

the RECORD

for the residents of Granville Township

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Trustees

September 2009

Sole Residential Trash Hauler Program

In late 2008, the Township Trustees were approached by Township residents who had observed that surrounding townships in Licking County had entered into multi-year contracts with local trash haulers to help control costs and levels of service. They asked if Granville Township could do the same for the benefit of its residents.

This project was initially begun by former Trustee Wes Sargent and taken over by newly appointed Trustee Bill Mason along with the volunteer assistance of local resident Paul Jenks. The controlling Ohio law was reviewed with the County Prosecutor. Discussions were held with the other townships which had successfully implemented sole hauler programs.

“On average the Trustee’s expect that residents should see a 25-30% savings over the three year term of the agreement.”



Information was gathered. A Township wide electronic survey was used to solicit input from Township residents. Articles were published in the local newspaper. Several Township hearings were held regarding the matter. Possible contract specifications were developed and placed on the Township’s website for comment review and comment.

Using all of this information the Trustees prepared bid specifications and solicited bids for a sole residential trash hauler program. Six companies requested bid packets, three of which submitted proposals. Big O Refuse, with locations in Granville and Newark, submitted the lowest price which was fixed for a period of three years. Big O also provided an additional discount for households with a resident 65 years of age. The Township’s bid specifications among other points, call for single day of the week pickup, limited times on certain heavily travel streets and accommodation services under certain circumstances. The hauler must also pickup recyclable materials.

On average the Trustee’s expect that residents should see a 25-30% savings over the three year term of the agreement. The sole hauler program began April 1 of this year. New residents to the Township should contact Big O Refuse, at 345 2086 to arrange for service.

2009 Road Paving Program

Granville Township has 36.6 miles of roadways which translates into 73.2 lane miles of roadway. According to Roads Superintendent Travis Binckley the largest proportion of the annual road budget is spent on paving of roads. Unfortunately asphalt is a derivative of petroleum and therefore the costs have escalated over the years. In 2004, asphalt applied to the road surface cost \$29 per ton, in 2009 it was bid at \$50 a ton, a 72% increase in cost. During this past summer the Township paved Burg St, Denbigh Dr, Carmarthen Way, Pembroke Lane, Chelsea Dr., Brecon Cir, Joy Lane, Walnut Hills Dr, Miller Ave, Rose Dr, Seymour Pl and Linnell Dr, for a total of 5.19 miles of road. Before the end of September, the north end of

see **Road Paving** on Page 3

New Fire Dept. Offices

In early July, the Township Fire Department administrative offices were moved to 133 East College Street. The Fire Chief and Fire Inspector’s offices are located in this historic building. Fire Department personnel spent hundreds of hours working with a local contractor to renovate this 185 year old structure. Great care was taken to highlight many of its historic features and character. By relocating the administrative offices, the Department’s bunk house at 135 E. College was expanded to accommodate seven personnel with dormitory facilities. With a combination of career and volunteer personnel, nighttime station staffing has increased significantly since the expansion.



133 East College St., the new location for the Fire Department administrative offices, is on the National Register of Historic Places

New Rescue/Pumper

In March, the Fire Department took delivery of a new Rescue/ Pumper. This truck was custom manufactured in Appleton Wisconsin by Pierce Manufacturing. Planning for this unique truck took over a year.

The truck serves a dual role. First, it is a heavy rescue truck, with cutting and lifting tools used to extricate victims from vehicle crashes and other entanglements.

Secondly, it is a fully equipped pumper, which serves as the Department’s water supply truck at structure fires. In addition to its ability to pump water, the truck is equipped with a compressed air foam system (CAFS). This foam substantially reduces water damage during fire suppression, and helps to stretch the limited water supply in non-hydranted areas.



New community \$535,000 heavy rescue/pumper truck for Fire Dept.

Roads Dept. gets New Garage

Granville Township now has a new Roads Department building at 1554 Columbus Rd., across from Spring Valley Community Park. The pre-engineered metal building houses 16,000 square feet of office, storage and repair space for the Township's vehicles.



