- Bethel Twp. (fire protection for second half of 2001): \$7,150
- Christiansburg Fire Co. (fire protection and ambulance service for second half of 2001): \$8,750
- Casstown Fire Dept. (fire protection for second half of 2001): \$8,625
- Scott Stamper (material for crack seal and labor for where?): \$6,330
- Ron Hartrum Trucking & Excavating Inc. (Weddle Road project): \$130,454
- Choice One Engineering (Rudy Road improvements): \$19,920
- Barrett Paving Materials (materials for Weddle Road): \$45,237
- M.H. Eby (pick-up truck flatbed): \$5,200
- R.E. Holland Excavating Inc. (Weddle Road work): \$25,450
- Scott Stamper (install 250 feet of 12-inch pipe along Weddle Road): \$5,800
- Westfield Companies (commercial package annual policy): \$5,352

BUILDING PERMITS/VARIANCES

- Tim and Cindy Turner, 8778 Casstown-Clark Road, to build a \$120,000 home
- Keith Brown, 1455 Sanders Road, to build a garage/workshop by himself at an estimated cost of \$8,000
- Ed Bauman, 6340 E. State Route 41, to put up an equipment storage addition to a barn at an estimated cost of \$30,000
- Leroy Meyer, 4545 Tipp-Elizabeth Road, to add a 440-square-foot living

room to a house for an estimated \$42,600 (?)

- Ken Wehrkamp, 810 Hickory Hollow Road, for a 182-square-foot addition to a house at a cost of \$7,000
- Doug Wagner, 7080 E. LeFevre Road, for a 392-square-foot addition to a sunroom at a cost of \$20,000
- Chris and Dawna (sp?) Hellyer, 2921 Rudy Road, to build a patio for \$2,500

The township's zoning inspector approved all applications.

ZONING UPDATE

- On June 21, the township board of zoning appeals rejected, 4-1, an application by Robert Heidenreich, 5370 E. State Route 41, for a variance that would allow the construction of a house on a 5.27-acre tract.
- On April 2, the board approved, 4-0, an application by Slone Excavating, 2287 Children's Home-Grayson Rd., to put in a pond, but stipulated material removed in the process could not be sold.
- The board on Feb. 28 approved, 5-0, a conditional use permit for a landscaping business, Quality Lawn, Landscape & Fence Inc., at 1565 S. Hufford Rd, with the following restrictions: a work force not to exceed 12, excluding family; no retail sales; only one business may operate under the permit.

HISTORY NEXT DOOR

CONTACT US

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

Township officials meet at 8 p.m. on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at the township building, 5710 Walnut Grove Rd. Your trustees are Ron Swallow, Dave Wagner and Paul Gearhardt. Your clerk is Larry Lavender.