

Elizabeth Township

Quarterly Update

Winter 2001

SHOULD THE TOWNSHIP PROVIDE ITS OWN EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES?

A public hearing to discuss the possibility of Elizabeth Township providing its own emergency medical services is planned for 7:30 p.m. March 13 at Miami East South Elementary, 5760 Walnut Grove Road. The township trustees would like to hear your comments, questions and ideas on the matter. If you cannot attend, please contact the trustees by fax (335-1927) or by e-mail (eliztshp@voyager.net) with your ideas, questions and/or concerns.

MINUTES FROM RECENT TOWNSHIP MEETINGS

Though taken directly from the township clerk's minutes, the following notes represent highlights — not a comprehensive account — of recent township trustee meetings:

- The trustees established a long-range plan for the township, with an emphasis on three projects: 1) widening roads and improving right-of-ways and ditches for safety reasons; 2) studying how to improve fire and emergency medical services in the township; 3) establishing a land use/farmland preservation plan.
- The township's general fund, including all investments, totaled \$17.07 million as of January 2001.
- Rex and Valerie Manemann received a six-month extension in January of a permit to live temporarily in a mobile home while renovating a house at 2677 Rudy Road.

- Ron Swallow was elected president of the Board of Trustees for 2001. Dave Wagner was elected vice president.
- New prices for Time Warner Cable, effective Jan. 1, 2001: price of basic (BST) service is \$10.94, up from \$10.65; price of standard (CPST) service is \$25.78, up from \$24.32; cost of total standard (BST plus CPST) is \$36.72, up from \$34.97.
- Trustees approved a salary of \$4,500 for new zoning inspector Jerry Thorstad, who succeeds Bill Hershberger.
- Ron Swallow announced the roof of the old township building has been patched.
- Trustees approved paying former Troy Fire Chief Bob Counts \$5,050 to put together a feasibility study on the township providing its own emergency medical services.
- Trustees approved a 1-year contract with Bethel Township for \$14,300 for emergency medical services. The trustees also approved a 4-year contract for emergency medical services with Tipp City, an agreement that can be terminated by either the city or the township with written notice received one year in advance.
- Trustees resolved that all tapes of meetings be destroyed 30 days after each meeting, as they will no longer be needed.
- Ron Eliason requested to document the township's cemeteries as an Eagle Scout project.
- Trustees accepted Ricart Ford's bid for a new township pick-up truck for \$31,039.
- Trustees accepted R.E. Holland's proposal to widen Sayers Road for

\$226,934. Work was completed before the November 30, 2000 deadline.

BUILDING PERMITS/VARIANCES

- Curtis and Karen Romohr, 8910 Casstown-Clark Rd., to build a 1,920-square-foot home by Wayne Homes. Request approved Dec. 19, 2000.
- Lori and Brian Byg, 8080 E. Tipp-Elizabeth Rd., to add to a living room and master bedroom at a cost of \$135,000. Request approved Nov. 22, 2000.
- Jim Nickell, 2490 Brokenwoods, to construct a \$195,000, 3,654-square-foot residence by Unibilt Homes at 2705 Rudy Road. Request approved Nov. 22, 2000.
- Ken and Lisa Matlock, 8619 E. State Route 41, to add to a living room at an estimated cost of \$3,000. Request approved Oct. 25, 2000.
- Bob Heidenreich, 5370 E. State Route 41, to construct a new 3,657-square-foot residence on a proposed 5-acre lot. The application was turned down Oct. 21, and that decision was upheld again in December.
- Matt and Sue Curtis, 9 Children's Home-Casstown Rd., to renovate a garage into a 1,502-square-foot room at an estimated cost of \$60,000. Request approved Oct. 21, 2000.
- Mona Taylor, 333 N. Hufford Rd. to construct a 576-square-foot garage for \$10,705. Request approved Sept. 27, 2000.
- Sandy and Chris Nosker, 3015 LeFevre Rd., to use a garage as a bedroom. Request approved Sept. 20, 2000.
- James and Janet Taylor, 1340 Sanders Rd., to add to a room for \$18,000. Request approved Sept. 7, 2000.

