



**FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP REGULAR MEETING HELD ON JULY 13, 2017 (3 PM)**



**I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 3:00 PM BY: VAUGHN TANTLINGER--- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**II. ROLL CALL:** PAUL ALTIMUS- PRESENT JAMES BROWN-PRESENT SOLICITOR- PRESENT (JWM)  
VAUGHN TANTLINGER-PRESENT SECRETARY-PRESENT (EJB) CITIZENS-2

**III. PREVIOUS MONTHS MEETING 6/8/2017 AT 3 PM; APPR BY PAUL; 2<sup>ND</sup> BY JAMES; UN-3-YES/0 NO) (V. TANTLINGER-YES / P. ALTIMUS-YES / J. BROWN- YES)**

**IV. TRUE BILLS PAID AND TO BE PAID ON FINANCIAL STATEMENT DATED JUNE 2017**  
APPR BY VAUGHN; 2<sup>ND</sup> BY PAUL; UN-3-YES/0 NO (V. TANTLINGER-YES / P. ALTIMUS-YES / J. BROWN- YES)

**V. CORRESPONDENCE: 1. NONE**

**VI. PERSONS PLACED ON AGENDA: 1. NONE**

**VII. OLD BUSINESS: 1. VAUGHN GAVE UPDATE—TWP. WORKING ON A FEW ROADS FOR THE COUNTY GRANT FOR DIRT AND GRAVEL ROADS MONEY. LOW VOLUME ROADS—HARTMAN ROAD IS IN THE PROCESS OF GETTING DONE. TWP. GETTING READY FOR ANOTHER PAVING JOB. JOBS ARE ALL COMING ALONG.**

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS: 1. VAUGHN ANNOUNCED TWP SUPERVISORS TALKED THIS MORNING AND NOW THE BOARD WOULD LIKE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWNSHIP SOLICITOR TO FILE AN APPEAL FROM THE BOARD OF ASSESSMENT DECISIONS ON SOME ANTIOCHIAN VILLAGE PROPERTIES STILL CLASSIFIED AS TAX EXEMPT. MOTION MADE BY PAUL; 2<sup>ND</sup> BY JAMES; UN-3-YES/0 NO) (V. TANTLINGER-YES / P. ALTIMUS-YES / J. BROWN- YES) SUE BARTOW ASKED WHAT THAT WAS ABOUT, WAS ANTIOCHIAN APPEALING THEIR TAXES? PAUL SAID NOT, THE TWP IS QUESTIONING SOME PROPERTIES BEING EXEMPT. PAUL ALSO STATED THAT JEFF MILLER HAS BEEN WORKING ON IT FOR THE PAST 18 MONTHS. AND TWP HAD SOME FAVORABLE TO THE TWP, AND SOME TWP. STILL QUESTIONS ON SOME OF THE BIG ONES. PAUL SAID THE APPEAL WILL BE SENT BY SOLICITOR TO THE COMMON PLEAS COURT. VAUGHN SAID TWP HAS ALWAYS HAD TO HAVE AN ENGINEER. SOLICITOR EXPLAINED THAT NOW THEY ARE GOING TO REQUIRE YOU TO HAVE ENGINEER OVERSIGHT.**

