

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

MADISON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES' WORKSHOP

Meeting

GOVERNMENT FORMS & SUPPLIES 844-224-3338 FORM NO. 10148

April 11, 2023, at 6:30 P.M.

Held _____

20 _____

Chairman Wayman called the April 11, 2023, Trustees' Workshop Meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. and welcomed everyone to the meeting being held in the Trustees' Meeting Room at the Madison Township Administration Building.

Mr. Wayman called for a roll call: Mr. Anderson, Mr. Gauntner, Mr. Wayman, Mr. Brown, Lieutenant Kirk, and Mr. Pasqualone were in attendance.

TRUSTEES:

Mr. Wayman stated Mr. Neil Stein, Executive Director of the Lake County Visitors Bureau a.k.a. (Remarkable Lake County) is here tonight as our guest speaker. Mr. Wayman asked Mr. Stein to come up to the podium.

Mr. Stein stated he would give the Trustees an overview of what the Lake County Visitors Bureau is planning for the eastern side of Lake County. Mr. Stein stated he has been with the Lake County Visitors Bureau for about three and a half (3-1/2) years after working for the Lake County Captains for twelve (12) years. Mr. Stein gave the Trustees some of the brochures the Visitors Bureau hands out to the public advertising events in Lake County. The Visitors Bureau supports events in Madison such as Rabbit Run Theater, Madison Septemberfest, the Grand River Kennel Club and other dog shows at Stanton Park, the wineries, golf courses, and restaurants. Mr. Stein stated two (2) of the three (3) top busiest hotels in Lake County are in Madison. These hotels are full all summer long because of the wineries and the Spire athletic complex in Geneva. Mr. Brown asked if Mr. Stein had any idea of the number of people the dog shows in Madison draws to our community. Mr. Stein said he did not have that information at the moment, but about thirteen hundred dogs were entered. Mr. Gauntner stated people come in huge motor homes attending the dog shows, and they support our local businesses. Mr. Stein said the wine region here is exceptional with about thirty-two (32) wineries within twenty-five minutes from each other. This is the area the Visitors Bureau would like to promote as the "Grand River Valley." Mr. Stein stated the Visitors Bureau is working with Ashtabula County to promote the area with bigger ads and splitting the advertising costs. Mr. Stein said people do not really care what town the wineries are in, they just want to enjoy the wineries.

Mr. Stein informed the Trustees this summer there will be an Ohio Bicycle Adventure Event that may come through Madison on June 20th. There will be twelve hundred (1,200) to fifteen hundred (1,500) bikes starting out in Jefferson and going to Fairport Harbor and Willoughby. This is not a race so the bikers will stop whenever they want and visit. Mr. Stein said he will let Madison Township know the details later when he receives the routes. In July, the Visitors Bureau will host about one hundred twenty (120) people running their own associations, such as CPA's and trucking firms in the area. Another event the Visitors Bureau is working on is at Stonegate Winery on Bates Road. Mr. Stein stated if a community reaches out to them, they will help them.

Mr. Stein stated the Visitors Bureau recently received some surprise funding to work on some projects here on the eastern side of Lake County. Mr. Stein said the Visitors Bureau was in the beginning stage of plans for a proposed "Grand River Valley" archway. They have talked to designers, but the plans have gone no further. Mr. Gauntner stated this is why we invited you to come to one of our meetings. Mr. Gauntner stated he has no problem with the proposed archway. He does have some concerns about a few things. About two (2) years ago, Madison Township sent a letter to the Lake County Visitors Bureau regarding the water tower in Madison Village. Many complaints were received from Madison residents because the water tower did not clearly say "Madison" on it. It says "Grand River Valley" on it. Residents were upset because Grand River is a town north of Painesville and they felt Madison was losing its identity. It could have said "Welcome to Madison – Heart of the Grand River Valley". Mr. Gauntner stated that all seven wineries are in Madison Township, and Madison Village has none. Mr. Gauntner said he does not want Madison to lose its identity if the arch is constructed, and asked that Mr. Stein please take that to heart. Mr. Gauntner also mentioned that he noticed in the Remarkable Lake County, Ohio Travel & Tourism Guide, under the City Guide feature, Madison Township is not mentioned. There is a picture of a couple standing in a vineyard for Madison Village which has no wineries. Mr. Stein said the communities listed in the guide are paid members of the Lake County Visitors Bureau. Mr. Gauntner said the Trustees will look into getting a membership. Mr. Anderson agreed that they should.

