



MILAN TOWNSHIP

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The Milan Township Board of Trustees met for a Special Meeting on Wednesday, May 29, 2019 at 7:00 p.m for an open house to display recently completed upgrades to Milan Township Hall.

Mr. Shover called the meeting to order, with all reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present at the meeting were Trustees Dan Frederick, Gerald Nickoli, and Mike Shover. Also present were Fiscal Officer Zachary Rospert, Zoning Inspector Colleen Arthur, Fire Chief Brian Rospert, and approximately 75 community members. Special guests in attendance included Former State Senator and current Chancellor Randy Gardner, State Representative Steve Arndt, and Erie County Commissioners Pat Shenigo, Mathew Old & Stephen Shoffner.

Mr. Shover introduced and thanked the special guests, and made the following remarks:

Tonight, we are pleased to show off our historic Milan Town Hall. We want to recognize a team of talented contractors and especially thank many township residents who voluntarily donated their time and services to complete this project. More importantly, we want to thank all Milan Township residents for their continued support for this wonderful building. As you can imagine, it takes serious commitment by our entire community to maintain a structure like this. Dan will be describing details of the recent improvements made to the Town Hall and Jerry will be introducing several future projects planned in Milan Township.

We hope you enjoy your visit tonight and keep in mind that all Milan Township facilities, including this Town Hall and Edison Park are available at no charge for Milan Township resident's personal use and for non-profit community groups hosting events that benefit Milan Township residents.

Mr. Shover then turned the floor over to Mr. Frederick who made the following remarks about Milan Township Hall and the recent projects completed:

This building was originally constructed in 1876 which is almost 150 years ago. Serving as a township trustee for a just few years over this long time, the current trustees realize that we are only temporary stewards of the Town Hall. However, each of us is dedicated to leaving this building better than when we came in office. We believe that most Milan Township residents also recognize the importance of this building and support our efforts to restore and upgrade this building. We also believe that the best way to insure the future conservation of any building is to make it more functional in order to be used as often as possible for its intended purpose. Hopefully, these improvements will insure that the Town Hall will remain one of the most important and highly used public building in Milan.

With this goal in mind, recent improvements to Milan Town Hall include the following:

1. *Construction of a convenient and highly visible handicapped accessible ramp leading directly from the town square to serve all first floor meeting rooms including our public meetings in the Trustee Room. This allows us to abandon the existing lift which currently requires special arrangements to be made for handicapped access to the first floor.*
2. *Complete renovation of the Women's Toilet Room to comply with current Americans with Disabilities Act standards and install historically appropriate room finishes. Thank you to Tim King at Erie County Regional Planning for helping with our grant application and the Erie County Board of Commissioners for funding this much needed renovation work.*
3. *Installation of a new 400 amp, 3 phase electrical service to this building. Maybe not exciting but this work significantly improves the safety of the building where every electric panel was maxed out and allowed use to install a more powerful and efficient elevator. Thanks to the Village of Milan for approving this service upgrade and electric department employees Lew Kalin and Tyson Metz for their expertise installing a new transformer and connections.*
4. *So, we had planned for this electrical upgrade to be able to handle air conditioning sometime in the future. Last summer, our old steam boiler failed its annual State of Ohio inspection so this project grew and this Ballroom is now served by a brand new, high efficient forced air HVAC system including having air conditioning for the first time in 150 years. This improvement may actually be the most popular upgrade.*
5. *We replaced of every light bulb in this Ballroom with highly efficient and long lasted LED fixtures. Thanks to Stuart Wells at Parallax Lighting for his consultation regarding the best available LED lighting and Great Lakes Electric for their discounted installation work.*
6. *Complete renovation of the Trustees Meeting Room including removal of several layers of early 1970's finishes such as lay-in tile covering the original metal stamped ceiling, drywall and wallpaper over the original stained wood wainscoting and a few layers of carpet and underlayment over the original wood floors. This construction work was completed mostly by the township trustees themselves along with many other township residents and contractors who generously volunteered their time. The volunteers listed in your program concentrated their donated efforts in the Trustee Room portion of the overall project and shows how much our community truly cares for this building. Hopefully after tonight, this careful restoration project will be completely forgotten as visitors to the Trustee Room will just think this is the way the room has always looked.*
7. *Finally, this project included the construction of a new elevator serving the second floor ballroom. This is a big deal for Milan Township. I want to take a minute to describe how this project got started. The need for an elevator has probably has been discussed since elevators were invented a hundred years ago but planning got serious after township resident Jeanette Henry challenged former trustees Sparky Weilnau, Frank Lytle, Mike Kegarise, and myself to finally get it done. Another huge step in making this project a reality was provided by our State Representative Steve Arndt and our former State Senator Randy Gardner who sponsored a significant grant award in the 2015 State of Ohio Capital Bill. As part of this grant award, Milan Township has enthusiastically agreed to host BGSU Firelands College theatrical productions in this Ballroom space. After the Erie County Foundation and Dorn Foundation provided additional financial support to where*

