

BERLIN TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES

7:00 p.m. Trustee Meeting October 24, 18

ATTENDANCE: Linda Grubb, Mike & Judy Grubb, Anne & John Corcoran, Jim Steed, Bruce Strawser, Steve & Donna Reynolds, Earl & Betty Bringardner, Greg & Dana Randall, Rob Riley, Doug Riedel, Bill & Stevie Shepherd and James Antoszewski

Bullard called the continuation of the October 22, 2018 meeting to order.

**RESOLUTION APPROVE RECONVENING THE OCTOBER 22, 2018
18-10-20 REGULAR MEETING**

Motion: Bullard
Second: O'Brien
Vote: Bullard yes and O'Brien yes

Bullard said tonight's topic is talking about the Piatt Road improvement project. Maps were available and Bullard said when looking at the maps you will see that most of the work is being done on the west side of the road. This is because there is an eighty-foot gas easement on the east side, so they cannot put the road there. Bullard introduced Rob Riley and Doug Riedel and stated that the drawings they provided are only draft drawings. He stated that Piatt Road is a township road not a county road. Piatt Road will extend to the Berlin High School with a roundabout at Cheshire Road. This will be funded by the county, as Cheshire Road is a county road. Bullard also stated that the county is looking to put a viaduct over the railroad tracks sometime in the future. He asked to recess the meeting so the residents have time to review the drawings and then we would answer their questions.

Meeting was recessed at 7:05 p.m. Trustee D'Amico arrived at 7:16 p.m.

Bullard called the meeting back to order at 7:25 p.m. He stated that he made a mistake regarding the eighty-foot right-of-way; it is only a fifty-foot right-of-way from the existing right-of-way. It would be eighty foot from the center of the road. He also stated that Piatt Road will be a thoroughfare road running from 36/37 to Lewis Center Road with a roundabout at Lewis Center Road. Bullard said they asked the engineer to come up with two design plans, curb-n-gutter and open ditch. Curb-n-gutter is \$200,000 to \$300,000 more than an open ditch so with our limited funds we opted to go with the open ditch design. Bullard said the road needs to be widened so two school buses can pass safely. Riley said they are looking at beginning the project in about three years, as there is still a lot of engineering that needs done. O'Brien said he is in favor of widening the road but he is not in favor of a multi-use path. It has been the position of the county and the township to, as developments come, to require a multi-use path be put in. He is not in favor of that in this situation because the residents were here first and he does not want to take peoples land for this. If the residents want it, he can change his mind. He explained what a multi-use path was. Bullard said by installing a multi-use path in our plans it gets us points when we apply for an Ohio Public Works Commission grant. This does not mean that we will or will not get a grant. John Corcoran asked if there was any talk about central sewer and Riley said he is not in on those discussions but that it does run north of Cheshire Road to the high school. Bullard said the developers usually extend the sewer lines not the county. Bullard said there is no plan for central sewer with this project.

Donna Reynolds asked how wide the multi-use paths are and Bullard said they are ten foot and blacktop. Linda Grubb said she is not for multi-use paths. Bullard said they would tie into the high school and elementary school and allow people to walk to football games etc. Donna Reynolds asked who would maintain these paths. Bullard said if it is a path, it would fall on the township, the township does not have the money, and they would be responsible for plowing the snow. If it is a sidewalk, we have rules about sidewalks. Sidewalks are four foot wide and the homeowners are responsible for them. Sidewalks also do not allow for bicycles. O'Brien said if you want it, now is the time to do it, not after the road has been widened. James Antoszewsk asked if what they are looking at is similar to what is south of Peachblow Road. Bullard said it was and it is the same as what is north of Cheshire Road. Anne Corcoran asked if the speed limit would be reduced. Bullard said the Ohio Department of Transportation sets the speed limit. Steve Reynolds asked if the mailboxes could be moved back. Bullard said they do not have control over this as the post office does it. James Antoszewsk asked what the timeline was. Riley said the roundabout at Cheshire Road the Piatt Road extension to Glenn Meade will be done next year with a deadline being August 2019. Mike Grubb asked how long the fifty-foot easement has been in place, as he never gave anybody an easement. Bullard said he does not know they just discovered it

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when they looked at the deeds. He said it could be for Columbia Gas or Suburban Gas. He suggested that everyone look at his or her deed and the easement. Riley stated that they are working on the engineering for the Big Walnut Road interchange but it is a long process, as everything has to go to Washington. Realistically it will take another two to three years to get thru the engineering, permitting and approvals but they are still actively working on it. After they get the approvals they have to purchase the right-of-ways so best case scenario is five years. Riley stated they have many projects they are working on in the next five years but they have to find the money. O'Brien asked if it was ranked in an order of process, and asked if Home Road was first. Riley said it was. Bullard asked for a show of hands of who was in favor of the multi-use plans and only one person raised their hand. Earl Bringardner asked if Evans Farms had in their plans a multi-use path on the west side of Piatt to Peachblow. Bullard said the last plans he saw they had a lot on the streets but not much on the multi-use paths, which is a complaint he has with the county because there is not anyone who is responsible for the multi-use paths and paying attention to it. In their discussions, they talked about a bridge over the railroad tracks because if you are making a walking community nobody wants to walk across railroad tracks but he does not see it in their plans. Riley said in the plans it shows a two foot paved berm which makes the road easier to maintain and is safer but it does come at an additional cost, but that is their recommendation. He said there is another option where they can make the paved shoulder wider but the downside to that is the wider the shoulder the higher the speed. They could increase the berm from two foot to four feet, which would accommodate pedestrians that could walk along the side. This would also come with an additional cost. Bullard asked what everyone thought about sidewalks. The consensus was that they were not in favor of them. Bullard said it would be more expensive to add the four foot of pavement to the side of the road compared to adding a multi-use path. Riley said the cost would be about the same. They did this at Lewis Center down by the dam since there are so many bikers in that area.

Bullard said they would continue to have meetings with the residents to let them know what is going on with the project. They will be working with the county engineer to acquire the right-of-ways. Riley said there is one more way they can do it and that is to do the grating for a future path but not pave it. This would need the required easements and if necessary make the ditch flatter, which might require bringing the pipe in using the modified ditch section that would provide room beyond the ditch for a future path. O'Brien asked if the trees would need to come down at that time or later when the path is built. Riley said the trees could remain however when additional right-of-way is purchased the appraiser makes a fair market estimate of what that additional easement is worth and will add each tree in the area whether or not you remove it. The township is acquiring the rights to remove it in the future. Riedel said the path cannot be funded by the OPWC it would have to come from another grant. Bullard said Preservation Parks could help with it.

O'Brien said he talked to the school superintendent about their plans for future schools but they do not have any yet. He will let us know when they do.

RESOLUTION MOTION TO ADJOURN
18-10-21

Motion: O'Brien
Second: D'Amico
Vote: Bullard yes, O'Brien yes and D'Amico yes

Meeting recessed by Chairman Bullard at 9:03 P.M.

Ron Bullard, Trustee

ATTEST:

Ken O'Brien, Trustee

Claudia Smith, Fiscal Officer

Tom D'Amico, Trustee