**IX. PUBLIC COMMENT 1. SUE BARTOW—BROUGHT THE MINUTES OUT. CINDY AND CECILA WENT TO THE CONSERVATION MEETING IN HUNTINGTON. BROOK ESCLARY DREW UP A DIAGRAM FOR THEM TO GET THE DRAINAGE TAKEN CARE OF IN ORDER TO GET A GRANT. THERE IS INFORMATION ON OBTAINING USAGE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY. THEY WILL HAVE TO HAVE AN ENGINEER. VAUGHN SAID HE HAS A FORM THAT THE COUNTY APPROVED IF THEY HAVE TO CROSS PERSONAL PROPERTY. VAUGHN SAID TWP HAS BEEN DOING THEM FOR ABOUT 20 YRS. SUE SAID THEY RAN INTO A SITUATION IN BOLIVAR, THEY HAD AN ENGINEER FOR THE CDBG; HOWEVER IF TWP IS GOING TO BE GETTING INTO ANY CDBG GRANTS EVERYONE WILL HAVE TO HAVE AN ENGINEER VAUGHN SAID TWP HAS ALWAYS HAD TO HAVE AN ENGINEER. SOLICITOR EXPLAINED THAT NOW THEY ARE GOING TO REQUIRE YOU TO HAVE ENGINEER OVERSIGHT, TO MONITOR THE PROJECT. SUE SAID ANOTHER ITEM WAS THAT THEY HAVE A GENTLEMAN ON THE BOARD THAT DOES NOT HAVE PUBLIC SEWAGE; HOWEVER HE DOES LIVE IN THE TWP. AND THE COMMENT WAS MADE THAT IF RATES ARE TO GO UP, HE SAID IT WOULD NOT AFFECT HIM. BUT THE BOARD HAS 2 FROM FAIRFIELD AND 2 FROM WEST WHEATFIELD. IF THE BOARD ENDED UP WITH 4 BOARD MEMBERS THAT DOES NOT PAY A SEWAGE BILL, AND VOTE UPON THE RATES. IT IS UP TO THE MUNICIPALITIES THAT MAYBE LOOK WHEN THERE IS AN OPENING, TO LOOK INTO A RESIDENT THAT PAYS A SEWAGE BILL, RATHER THAN SOMEONE WHO JUST LIVES IN THE TWP TO REPRESENT THEM. THIS IS SOMETHING SHE WANTED TO MENTION, BECAUSE ONLY SOME OF THEM PAY A SEWAGE BILL. PAUL ASKED IF THE SEWAGE AUTHORITY IS AT FULL STAFF, SUE SAID YES. SOLICITOR SAID THEY HAVE BEEN HAVING A QUORUM IN ORDER TO HOLD MEETINGS. EMMA-SEC/TRES ASKED IF THERE WASN'T SOMETHING IN THEIR BYLAWS THAT IF YOU MISS SO MANY CONSECUTIVE MEETINGS, YOU COULD BE REMOVED. SOLICITOR SAID THE SEAT CAN BE DECLARED VACANT IF YOU MISS 3 MEETINGS IN A ROW BY THE APPOINTING MUNICIPALITY. EMMA-SEC/TRES SAID IT WOULD BE UP TO THE AUTHORITY BOARD TO NOTIFY THE TWPS. OF MISSED MEETINGS, BECAUSE THE TWPS. DO NOT GET MINUTES TILL EVERY OTHER MEETING, AND THEIR MEETINGS ARE EVERY OTHER MONTH. EMMA-SEC/TRES SAID THAT IT IS VERY HARD FOR OUR TWP TO FIND ANYONE WILLING TO SERVE ON THE SEWAGE BOARD. SHE RENTS HER GRANDMOTHERS HOUSE AND HER RENTERS LEASE IS COMING UP, HE IS GOING TO HAVE TO RESIGN OR MOVE BECAUSE SHE WILL HAVE TO PAY FLAT RATE. EMMA-SEC/TRES SAID THAT IS HOW SHE IS WITH THE WATER, THOSE WHO HAVE PUBLIC WATER ALSO PAY A SURCHARGE EVERY TIME THAT WATER COMPANY EXPANDS, IT INCREASES—AND OUR SUPERVISORS DON'T HAVE PUBLIC WATER OR SEWAGE; WHICH IS THEIR JOB. FOR EXAMPLE; IF THERE IS A FIRE TAX ENACTED FOR THE TWP—EVERYONE PAYS IT NO MATTER IF YOU LIVE 200 FEET OR MILES FROM A HYDRANT OF FIRE COMPANY. SO IF YOU ARE GOING TO INCREASE PUBLIC WATER AND SEWAGE DO THE SURCHARGE FOR THE WHOLE POPULATION. WHEN SEWAGE FIRST CAME IN, PEOPLE WERE PAYING OF IT PRIOR TO INSTALLATION. 2. ALEX ASHCROFT—ASKED ABOUT THE ANTIOCHIAN PROPERTIES IF THEY WERE JUST LAND OR LAND WITH BUILDINGS ON THEM. SOLICITOR STATED THAT ANTIOCHIAN HAS A COLLECTION OF PROPERTIES. SOME ARE VACANT, SOME ARE WOODED, AND THERE IS A CONFERENCE CENTER. CONFERENCE CENTER HAS AN 100 ROOM HOTEL, OTHER PARCELS HAS HORSE**

