

**MINUTES OF THE GEORGETOWN TOWNSHIP SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2010**

The meeting was called to order by the chairman at 8:00 a.m.

Present: Del South, Richard VanderKlok and Carol Scholma, members; Daniel Carlton, Township Manager; Rod Deemter, Parks and Property Director; Dan Hamming, Fire Chief; Jim DeWilde, M.C. Smith Associates; Sarah Mroz, secretary

Absent: none

No one was present in the audience and there were no public comments.

#100215-01 - Minutes of January 18, 2010

Moved by Richard VanderKlok, seconded by Carol Scholma, to approve the minutes as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

#100215-02 - Fire Department Request for Promotion

Attachment: [Letter](#) from Fire Chief

Moved by Carol Scholma, seconded by Del South, to recommend to the Township Board to approve the promotion of Lieutenant Ross Tibbets to Captain at Station #3.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

#100215-03 - Discussion - Maplewood Park Grant Application

Attachment: [Scope Item Costs](#)

Dan Carlton explained that the cost for the Maplewood Park project and the things we would like to accomplish is higher than our original budget for the project. He explained that the committee will need to decide the appropriate way to proceed with the project, whether that means to increase the budget or to scale back the project.

Carol Scholma said that she would like to keep the playground equipment in the plan for the park. She mentioned that the drinking fountain (\$3,500.00) and/or the bleachers could possibly be eliminated.

Jim DeWilde explained that the bleachers are fairly inexpensive to install, and are a lot more useful than just a bench. The bleachers can seat more people and can hold equipment and bags, while the cost is not much more than it would be for a bench. Jim also explained that the cost for the drinking fountain is mostly for the installation, and

they are a nice convenience to have and may promote people staying at the park for a longer period of time.

Richard VanderKlok asked if they were to increase the amount of the request for the grant, would this lessen the chance of receiving the grant?

Jim DeWilde explained that the maximum amount for a grant is \$500,000.00. By keeping the request under \$333,000.00 you are able to receive a higher point score. Typically a lower amount for a grant request will better the chance of receiving the grant. A preliminary score will be provided based on an initial review of the grant application in August, and there will be an opportunity at that time to provide additional information to try and increase the score.

Richard VanderKlok asked how e-coli problems in Maplewood Lake will affect the grant application since the lake is typically not suitable for swimming and the park improvements are intended to make Maplewood Park useable.

Jim DeWilde explained that he felt there is a need for the project due to e-coli problems and that we are taking care of potential health risks by closing the lake for swimming which will likely improve our score. Jim also felt that making the park handicap accessible is also a huge plus.

Richard VanderKlok said that he would be in favor of going ahead with the entire project as planned, which may delay the improvements for the next park by a year.

Carol Scholma agreed that it makes sense to complete the park as a whole package including the playground.

Jim DeWilde explained that points are also gained for renovation, so re-surfacing the basketball court, adding trails, and making the restrooms handicap accessible are all good things.

Jim DeWilde recommended that we continue with the original grant request amount of \$333,000.00 in order to receive maximum points for matching funds.

Jim DeWilde also explained that the cell tower that was installed on the property may come up for discussion during the grant process as it was not a part of the previous grant plan for Maplewood Park.

Dan Carlton explained that there may be opportunities to purchase additional land that is adjacent to the park.

Moved by Richard VanderKlok, seconded by Carol Scholma, to recommend to the Township Board to proceed with the Maplewood Park project for an estimated cost of \$1,000,000.00 including the playground equipment, request a grant in the amount of \$333,000.00 and to authorize the Township Superintendent to schedule a public hearing.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

#100215-04 – Discussion – 8th Ave Park

Jim DeWilde presented the current ideas for 8th Ave Park renovations which included:

- Renovating the front beach area by taking out old playground equipment, add a concrete walk along the beach area and small areas for picnic tables and benches along the walk, and add beach umbrella structures on the beach to provide shading
- Build a new playground in the area where there is currently a baseball diamond, this playground would have a rubberized surface and have updated “Discovery” playground equipment as well as some traditional equipment
- Add gentle berms or mounds in the grassy area behind the playground as an additional place for kids to play
- Add a grilling area and serving tables by the picnic shelter
- Add more shade trees
- Maintain the existing trails

Carol Scholma asked if there are any e-coli issues at 8th Ave Park’s lake.

Dan Carlton answered that there was only one incidence of an e-coli problem, but there usually are no issues with this lake.

Moved by Richard VanderKlok, seconded by Carol Scholma, to proceed with the current plan and ideas as presented for 8th Ave Park, and for M.C. Smith to work on more detailed drawings and cost estimates for the plan.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

#100215-05 - Bids for Contract of Lawn Maintenance and Fertilizing

Attachment: [Bids](#) (Note: The lowest bids are highlighted)

Moved by Carol Scholma, seconded by Del South, to recommend to the Township Board to accept the bids from Priest Lawn Care for the contracts of lawn maintenance and fertilization in the amounts of \$34,310.00 and \$23,392.00 respectively, and to accept the bid from True Green for fertilization of Group 2 in the amount of \$1779.20.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

#100215-06 - Request to Use 8th Ave Park for Charity Event

Attachment: [Letter](#) of request

Moved by Del South, seconded by Carol Scholma, to allow Warped Wings R/C Club to hold a community event for one day on Saturday, May 22, 2010 from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at 8th Ave Park as per their written request.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

#100215-07 - Georgetown Seniors Request for More Staff Hours

Attachment: [Letter](#) from Pam Haverdink, Georgetown Senior Director

Moved by Carol Scholma, seconded by Del South, to consider this request as a part of the budget process for the 2011 budget.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

#100215-08 - Georgetown Seniors Request for Upgrades at the Senior Center

Attachment: [Letter](#) of request

Moved by Del South, seconded by Carol Scholma, to approve the request for improvements at the Senior Center provided they raise the money to fund the improvements.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

#100215-09 - Discussion – Blendon Library Service Area

Attachments: - [Blendon Statistical Information](#) and [Additional Information](#)
- [Library Services](#)
- [Underfunded Contract Service Area Policy](#)
- [Blendon Library Service Area Agreement from 1979](#)

Dan Carlton explained the history of funding for operating costs for the library. Currently the Georgetown Township Library receives 1/3 of penal fines in Blendon Township which amounts to only about 25% of operating costs. The rest of the funding comes from taxpayers in Georgetown Township. The new Lakeland Library Cooperative Underfunded Contract Service Area policy explains that they will no longer provide cooperative services to those areas not providing funding for library services.

The consensus of the committee was to request Blendon Township to pay a comparable millage for service.

#100215-10 – Adjournment

The chairman adjourned the meeting at 9:10 a.m.