

# **Tuscarawas County Regional Planning Commission Board Minutes**

## **Tuesday, November 10, 2015**

**Tuscarawas County Commissioners' William E. Winters Board Room**  
**County Office Building (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)**  
**125 East High Avenue, New Philadelphia, Ohio 44663**

The Tuscarawas County Regional Planning Commission meeting was held in the County Commissioners' William E. Winters Board Room on Tuesday, November 10, 2015 at 7:00 P.M. John Fondriest, Chairman, chaired the meeting. There were 13 members, 2 staff, and 1 guest present.

**Item 1            Approval of the October 13, 2015 Minutes**

Chett Peters made a motion to approve the minutes. Tedd Finlayson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Item 2            Approve 2016 Budget Draft**

Jill Lengler went over the budget. No significant changes. Health Insurance increased slightly. Shawn Handrich made a motion to approve the 2016 Budget Draft. Bill Miller seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Item 3            Nominating Committee Report**

John Fondriest reported that no one has volunteered to serve next year as Officers. The committee will be meeting in the near future to come up with a ballot. Jill reported that Gloria Steiner is willing to serve as the Secretary.

John Fondriest, Chair asked for volunteers to serve. With no one in attendance volunteering, John and Don Ackerman agreed that they would schedule a meeting of the nominating committee to come up with a ballot for the December meeting.

**Item 4            Discuss presentation by Mary Greer, Concerned Citizens of Ohio – Moratorium on the permitting of new injection wells.**

Jill Lengler reported this group feels that the Ohio Department of Natural Resources regulations are not current and adequate to permit these injection wells for fracking fluid and that there should be a moratorium on all permits for this until the regulations have been brought up to date. They are asking political subdivisions and other groups to pass resolutions supporting a moratorium on permitting injection wells.

Their reasons are:

- These injection wells provide no benefit to the community: we get the pollution and no money or jobs.
- Oil and gas industry is exempt from federal hazardous waste regulations and portions of the Safe Drinking water act. These injection wells could be bad for our water supplies.
- Loosely monitored by the state after they finished, more chance for pollution of water sources
- State does not have a good process for letting locals know when wells are going in, lack of public and local government participation.
- Danger of transporting the fracking fluid on our roads`
- We get fracking water from other states that don't allow injection wells.
- And earthquakes.

Jill suggested that instead of having Mary come to a Regional Planning Meeting to speak for an hour, that she would speak with the Commissioners about jointly hosting a meeting during the day and extending an invitation to all townships to attend. In addition it was discussed drafting a resolution in support of this initiative that could be adopted by the individual townships and the Regional Planning Commission.

There was discussion among the members on both sides of this issue. Joe Bachman felt that she should be addressing Al Landis with the concerns because the legislature would need to act upon this. Jill Lengler pointed out that Concerned Citizens of Ohio is doing that but is asking for the endorsement or support of the townships throughout the state. It was agreed that ODNR is ultimately responsible.

It was also suggested that rather than just have Concerned Citizens of Ohio speak that we possibly have a panel discussion that would include a representative from the Oil & Gas industry.

Jill will draft the resolution, have it reviewed by County legal counsel and present it at the December meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup>. She will also get with the Commissioners regarding the meeting.

**Item 5            Director’s Report**

1.    Increasing Minimum Lot Size for unsewered areas. The commissioners will set a public hearing at their next board meeting. It is scheduled tentatively for Thursday, December 17 at 9:30 am in the commissioners meeting room. I have had a call from a builder who is in favor of it, and talked to a few realtors who did not get upset at the proposal.
  
2.    Lot splits have been increasing this year, already we have had 11 in November. The budget is looking good.

John Fondriest asked if there was any other business to discuss. Don Ackerman encouraged the Township Trustees to support the proposed License Plates fee increase by attending the Commissioner’s meeting on Friday at 4:00 p.m. He will be proposing that the Township Trustees pass a resolution after the first of the year to show their support when they meet.

Motion to adjourn made by Tedd Finlayson, seconded by Mike Jones. Meeting Adjourned.

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John Fondriest, Chairman

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Date

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Lee Finley, Vice Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Absent  
Jerry Lahmers, Secretary

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Date