BARN AND STALLS, CABINS, IT IS A COLLECTION OF ALL SORTS. ALEX ASKED WHY THEY FALL UNDER TAX EXEMPT STATUS, HE UNDERSTANDS THEY CAN NOT DISCUSS TOO MUCH SINCE GOING TO COURT, BUT ARE THEY A CHURCH ORGANIZATION. SOLICITOR SAID TITLE WAS SOMETHING LIKE ANTIOCHIAN DIOCESE, ETC. SOME OF THE PARCELS ARE OWNED BY A CHURCH ORGANIZATION. SOLICITOR SAID THERE ARE SOME REASONS WHY IT WOULD BE CONSIDERED EXEMPT—THEY ARE OWNED BY A CHURCH IN ITSELF IS **NOT** ONE OF THEM. PROPERTY IS NOT AUTOMATICALLY EXEMPT BECAUSE IT IS OWNED BY A CHURCH. THEY ARE ARGUING THAT IT IS USED AS A PLACE OF REGULARLY HELD WORSHIP SERVICES. CEMETERIES THAT ARE NON PROFIT ARE EXEMPT, AND CERTAIN ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY A NON PROFIT ENTITY CAN BE CONSIDERED EXEMPT AS WELL. ALEX ASKED WHY TWP FEELS THEY SHOULD NOT HAVE TAX EXEMPT STATUS. SOLICITOR SAID THEY ARE OPERATING A BANQUET CONFERENCE CENTER, THEY WERE MAINTAINING A REGULAR PLACE OF BUSINESS FOR AN ENTITY UNRELATED TO THE DIOCESE WITH A LIQUOR LICENSE. PAUL STATED THEY HAD A LIQUOR LICENSE IN THEIR POSSESSION. SOLICITOR SAID THEY ONLY GAVE IT UP NOW DUE TO THE TWPS. DISPUTE OVER EXEMPT STATUS. SOLICITOR SAID IN PLAIN TERMS, THE HOTEL TAX ALONE ON HOTEL, WHERE THERE WAS OVER ½ MILLION DOLLARS IN HOTEL REVENUE. THIS IS A CHURCH. SUE ASKED IF THEY PAY FOR KIDS TO GO TO CHURCH CAMP THERE. SOLICITOR SAID IT DEPENDS ON WHO YOU ASK. SOLICITOR STATED THEY HAVE FOOTBALL FIELDS. ALEX SAID THAT THE TWP IS SAYING THAT BECAUSE THEY ARE MAKING A PROFIT ON THESE ITEMS THEY SHOULD NOT BE TAX EXEMPT. SOLICITOR SAID ON PORTIONS OF THEIR PROPERTY; SUPERVISORS ARE NOT SAYING THAT THE CHURCH OR CEMETERIES SHOULD BE TAXED. BUT WHAT THEY ARE SAYING IS IF YOU ARE OPERATING A 100 ROOM HOTEL, HAD LIQUOR LICENSE AND RENT OUT BANQUET ROOM FOR WEDDINGS, ETC.; BAR PACKAGES—THEY HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH RELIGION. AND IF YOU ARE LETTING PEOPLE FARM YOUR GROUND, WHY SHOULD YOU BE TAX EXEMPT IF THE FARMER NEXT DOOR ISN'T. IF CHAMPION LAKES OPERATES A BED AND BREAKFAST, OR HOTEL THEY HAVE TO PAY TAXES. THEN WHY WOULDN'T ANTIOCHIAN JUST BECAUSE IT IS A CHURCH. WHEN THEY BOTH ARE DOING THE EXACT SAME THINGS.

**X. ADJOURNMENT:** MOTION BY JAMES; 2<sup>ND</sup> BY VAUGHN; UN-3-YES/0 NO) (V. TANTLINGER-YES / P. ALTIMUS-YES / J. BROWN- YES) TIME (3:15 PM)

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*Emma J. Brendlinger, Sec-Tres*