

7:00 P.M.

February 16

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The Special Meeting was held in the Town Hall meeting room with, Ronald Kotkowski (Ron K.), attended through Zoom, John Kline, (John K.), and Frank Ruehr, Jr., (Frank R.) from here on out will be addressed as the BOT (Board of Trustees), and Fiscal Officer, Jill Corbett present. Frank Ruehr, Jr. led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Others present: Rich McIntyre, Jack D'Amato, Bob Kosloski, Maude Bias, James Pipes, Jessica Kovacs, Jessica Powers, Jason Honeycutt, Karen Terry, Sara Hanko, and Todd Peetz.

Frank R. made a motion to dispense with the reading of the February 2, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes, and to approve as written. John K. seconded the motion. All in favor and the motion carried.

Ron K. explained to the public that the reason for this Public Meeting was to discuss possible grants for improvements to our Shalersville Park. The grants that we are looking at could go towards improving and extending the park walking trails, a new parking lot, and other improvements. We have invited the public, as it is very important to have the public support to go along with the Grant Applications. Ron had invited members of the Crestwood Youth Football and Cheer (CYF&C), and the Baseball Leagues that use the park to see what support they can offer for the grant.

Todd Peetz, Director to the Portage County Regional Planning, spoke on the two statewide grants that are available for the township to apply. The first is a One-half million-dollar grant with a 50% match. The second is One hundred and Fifty thousand dollar grant with a 25% match. In-kind monies can cover the matching funds. These can come in the form of matching with dollars, donations, and volunteer's hours. The application for these two grants are due by March 15th. The grants will be awarded by August or September, and the monies would be available in 2022. There is also a Portage County Grant for Sixty Three Thousand with a 25% match. The application for this grant is due in June. Todd explained that part of the application is to show community support. He explained if letters could be written from the public on their desire and plans for the park to accompany the applications would score a lot more points with the Grant Committees.

Discussion followed on a possible Master Plan for the park. To develop the property adjacent to the town hall that the township purchased in 2019. They would like to have a driveway going from St. Rt. 44 to a new parking lot at the west end of the football field. A walking trail through this property. A possible small splash pool by the concession stand, new playground equipment, and new backstops and improvements for the baseball fields. Todd explained that we could apply for these grants every year, and over the course of 5-10 years, it would be possible to have the entire proposed projects covered.

Todd explained that the Trail Grant could cover trails in the new property, the driveway and up to 15 parking spaces. The Portage County Grant for Sixty Three Thousand could be used to finish the extra needed parking space in the new parking lot.

Todd also explained the in-kind matching funds. In-kind matching funds would go into effect after the Grants are awarded. Donations to date would not qualify. Rich McIntyre, President of the CYF&C spoke on the different fund raising opportunities his organization are working on to date. He didn't feel there would be any problem to come up with the In-kind match needed by donations and volunteers.

Frank R. explained that the township is in need of a new plow truck and backhoe. That our budget is very tight and since we do not have road levies to help purchase the needed equipment, the township cannot commit help funding the in-kind matches at this point.

The meeting ended with the CYF&C, and the Baseball Leagues commitment to writing letters of their support to accompany the Grant Applications. They will have their letters to the Trustees to by the March 15th. deadline.

With no further comments from the Public or Trustees, Vice-Chairman, John Kline directed the meeting to be adjourn at 8:40p.m.

John Kline, Trustee Vice Chairperson

Jill Corbett, Fiscal Officer