ZONING BOARDS

Members of the 2001 Zoning Commission Board are Bill Hamiel, Mark Mitchell, Dwayne Taylor, Amy Eidemiller and Dick Sutherly. Members of the 2001 Zoning Board of Appeals are Bob Quinton, Jay Benham, Don Hiegel, Gerald Elleman, and Bob Smart. Suzy Wallace is secretary for both boards.

HISTORY NEXT DOOR

Juda Moyer, archivist at Troy's genealogy and history library, provided the following information about her great-great-grandfather, Solomon Mosier Helmer Funderburgh. Sol Funderburgh was the blacksmith at Ragtown, a group of houses located at the intersection of Rudy and Walnut Grove roads.

Born in 1844 in Medway, Funderburgh was the son of a blacksmith, William Funderburgh, who in 1856 set up shop in Brandt. There, Solomon was an apprentice to the blacksmith Boyd Gowdy from 1861 to 1864. In 1864, he served with Company B of the 147th Ohio Volunteer Infantry, which was responsible for helping stop the Confederate army from taking Washington, D.C. during the Civil War. He also married Electa Dunlap that year.

In 1868, after working for other blacksmiths, including his uncle, Funderburgh opened his own shop in Tadmore (located at the site of Taylorsville Dam in Vandalia). He set up shop in West Charleston in 1872 and Ragtown in 1882, remarrying after Electa's death in 1904. Funderburgh continued to live at the southwest corner of Rudy and Walnut Grove roads until his death in 1919.

He and his first wife are buried in Casstown Cemetery.

Solomon Funderburgh and his family were members of Cove Spring Church. His daughter, Rosetta Funderburgh Maggert (Juda Moyer's great-grandmother), married Pierson Maggert, a blacksmith in Kessler.

More information about Sol Funderburgh can be found in the George Carver journals, copies of which are on file at Troy's genealogy and history library. The library is located in the Troy-Hayner Cultural Center, 301 W. Main in Troy.

Miami County's first tractors with rubber tires debuted on the Miami Conservancy farm in 1938, according to a caption accompanying a photograph on display in the agriculture memorabilia room at Conover's A.B. Graham Memorial Center.

The conservancy farm included land in Elizabeth, Bethel and Staunton townships. Now owned by Tom and Barbara Fulton, its outbuildings are located atop a rise east of State Route 202 between Children's Home Road and Tipp-Elizabeth Road.

On November 4, 1931, more than 15,000 people gathered at the conservancy farm for Ohio's second corn-husking contest and corn harvest field day. According to the *Ohio Farmer*, no agricultural event in the state up to that point had attracted so many people.

The magazine summed up the event's magnitude this way:

"Early in the morning automobiles from all corners of Ohio were headed toward Miami County and hundreds were already on the grounds by eight o'clock. The American Legion provided the police service. By nine o'clock 12 men had arrived to start this keen "battle of the bang-boards," and an equal number were ready to start on the shocks."

While the corn-husking contest was under way in a field by the Great Miami River, John Deere Plow Co., the International Harvester Co., the Oliver Farm Equipment Co., and the New Idea Spreader Co. had tractors and corn pickers at work across the road, according to the magazine.

CONTACT US

Elizabeth Township's quarterly updates are mailed to the township's registered voters. If you know of a resident who is not registered to vote, but who would like to receive a copy of the next newsletter, please contact the township trustees by phone (335-1920), fax (335-1927) or e-mail (elitzshp@voyager.net).

Township officials meet at 8 p.m. on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at the township building, 5710 Walnut Grove Rd. Your trustees are Ron Swallow, Dave Wagner and Paul Gearhardt. Your clerk is Larry Lavender.