Paris Township Trustees

Shearer Community Center November 20, 2025

All Trustees were present for this regular meeting presided over by Chairman Samec. Chairman Samec called the meeting to order by asking everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Also Attending: Derek Reed, Mike Glista, Fred Shaulis, and see attached list of public that Signed in.

Dorene Spicer made the motion to accept the minutes seconded by Dave Kemble.

LABELLE HEIGHTS

Fred Shaulis reported that LaBelle Heights is not finished and still waiting to hear from Mike Collins.

TREES NEED REMOVED

Fred Shaulis reported that there are two trees between St Rt 225 and McClintocksburg that need to be removed. Bickel Tree Service will remove the trees for $1,200.00. Ed Samec made the motion to have Bickel Tree Service remove the trees, seconded by Dave Kemble. Roll Call: Dorene Spicer, yes; Dave Kemble, yes; Ed Samec, yes. Motion Carried – Resolution #52-2025

ZONING BOOK FIRST RESOLUTION (NOT ADOPTED)

Ed Samec made the motion to accept the new zoning book as written. The motion was dropped due to no other trustee seconded the motion.

ZONING BOOK CHANGES TO BE REJECTED

Chairman Samec open the floor to the public for discussion of zoning. Upon the discussion being open to the public Dave Kemble made a motion to reject all the zoning changes back to the last zoning book filed with the Portage County Recorder's Office. All in attendance applauded the motion and discussion took place as to what the residents in Paris Township would like to happen. A resident voiced for zoning to tackle the zoning book section by section and make changes to some of what is in zoning now. A couple of residents sent letters of wanting to be on the zoning board. The letters are on file with the Fiscal Officer and two residents asked to be on list when an opening comes up in zoning to be considered. There names are also in the folder with the other two residents. As discussion took place, some residents voiced they want zoning just do not want to be told what they have to do on their own property. A current zoning member, Greg Hards, agreed that too many changes were taking place at one time. Discussion continued on zoning and ideas from the public of what they would like to see with zoning. The Trustees made it very clear to the public that the zoning meetings were open to the public and anyone is welcome to attend. The Trustees made it clear that zoning meets the second Thursday of the month at 7:00 at the Shearer Community Center.
Amanda Suffecool had this letter from James Irvine, President of Ohio Citizens Defense league and wanted it put to record:

Proposed Paris Township Anti-Firearm Ordinance

November 18, 2025

Ed Samec
Paris Township Trustee
9229 Newton Falls Road

Dear Sir,
This letter serves as formal notification that we received notice Paris Township has proposed an anti-firearm ordinance in violation of Ohio Revised Code (ORC) §9.68. We ask the Township to reconsider such a unconstitutional action.
ORC §9.68 preempts local firearm ordinances and occupies the field with respect to firearm law across the state. As a result, local ordinances, such as the proposed Paris Township ordinance, are in excess of the home-rule authorities granted to a municipality. Such ordinances have been declared invalid. Further, once a successful judgment for the party filing suit against such an errant, over-reaching municipality is declared, ORC §9.68 permits the court to award damages to the plaintiff. ORC §9.68(B) states (my emphasis):
"A person, group, or entity adversely affected by any manner of ordinance, rule, regulation, resolution, practice, or other action enacted or enforced by a political subdivision in conflict with division (A) of this section may bring a civil action against the political subdivision seeking damages from the political subdivision, declaratory relief, injunctive relief, or a combination of those remedies. Any damages awarded shall be awarded against, and paid by, the political subdivision. In addition to any actual damages awarded against the political subdivision and other relief provided with respect to such an action, the court shall award reasonable expenses to any person, group, or entity that brings the action, to be paid by the political subdivision, if either of the following applies:

(1) The person, group, or entity prevails in a challenge to the ordinance, rule, regulation, resolution, practice, or action as being in conflict with division (A) of this section.

(2) The ordinance, rule, regulation, resolution, practice, or action or the manner of its enforcement is repealed or rescinded after the civil action was filed but prior to a final court determination of the action."

In fact, the Ohio Court of Appeals First Appellate District in 2020 awarded fees to the plaintiffs, Buckeye Firearms Foundation, Inc, Ohioans for Concealed Carry, and Jordan Telting in their suit against the City of Cincinnati and Paula Boggs Muething (city solicitor) (See Buckeye Firearms Found., Inc. v. Cincinnati, 2020-Ohio-5422). Consider that when Cincinnati attempted to exceed the metes and bounds of ORC §9.68 in 2018, the Ohio Supreme Court in 2021 affirmed the plaintiffs' $235,218 award for legal expenses when it found Cincinnati's actions unconstitutional and a violation of ORC

§9.68. (See https://www.buckeyefirearms.org/cincinnati-taxpayers-pay-buckeyefirearms-foundation-235218-failed-bump-stock-ban)

Columbus, Cincinnati, Cleveland, and other cities have all lost suits when attempting to violate ORC §9.68 (See The Preemption of Firearm Regulations in Ohio: O.R.C. 9.68). The precedents in Ohio case law make it clear that under ORC §9.68, no local unit of government can legally regulate firearms. Civil suits are remedy for any such attempts at violating ORC §9.68; the award of expenses helps to deter the unconstitutional actions of local units of government.