The new 16,000 square foot garage under construction



Completed garage outside and in, ready for equipment

The new building contains 2,000 square feet of office, training and kitchen space, along with 2,000 of storage area and 12,000 square feet of vehicle space.

Granville Township has two 2 ton dump trucks, two 1 1/2 ton dump trucks, three pickups, a backhoe, a mini-excavator, a skid loader, two tractors with mower arms and hydraulic bucket arms, and a road painting machine.

"We're going to utilize the whole building, that's for sure," said Trustee Fred Abraham.



Additionally, next to the building is a new salt bin that can hold 400 tons of salt.

"We built it that big so we can buy the salt in the summertime when the price is down and save the taxpayers money," Abraham

Financing the New Garage

The new Township garage is being financed with a 15 year loan from the Park National Bank. The original beginning rate of interest for the first 5 years was to have been 5.4% which has been re-negotiated to 4.8% thanks to PNB.

Now that the building has been completed the maximum amount to be borrowed is \$600,000 because of increased down payment. The terms of the loan permit pre-payments during the loan without penalty which Fiscal Officer Norman Kennedy indicated will be done when possible to reduce the overall interest cost of the loan.

SAFER Grant

Thanks to a \$325,000 federal grant (Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Responses or SAFER), the Fire Department recently added three career firefighter paramedics.

Derwin Clemens, Brianne Hill and Brady Monroe joined the Department ranks in early July.

This increases on-duty staffing to four personnel 24 hours a day.

This staffing level has already provided improved coverage for the Department's emergency medical vehicles.

The new staffing level provides paramedic staffing for both of the Department's EMS vehicles, as well as four firefighters to respond immediately to fires.

Volunteer Program

The Fire Department continues to have an active volunteer program. A dedicated group of 25 volunteers respond from home and work to assist the paid staff at a moment's notice.

Each year, this group participates in over 1500 hours of training. As a result of volunteer staffing, the Department is able to staff multiple vehicles at the time of an emergency.

Local residents who are interested in serving as a volunteer firefighter/EMS should contact the Fire Chief at 587-0261.

Fire Inspection Program

Fire Inspector Michael Duncan performs annual fire safety inspections of all commercial and public buildings in the community.

Last year, nearly 900 safety violations were identified and corrected. Inspector Duncan views the inspection process as an



safe.

Through good cooperation from business owners, the inspection program has been successful in keeping the area's buildings safe from fire.

opportunity to educate local business owners about how to keep their businesses

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Police and Fire

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Roads/Cemetery Department
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Greg Davis

Tom McCullough
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Zoning Board of Appeals

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Jonathan Downes
John Gordon
Leonard Hubert

Land Management Committee

Rob Schaadt, Chairman
Mickey Smith

Judy Preston
Greg Dixon
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Open Space Acquisition Program

The Township has an Open Space Acquisition program supported by two property tax levies approved by the voters. Based upon recommendations of a committee made up of a cross-section of Village and Township residents the Trustees are continuing to either acquire the title or purchase the development rights on properties to prevent them from being developed in the future. These acquisitions are designed to maintain open vistas and at the same time limit development.

According to Fiscal Officer Norman Kennedy the Trustees must find willing property owners. Purchase prices offered are based upon independent appraisal of the land or the development rights to be purchased. Sometimes property owners do not wish to transfer any of their rights regardless of the dollars offered.



44 acres along Loudon St. Rd.



72 acres along Silver Street

Recent purchases have included development rights on the 44.5 acre Row Farm property (\$274,000) on Loudon St, 72.6 acres of the Goss Orchard property (\$585,000) on Silver Street and the purchase of the 35.3 acre Gordon property (\$460,000) along Lancaster Road.

The Row and Goss properties continue as agricultural use property, insuring the payment of local property taxes. The Gordon property supplements previous purchases in the Spring Valley area bringing together 142 acres of contiguous parcels acquired, in four different transactions, since 1991.

The 45 acre former Spring Valley Pool [the anchor piece of these properties] was acquired in 2007 thanks to \$250,000 of Open Space funds and partnering with the Licking Land Trust to obtain grant funding from the Ohio Public Works Commission, Denison University, Amy Chamberlain and Park National Bank.

The Trustees continue to work on this program for the benefit of future generations.