our township general fund could afford the balance, the project was ready to move forward. By then, Milan Township had two new trustees, so thank you to Mike and Gerry who believed in the planning that had already taken place and voted to proceed with the project just after taking office. Actual construction started last summer. We were very fortunate to work with a great group of local contractors who are also listed in your program. I would like to especially thank our general contractor, Studer-Obringer. This particular construction company assigned highly qualified bricklayers to our work on this project. They were skilled and interested in installing the brick details needed to match our historic Town Hall.

Back to our understanding that the township trustees are only temporary stewards of this historic building, we all understood that the design needed to be respectful of the original architectural appearance of the Town Hall. We also understood that an elevator was desperately needed to insure that the Town Hall will continue to be used by residents as often as possible in the future. Tonight, we hope you agree that the exterior design is appropriate and the functionality of having a new elevator will support a huge increase in public use, thus making this investment in our fantastic Town Hall a wise move for future generations of Milan Township residents.

Mr. Frederick invited Chancellor Garner and Representative Arndt to speak. They congratulated Milan Township on the successful upgrades and impressive determination that the residents of Milan always display; indicating no job is too big for Milan to undertake. As Chancellor Gardner has resigned his position as State Senator and Representative Arndt will soon be retiring, both thanked Milan for always being so welcoming and they both indicated they looked forward to returning to Milan as visitors.

Mr. Frederick then turned the floor over to Mr. Nickoli who made the following remarks about future projects that Milan Township has planned:

Although the new elevator is certainly a big deal, this project is not the only thing happening in Milan Township. We would like to share news about a few other projects including:

- 1. Annual maintenance of over 26 miles of township roads, including nearly \$200,000 of road improvements scheduled for later this summer.*
- 2. Annual operation of our Milan Township Volunteer Fire Department including planning the purchase of the next new fire truck using funds accumulating in a dedicated fire services account as the result of a recently approved fleet replacement levy.*
- 3. We are planning additional improvements at Edison Park. Recently, the township purchased an adjacent lot that was for sale along Elm Street to allow for future expansion of the Park. Later this summer, we will be constructing permanent amphitheater-type seating between the tennis courts and Berlin Street. This project is being funded by an Erie MetroParks grant and is also being supported by the Edison Athletic Booster Club.*
- 4. Regarding construction projects, we will be renovating the Men's Toilet Room later this summer in order to comply with current Americans with Disabilities Act standards and install historically appropriate room finishes. Thank you again to Tim King at Erie County*

Regional Planning for helping with our grant application and the Erie County Board of Commissioners for funding this much needed renovation work.

5. *Later this year, Milan Township will be launching a business incubator program utilizing the currently vacant Old Village Police Station. This program, designed by Nick Frederick who is a junior honors student at The Ohio State University Fisher College of Business, will provide a subsidized space and free business consulting help from a community advisory council to assist a start-up in establishing a successful business in Milan Township.*
6. *Finally, we are very excited to announce that Milan Township has been informed by the Ohio Department of Transportation that they have approved our request for a Bike Path to be installed along State Route 113 from Milan all the way to Edison High School. Although ODOT will be covering the entire cost of widening the state highway, Edison Local Schools will be extending the path from the road to the school itself while Milan Township will be connecting the bike path from State Route 113 to Edison Park by constructing a new nature trail through the woods from our office building to Edison Park.*

In conclusion, thank you for your attending tonight's Open House. The township trustees and our fiscal officer Zachary Rospert will be available to answer any specific questions that you may have about any of the project discussed tonight. We are also very interested in hearing and suggestions for other projects to improve our township. It is truly our honor to serve as your township trustees and we appreciate your continued support as we strive to keep Milan Township at a great place to live and work.

With no further business, the special meeting was adjourned as those in attendance observed the upgrades and enjoyed hors d'oeuvres.

Daniel Frederick, Chairman

Zachary Rospert, Fiscal Officer