

# WESTFIELD TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES

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Regular Meeting  
February 21, 2011  
7:00 pm

Chairman Oiler opened the meeting at 6:40 pm reason for the early meeting is inclement weather and we are only going to pay bills.

Trustees present: James Likley and Ronald Oiler. Gary Harris is absent. One guest, Heather Sturdevant.

The bills to be paid are \$13,077.23. (A list is attached to the minutes in the fiscal officers' office.)

**Trustee Likley made a motion to pay the bills as presented, seconded by Trustee Oiler.**

**Roll call: Likley, aye; Oiler, aye.**

Fund Status:   Checking           \$344,189.34   Investments    #538,689.92

March 11, 2011 will be an opening ceremony for the fiber optic network.

IRS sent a letter stating they are applying \$43.91 to the March 31, 2007 quarter debt.

7611 Greenwich Road property (foreclosure)

Auditors' office has the township listed as an assessment in the accrued amount of \$8,694.11 to date. Assistant Prosecutor Christine Broadneck will talk to Bill Thorne as soon as possible to make sure that this amount is included in the sheriff's appraisal of \$18,356.66, if it is not she told me that they would probably have to pull the property from the sale. She will call me back Friday, February 25<sup>th</sup>.

Heather: (A copy of the e-mail)

Martha and I received a public records request for the notes that each zoning commission member had written to submit to Bill Thorne of the changes that each person wanted to consider for the text and map amendment. It was received in the morning and I wasn't sure if that was a public record at the time because it was everyone's notes. Bill has said as long as it remains in your notes they are not a public record. Bill said in this case it was a public record and I talked to him about 2:36 pm. At that time I e-mailed the information to Martha and the office was already closed and the office was not open on Friday and today was a holiday. I received a very very nasty e-mail from a member of the public saying that it was my responsibility to send that public records request over and that I needed to attend public records training, which I have attended all the training and have certificates from all subsequent years that I have been required to go to. I specifically asked Bill Thorne about this case because they did have a board member because he has been personally attacked on bias numerous times throughout the process. He had asked if it wasn't a public record he wanted to keep that between him and the board and the prosecuting attorney until it was discussed in an open meeting. Which is why I asked Bill in the first place. I sent an e-mail back to that individual to let them know that Martha would fill that as soon as possible that she was the person to send out all public records request. We have that policy for a reason and

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that is so everyone gets the correct official documents and none of us as board members are authorized to handle money that comes into the township for those public records requests nor do we want to be. Obviously there is no one to hear it tonight. Somehow it needs to be addressed and people need to continue to follow the public records request policy and stop demanding these records from board members. I understand the meeting was that night and maybe this individual wanted to follow along as we went along and that's fine but once again it is NOT our duty to fill those requests unless you decide to change your policy. I spoke to Bill and he said I did everything I was supposed to do by sending it to Martha as soon as possible. Timely manner does not mean 6 hours or 12 hours it means at the earliest convenience of the fiscal officer. So to be constantly demanding to have these public records request out within a few hours of getting the request and be demanding of people who are not responsible and getting nasty e-mails. I have copy of the e-mail that I will give to both of you and also Gary in your box. Somehow the public needs to be made aware. I have brought it up in our meetings several times now. This is not the first time this has happened. I have read the records request policy to the public numerous times and yet this still continues to happen. I am not the publics' personal secretary; I have a full time job as do my board members. I want something said in a public forum as to how public records requests need to be handled. This is our policy. Both trustees agreed. Because the notes were sent to Heather to be compiled into a packet to be sent to Bill Thorne it became a public record. If everyone would have sent them individually then they would not have been a public record.

**Trustee Oiler adjourned the meeting at 6:54 pm, seconded by Trustee Likley. Unanimous**

**Approved March 7, 2011**