Spring Valley Community Park

FYI	2004	2007	2008	To date 2009
1) Fuel costs				
Fire Dept	n/a	\$ 9,779	\$15,222	\$ 5,341
Roads	\$ 8,497	18,420	28,033	11,002
2) Road salt	15,060	31,607	29,857	12,864 + upcoming winter
3) Cost/ton				
asphalt applied	\$29	\$48	\$51	\$50 & \$57

Road Paving from Page 1

Granview Rd and segments of James Rd, roughly 1.0 additional mile, will be paved. The former is being paid for with a 70% Issue 1 grant and the later cost is being shared 50% with Union Township. The total 2009 paving cost will be \$334,000

Binckley commented that the Township uses local property taxes, motor vehicle license fees and gasoline taxes to pay for this paving work as well as all of the other road department functions.

Fiscally Speaking

These are challenging times. The impact of the economy affects each of us individually and collectively. Township Elected Officials are keenly aware of the need to provide the services the residents have come to expect like taking care of 74 lane miles of roads in the Township, maintaining our cemeteries and providing 24 hour fire and emergency medical staffing at the Township Fire Department, just to name a few. And yet they need to find fiscally responsible ways to provide these services and to obtain funding for the services.

According to Fiscal Officer Norman Kennedy, "last year approximately 65% of our revenue stream was provided by local property taxes.

"Unlike the State and the County we do not have the option of collecting a sales tax. The State and the Village may have an income tax which is not available to the Township. We're primarily supported by property taxes and reliance on certain State support which has been under pressure because of the State's financial condition. Unfortunately this dependency on property taxes sometimes puts us in competition with other governmental entities for those tax dollars. These are decisions the voters must make".

"We try to control the cost of our operation and the timing of our expenditures. Various governmental entities are in a fiscal crisis. They've spent beyond their means and are having trouble providing the services they previously provided. We work hard to maintain adequate cash balances in order not to interrupt the delivery of services to the community. We try to limit our borrowing to keep down the interest costs and not spend money we do not have".

"One of the things we do is to purchase good used equipment when it is available. We just purchased a used 2001 two ton dump truck from the County to replace a 1983 truck. We paid \$13,000 for this truck instead of \$70,000 for a new one.

Granville Township Trustees
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Fiscal from Page 3

Occasionally it makes sense to buy a new piece of equipment, but we look for opportunities to make tax dollars go further”.

“The Township took over operation of the Fire Department in 2007. In 2005 the community resoundingly approved a new 2.5 mill fire levy which was used to put staffing at the station 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Thanks to this levy and a SAFER Grant (see elsewhere in this newsletter) we now have ten fire department full-time personnel scheduled throughout the week to cover the four daily positions at the station. Having these career members at the station, still supplemented by volunteer members and a part-time paid program, has dramatically improved the department’s response times. This is a service the voters wanted and were willing to pay for with their property taxes.”

“There are some big ticket expenditures that cannot be paid for all at one time.” Kennedy continued, “We needed a new garage for our roads operation, the cost of which was projected at \$900,000.

By expenditure of funds which had been held back, the amount to be borrowed was reduced from \$750,000 to \$600,000. Our intention is to not only make the annual required payments, but to apply supplemental amounts to the loan (there is no pre-payment penalty) to reduce the amount of interest paid. This just makes economic sense and reduces the overall cost of the project.”

“We attempt to obtain grant money for road paving and equipment acquisition. We seek reimbursement of storm disaster costs when available. We initially patch to extend the useful life of roads and do not spend money for services the community does not want. Our taxpayers expect good financial management of their funds which your Township Officials strive to deliver.”

FYI For Memorial Day 2008 Township employees planted 1,220 flowering plants in Maple Grove cemetery.

the RECORD is published by the Granville Township Trustees to keep residents informed about Township activities that affect them. All material contained herein is believed to be accurate but is not intended to substitute for legal, accounting, tax or professional advice. Granville Township Trustee meetings are normally held on the second and fourth Wednesdays at 7:00 PM in the meeting room at the McPeck Lodge, 3447 Raccoon Valley Rd, Granville.
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