What Paris Township proposes is unconstitutional. We prefer to avoid an unnecessary lawsuit in which we will certainly prevail. In addition to the court striking down the proposed ordinance, and the award of actual damages, we will seek reimbursement of reasonable expenses associated with this process should we be forced to file a civil suit to right this wrong.

We encourage the Paris Township Trustees to stand firm in ensure its taxpaying citizens are not unnecessarily burdened by an appointed body ignoring thier official duties. Being stubborn in the face of clear constitutional and court precedent is not the prudent course of action.

Should we not receive a satisfactory response from Paris Township, after the November 20th vote on the Zoning resolution we will file suit without further notice.

Yours truly,

Jame M. lrviin James Irvine, President - Ohio Citizens Defense League

References: ORC §9.68: https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-revised-code/section-9.68Buckeye Firearms Found., Inc. v. Cincinnati, 2020-Ohio-5422:https://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/rod/docs/pdf/1/2020/2020-Ohio-5422.pdfThe Preemption of Firearm Regulations in Ohio: O.R.C. 9.68 (University of Wyoming, Paper 2025-8, September 30, 2025) : https://firearmsresearchcenter.org/wpcontent/uploads/2025/09/2025-8-Mitchell J_Kozik.pdf

cc: Dave Kemble, Dorene Spicer, Dave Duncan, Diane Smith, Amanda Suffacool

This was seconded by Dorene Spicer. Roll Call: Dorene Spicer, yes; Dave Kemble, yes; Ed Samec, yes. Motion Carried – Resolution #53-2025

ZONING PUBLIC MEETINGS

Amanda Suffecool, resident, brought to the trustees the following: would like a motion that directs zoning to hold public meetings to hear the voices of what people want and Amanda Suffecool believes a majority of these people will show up to be heard. Ed Samec made the motion to accept zoning to hold public meetings to hear the voices of what people want. This was seconded by Dorene Spicer. Roll Call: Dorene Spicer, yes; Dave Kemble, yes; Ed Samec, yes. Motion Carried – Resolution #54-2025

LETTERS OF INTEREST FOR ZONING BOARD

Ed Samec presented to the Board of Trustees names and letters of residents interested in being on zoning. These letters were from Renee Rambo, Shauna Bailey. Jennifer Garrett left her name and phone number with interest of serving on the zoning board along with Rob McKain.

SCBA FLOW TESTING & LADDER TESTING

Chief Reed reported that SCBA flow testing is scheduled for November 26, 2025 through Fire Force and ladder testing will be November 21, 2025 through The Aerial Guy.

OHIO VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER'S ASSISTANCE GRANT

Chief Reed will be applying for the Ohio Volunteer Firefighter's Assistance Grant for replacement nozzles. The grant is a 50/50 cost share and that would put the Fire Department responsible for $2,277.00.

STATION STAFFING PAY PERIOD 11-1-2025 thru 11-15-2025

Days staffed with two personnel – 0
Days staffed with one person - 0
Days unstaffed - 15

MAINTENANCE ON FIRE VEHICLE

Chief Reed reported that the rear brakes are in need of replacement with an estimated cost of 596.00. Tire will need to be purchased in the near future with an alignment at the cost of $1,092.95. Ed Samec made the motion to have the rear brakes replaced along with tires and an alignment. This was seconded by Dorene Spicer. Roll Call: Dorene Spicer, yes; Dave Kemble, yes; Ed Samec, yes. Motion Carried – Resolution #55-2025

FLU CLINIC

Dorene Spicer reported that on October 28, 2025 a flu clinic was held at the Community Center from 5-7. Eight (8) people showed for the clinic.

GENERATOR

Dorene Spicer reported that the generator on November 17, 2025 running fault contacted Wesley Electric it was an update and air filters were just replaced and it is coding they need to be replaced. Dorene Spicer to contact Wesley Electric to see what is going on with the generator.

STREET LIGHTS

Dorene Spicer reported that she did a street light check to make sure all the street lights were working and all the street lights were working.

PROPERTY PURCHASE SCAM

Dave Kemble reported receiving an email from a resident about purchasing someone's property. It was a scam email.

CELL TOWER

Dave Kemble reported that he still waiting on hearing from Chris Meduri on the cell tower contract.

TRUCK ON NEWTON FALLS ROAD

Dorene Spicer reported about truck to close to road on Newton Falls Road. Ed Samec reported that the resident was made aware of the truck being to close to the road and being a hazard.

SPEED STUDY

Dorene Spicer contact Mike Collins about a speed study for a speed limit for Gilbert Road between St. Rt. 225 and McClintocksburg.

NEWTON FALLS ROAD BRIDGE

Dave Kemble wanted to reported that the Engineers will be replacing the bridge on Newton Falls Road tentatively July 2026.

CEMETERY DEED TRANSFER

Ed Samec reported cemetery deed transfer from Jean Lee to Jean Lee and Raymond J Lee.

LAST DAY OF SPENDING

Fiscal Officer, Linda Shaulis, reported last day of spending will be December 8, 2025.

RESIDENT QUESTION TO CHIEF REED

A Resident questioned Chief Reed on what is going on with the Fire Department & EMS. Chief Reed explained to the resident and what the future of the department could be.

Upon no further discussion Ed Samec made the motion to adjourn this meeting, seconded by Dorene Spicer. Roll Call: Ed Samec, yes; David Kemble, yes; Dorene Spicer, yes; Motion Carried.

CHAIRMAN SAMEC	**FISCAL OFFICER**