

Various projects approved in Orange Township

By Gary Budzak - January 1, 2025



LEWIS CENTER — We wanted to inform readers of highlights from some Orange Township Board of Trustees meetings starting in August, as well as its Community Volunteer Board.

Trustees

- On Aug. 21, the trustees approved an architectural design firm for a new fire station to replace the existing 362 station (at 7307 S. Old State Road) that may have access to and from East Orange Road.

They also declared a nuisance property on Meadow View Court, Powell. The costs to abate the nuisance were placed as a lien on the property.

- Among other items on Sept. 4, the trustees approved the “settlement in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Ohio Eastern Division Case No. 2:23-CV-4230 pending final legal review.”

- Actions on Sept. 18 included “establishing a New Community Authority (NCA) policy for the township.” The resolution states that under Ohio law NCAs “are a tool frequently used by central Ohio communities to help manage growth and maintenance of that growth in a responsible manner by assisting in the funding and maintenance of infrastructure and community amenities.” The trustees would form the Orange Township Community Authority.

The trustees also gave consensus to send a letter of interest regarding the U.S. Route 23 Connect project to the Ohio Department of Transportation, as previously reported on in The Gazette.

- The trustees approved an agreement with McDaniel's Construction Corp. Inc. for the Glen Oak and Ro Parks paving projects on Oct. 2.

- Engineering and surveying services for the Williamsville intersection improvements project was approved by the board of trustees on Oct. 16. They also adopted a social media policy.

- At their meeting on Nov. 6, the trustees approved leasing a portion of its facilities at 6226 Third Street, Lewis Center, to the county's Emergency Medical Services for a year.

- A zoning hearing for the property at 7408 Africa Road took place on Nov. 13. The resolution said the Zoning Commission had recommended approval of the rezoning on Oct. 8, but the trustees denied it.

“Based on all evidence and testimony included in the record, the board finds the application is not consistent in all respects with the purpose, intent and general standards of the Orange Township Zoning Resolution, is not in conformity with the comprehensive plan or portion thereof as it may apply, and the proposed development does not advance the general welfare of the township and the immediate vicinity,” the minutes stated.

- Design services for the Walker Woods Boulevard to Olentangy Orange Middle School multi-use trail project was approved on Nov. 20.
- A zoning hearing for Parkway Plaza took place on Nov. 21. Following public comment, the trustees went into private deliberations and agreed to continue the hearing on Dec. 18.
- The agenda for the Dec. 4 trustees meeting included the scheduling of a special meeting for the replacement of Fire Station 362; a three-year mowing bid agreement; a moratorium on the Route 23 Overlay District; and the 2025 appropriations.

The Orange Township trustees are Chair Lisa Knapp, Vice Chair Michael Ringle and Erica Fouss. Also present at meetings can be Fiscal Officer Donna Batten, Township Administrator Michele Boni, Director of Operations Silas Bowers, Administrative Manager Valerie Bunting, Development and Zoning Director Robin Duffee, Senior Zoning Officer Eric Gayetsky, Events and Communications Coordinator Sydney Herbert, Senior Human Resources Manager Mike Kremnitzer, Fire Chief Nathan McNeil and Assistant Chief A.J. Miller.

Community Volunteer Board

The township has a Community Volunteer Board. It met Jan. 10, and subcommittees gave updates — Veterans/Special Projects (Chair Chrisi Hagan), Events (Vice Chair Emily Elsea), Zoning and Land Use (J.D. Hartwell), Public Safety (Amelia Tucciarone) and Parks (Tony Benishek).

The CVB's Events Committee has met separately Feb. 6 and March 6; while Zoning and Land Use met March 6. The CVB Executive Committee met June 12, adding Jackie Robey to Events and Jesse Jones to Public Safety. The CVB was to meet Aug. 14.

Meetings are held in the Orange Township Hall, 1680 E. Orange Road, Lewis Center. For more information, visit www.orangetwp.org (website) or Orange Township, Delaware County, Ohio (Facebook).