

German Township
Board of Trustees
May 23, 2016

The Trustees of German Township, Fulton County, Ohio met in regular session for the purpose of conducting business of the township.

Present: Bruce Lauber, Kenneth Leupp, Randy Ruffer, Keith Short

Guests: Josh King, Jeff Aeschliman, David Pugh, Tim Rupp, Keith Oyer, Peggy Oyer, Albert Garcia II, Jo Anne Rupp, Janelle Beck, Sue Moser, Rick Moser, Sam Short, Janice Short, Rachel Short, Ethan Short, Terry L. King, Donna King, Ed Fleury, Billye Leininger, Darla Tilse, D Ann Weaver, Mike Weaver, Linda Grime, David Grime, Marlene Huber, Tim Huber, Gene Goering, Karen Goering

The meeting was called to order by Randy at 7:00 pm.

Peggy Oyer representing Co Rd 24 residents stated that the Village Council stated that they did not request State Route 66 to be relocated to Co Rd 24 and that is not accurate. She stated Archbold is the only local agency that has put money into this project. She has always been referred by ODOT to contact Archbold Council. She doesn't think this move will help all five thousand workers travel out of Archbold. She said they are concerned this might encourage more traffic on Lafayette Street going past the Archbold Elementary and High Schools. She said the Village Council talked about looking into an overpass or underpass on Co Rd 24. Peggy said this would also be a safety issue as well for the school traffic. The Gerald Grain Elevator is too close to the railroad tracks to not be affected negatively. She said Dennis Howell made a comment that the retail business is deteriorating. Peggy she feels the council is looking past the retail business. Mr. Hayes stated, at the May 9 meeting, that Defiance Economic Development would be in favor of this relocation and the Defiance County Commissioners stated previously they would not be in favor of the relocation on Domersville Road. She said they are not in agreement with the statement by Ed Leininger that the petition had duplicate signatures. She said the two large agriculture businesses have a lot of traffic by farmers. The residents of Co Rd 24 have invested a lot of money in their homes and there are three wells within thirty-one feet of the road. Brad Grime reported that the businesses have served the township well and they are asking for the trustees' help to support their concern. He stated that Bil-Jax has not spent any money for signage to direct traffic to their location but they are concerned about trucks finding their business. Businesses have located on State Route 66 because of the traffic. This money is not tax free money as has been indicated. The village has built Lafayette Street and the industrial park street to help relieve traffic. He also pointed out there are empty buildings South of Archbold for a number of years where new businesses could be located. Brad said Archbold Council is saying this is supposed to be a truck bypass and when that happens, he believes cars will soon follow which will hurt the retail stores. Brad was on the Village Council when a decision was made to add stop signs on Co Rd 24 and commends that decision for safety concerns. He encourages the trustees to consider these concerns when they are voting to support this relocation. Billye Leininger asked why Kenneth Leupp why he is so vocal in support of the relocation. Kenneth said he believes this will benefit industry in the four counties. She then asked what about the people who live on that road? Do you not care about them? Billye asked Kenneth if he would feel the same way if his wife's family was still involved in a retail business in downtown Archbold. Kenneth said they have had discussions regarding that topic. Gene Goering said there is not anyone here attending this meeting in support of the project. He said they felt they were not treated kindly at the council meeting. Kenneth said the company doing the survey will be contacting the individuals with wells close to Co Rd 24. Mr. Goering asked where the individuals who are in favor of this relocation are. He has not heard any individual living in Archbold who wants the relocation. Rick Moser has been at every meeting since this has started and has heard negative comments at all these meetings. Jo Anne Rupp was at the commissioners meeting where the Fulton County and Defiance County Commissioners were to vote on the relocation. She said Archbold Council's main concern for the move was the intersection of Stryker Street and Defiance Street.

German Township
Board of Trustees
May 23, 2016

Archbold has since changed that corner to make it easier for truck traffic to negotiate the corner. Marlene Huber, representing Corner Gallery, said letters have been written to the Archbold Council that have not been addressed and there have been meetings that they were not even aware of. The Archbold Council says they will have billboards on the relocation, advertising retail businesses but she does not believe this will help much. She said Jeff Fryman made a comment that she made it through the construction work and they will be able to make it through this also. She does not believe this will be helpful to the retail businesses. Billye Leininger said there are some small towns in Michigan who have been affected negatively by bypasses. Donna King, of Eliza Henry, said Archbold Council is looking to get the five thousand employees out of Archbold efficiently. She needs those people to shop at her business, not get out of town. She believes the problem with trucks making the turn at Stryker Street and Defiance Street was not a problem until a turn lane was provided. Sam Short said the safety issues of today cannot be compared with the safety issues that we had thirty years ago. Linda Grime said one of the issues to change the Stryker Street and Defiance Street intersection was to get it done quickly before someone is severely injured. She feels the same safety issue will happen with the relocation. Gene Goering said the past councilman who wrote an editorial to the Archbold Buckeye regarding the stop signs on Co Rd 24 does not realize the safety issue if the stop signs are removed. Gene also state that he felt the Council treated them very rudely when the group attended their meeting on May 2. Dave Grime said Verizon Wireless has told him that many truckers stop at their business to have their phones updated. Tim Rupp, of Rupp Furniture, feels there needs to be a balance between industry and retail. He feels that if this relocation happens that it will negatively affect their business. He also does not understand why trucks cannot find Bil-Jax being less than a quarter of a mile off of State Route 66. Sue Moser said that she saw a truck pass a farmer on Co Rd 24 who was not travelling fast enough and the road is not wide enough for trucks to pass. Peggy Oyer thanked the trustees for allowing them time to present their thoughts. Brad Grime said the opportunity is still here for industry without the relocation of State Route 66

The minutes from the May 9, 2016 meeting were presented. Kenneth made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Bruce seconded the motion. The motion passed with three yes votes and no negative votes.

The bills were presented for review (attachment 06-05-16). Bruce made a motion to accept the bills for payment as presented. Kenneth seconded the motion. The motion passed with three yes votes and no negative votes.

Josh said they have been busy mowing ditches.

A proposal was received from A&A Custom Crushing to crush and screen for three products the cement on our back lot for \$6.00 per ton for the first 1,000 ton and for \$4.85 per ton over 1,000 ton. D & R Demolition will also be issuing a proposal.

Blanket Certificates 37-2016 and 38-2016 were presented for signatures.

Kenneth attended the Pettisville Storm Water meeting and presented a map of the proposed project. The project is being handled by the Fulton County Engineer's office and hope to be able to receive Issue II funds if this is through the County.

Randy said he received a phone call from Henry County Commissioner, Tom Von Deylen, who said they are going to vote no on the relocation of State Route 66 to Co Rd 24. Randy does not feel the community wants this relocation. Randy made a motion vote on moving forward to support or to not support the relocation of State Route 66 to Co Rd 24. Bruce seconded the motion.

German Township
Board of Trustees
May 23, 2016

Bruce Lauber, no
Kenneth Leupp, yes
Randy Ruffer, no

Josh said Wayne Dinius asked if we were going to follow through with tile he had in question.

Bruce made a motion to adjourn at 9:00 pm. Kenneth seconded the motion. The motion passed with three yes votes and no negative votes.

Attested