

YORK TOWNSHIP

Special Meeting-1- License Tax August 20, 2020

Trustees – Chairman Todd Zieja, William Pavlick, Richard Monroe,
Fiscal Officer Margaret (Peggy) Russell

Present:

Trustee, Todd Zieja, Chairman
Trustee Rick Monroe
Trustee Bill Pavlick
Fiscal Officer Peggy Russell

Also Present:

7 Residents

Chairman Todd Zieja called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and led the pledge of allegiance. Trustee Zieja stated the meeting is being recorded for transcription purposes only.

Tonight is the first of two special meetings to consider the levy of an additional township license tax of \$5.00 per plate on motor vehicles (anything with a tag) in the township of York pursuant to RC 4501.181.

In 2019 the township passed pursuant to RC4501.18 and additional \$5.00 tax which began collection for renewal of plates starting in 2020. This tax was projected to add \$23-25K in additional revenue used exclusively for the purpose of road maintenance including tree trimming, ditching, berming, road side mowing, weed control and all repairs. At this time the tax has produced income of \$11K. Pandemic conditions closing license bureaus have skewed this years renewals, and we have no way to determine if revenue will increase now people have the opportunity to renew. The additional tax being considered today should raise an equal amount. This tax is authorized by the State of Ohio as a permissible tax and does not require voter approval. The board considers resident opinion, but has the authority to levy the tax via resolution. This is the last permissible tax available to the township currently.

Trustee Pavlick stated when John Kasich held office he reduced the roads budget by 21% to balance the State budget and that money is not coming back. Prior to this budget cut, we were able to maintain roads with available funds. Currently it costs \$175K per mile for hot mix, which is the preferred method of paving. Hot mix has a three-year warranty and is projected to last 8-9 years. Chip and seal, is less costly at \$120-150K per mile but lasts only 3-5 years. It is a short term solution especially for high traffic roads. We currently have bid estimates from the engineer of \$1.5 – 2.4 million to pave Wolff, Stone, and Branch. This year we are paving one mile on Wolff with Hot Mix due to heavy traffic and wear and tear. This stretch of road has lasted 13 years, but its useful life has passed and shows signs of significant wear and tear. We are not planning any paving projects for the next year, or foreseeable future. We have 8 miles of concrete roads, which is 16 lane miles. The joints on the 20-year-old roads are in need of repair. It cost \$12K to repair two slabs. All the new developments going in are required to have concrete roads, which are projected to last 40 years if appropriately maintained. We tried to pass a 1-mil levy this spring which failed. There have been three failed attempts in the recent past to pass a levy. The county auditor has an application on its website which will tell homeowners how much a levy will cost per 100K valuation of their home. These permissive taxes being passed are only Band-Aids for the current road situation. The gas tax increase was projected to bring \$150K for

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this year, however due to the pandemic, people drove much less than usual, so revenues are down. To date we have collected \$78K.

Norm Hinman suggested the trustees of various townships band together to petition the county commissioners and get the Ohio Township Association to aggressively go after additional funding from the state rather than keep going to taxpayers, many on fixed incomes. Trustee Pavlick stated he did not want to pay the additional tax either, but he also does not want to leave the roads in disrepair for future generations to deal with.

Trustee Monroe stated the township is growing, and we have more traffic. Residents suggested we return to gravel roads. Semis, steel-wheeled Amish Buggies, frequent traffic tear up roads.

Norm asked about the parking lot full of cars across the street. The trustees stated Dorothy is working on several situations like this, many are at the stage where they are being sent to the prosecutor.

Motion to Adjourn by Monroe, second by Pavlick. Roll: Monroe, yes; Pavlick, yes; Zieja, yes.

Meeting adjourned 6:30p

Todd Zieja, Chairman

Margaret Russell, Fiscal Officer