Mr. Gauntner said he talked today to the owner of the "Mansion" on Bellaire Avenue in Madison Township, next to Madison Township Park, who wants to open a winery and bed and breakfast. He is working on putting in a parking lot at the moment, and he is about ninety-five percent (95%) done. He plans on opening this summer. Mr. Gauntner stated that will be winery number eight (8) for Madison Township. The building is beautiful inside and spectacular. The other wineries

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do not come close to this one. The property was originally zoned Residential and was rezoned Agricultural by the township. The owner is currently trying to overcome some governmental hurdles trying to get an occupancy permit from the Lake County Building Department and the State of Ohio. The owner has received occupancy approval from the Fire District, and he updated the B&B /winery to all current State of Ohio fire codes.

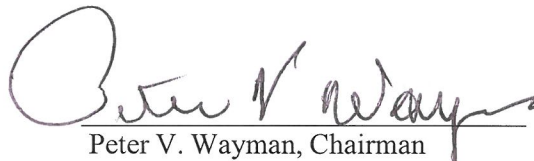
Mr. Gauntner stated another issue he has is the negative comment made by one of the County Commissioners at a recent Commissioners Meeting about the Madison Fire District being anti-winery. Mr. Anderson's wife works at one of the wineries. Mr. Wayman grows grapes. The Madison Fire District follows the State fire code regarding fire protection in wineries. Mr. Gauntner said all three (3) Trustees of Madison Township are on the Madison Fire District Board of Trustees. As Chairman of the Fire Board, Mr. Gauntner said he is not going to stand for untrue comments and misconceptions by a County Commissioner. Mr. Gauntner stated he will be addressing this matter. Madison Township is one hundred percent (100%) for the wineries and businesses. Mr. Gauntner stated that the County Commissioner (Plecnik) public comment about a negative environment being created for wineries by the Madison Fire District is completely untrue. Mr. Gauntner said many people do not realize Agricultural properties have a special exemption under Ohio law where they do not have to abide by the same rules as other non-agricultural businesses. Agricultural properties do not need building permits, zoning permits, or building inspections. Mr. Gauntner stated Madison Fire District Chief Tod Baker is in the audience tonight. Chief Baker stated he has always followed the State Fire Code and will continue to do so. The Fire District looks at the use of the building as to whether or not it will be used for public gatherings. The County Building Department looks at the zoning of the property. The Lake County Building Department has chosen not to inspect buildings/wineries zoned Agricultural. Chief Baker said he would have more comments to make in the Trustees' Regular Meeting later tonight. Mr. Gauntner said Fire Chief Baker is doing his job by enforcing the State of Ohio fire code.

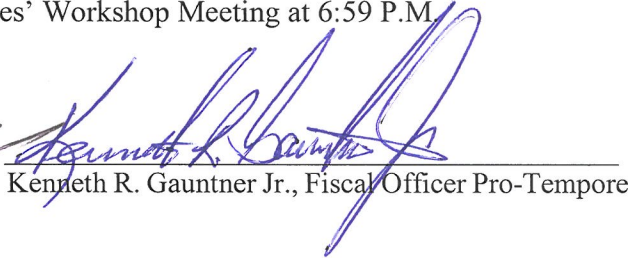
Mr. Stein said he would be glad to answer any questions. The Trustees had no further questions. Mr. Wayman thanked Mr. Stein for taking time to stop by this evening. Mr. Wayman said he appreciated it and thinks some things have been accomplished here tonight concerning wineries. It is a subject which will be discussed much more in the future.

Mr. Wayman asked if anyone had any further business to discuss at this time, and with no further business to discuss, Mr. Wayman requested a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Gauntner presented a motion to adjourn the Meeting, seconded by Mr. Anderson. Roll Call: Mr. Gauntner: Yes Mr. Anderson: Yes Mr. Wayman: Yes

Chairman Wayman adjourned the Trustees' Workshop Meeting at 6:59 P.M.


Peter V. Wayman, Chairman


Kenneth R. Gauntner Jr., Fiscal Officer Pro-Tempore