

NORWICH

T O W N S H I P

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Charles Wm. Buck
Larry Earman
Michael D. Cope

2009 TRUSTEE MEETINGS

MARCH 2, 12:00 PM

MARCH 16, 6:30 PM

APRIL 6, 12:00 PM

APRIL 20, 6:30 PM

MAY 4, 12:00 PM

MAY 18, 6:30 PM

JUNE 1, 12:00 PM

JUNE 15, 6:30 PM

MEETINGS ARE HELD AT:

Norwich Township
Joint Safety Services Building
5181 Northwest Parkway

If you have questions,
please call 614/876-7694.

YOUR NEW JOINT SAFETY SERVICES BUILDING IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS.

IN 1981, NORWICH TOWNSHIP personnel moved into Fire Station 81 just off Avery Road adjacent to the Franklin County Fairgrounds. The facility met the Department's needs for both fire service and Township Administration offices for many years. However, by July 2006, it was clear that the Fire Department had outgrown the building.

A number of options were considered, including renovating the building or erecting an addition. In the end, the Board of Trustees



settled on a plan to construct a new fire station around the old station's infrastructure with an addition for Administration offices. With an eye to the future and in keeping the interests of all residents including persons served by the city of Hilliard in mind, the Trustees approached city officials about including space for the Hilliard Police Department in the new complex. Ultimately, the final plans included an addition of approximately 29,000 square feet to house the Hilliard Police Department as well as the Clerk of Courts and Hilliard Mayor's Court. Thus, in September 2007, Norwich Township and the City of Hilliard entered into an agreement whereby Hilliard will lease their space from the Township for 30 years. This agreement is historic in that it is the first known joint facility arrangement between a township and city in Ohio history. It serves as a model of cooperation between local jurisdictions to improve the delivery of service to their residents.

Ground was broken for the new Joint Safety Services Building in October 2007. Construction was completed in December 2008. You now have an opportunity to see the building for yourself. 🌱

The public is invited to attend a dedication ceremony followed by an open house on Sunday, March 8th beginning at 2:00PM. We look forward to seeing you there.



NORWICH TOWNSHIP
1813

www.norwichtownship.org



TRUSTEE REMARKS

CHARLES WM. (CHUCK) BUCK, CHAIR

THROUGHOUT THIS ISSUE of our newsletter, you will find articles describing services that Norwich Township provides to its residents. We are striving constantly to find better and more cost-effective ways to provide these services. However, we often get caught up in the process and forget to inform our customers (residents) what is happening in their community.

As chairman of the Norwich Township Board of Trustees, I can assure you that Mike Cope, Larry Earman, and myself are committed to keeping our residents informed of issues and activities within the Township. We want to employ as many means as possible to pass information on to our residents. One communication method is our website. If you have Internet access, I encourage you to visit our website at www.norwichtownship.org. This site contains a great deal of useful information on our services along with contact information for Township officers and officials. There is also a section devoted to Norwich Township news that will keep you informed on activities and issues in the Township.

Regular Trustee meetings are held twice a month at our new Joint Safety Services Building at 5181 Northwest Parkway. The first meeting is held on the first Monday of each month at 12 noon. The second monthly meeting is held on the third Monday of each month at 6:30PM. Occasionally, meetings will be scheduled on a day other than Monday due to holidays. Meeting dates through June are posted in this newsletter. A complete list of our 2009 meeting dates can be found on our website. Our meetings are open to the public and we encourage you to attend. Each meeting agenda includes time for public participation where you can address the Board with your problems or concerns. However, if you are unable or unwilling to attend, you can still stay informed by viewing the meeting minutes posted on our website.

This newsletter is another tool in our communication toolbox. Norwich Township previously had a newsletter for many years. However, for a number of reasons, it has not been published since October 2007. Now that construction of our new Joint Safety Services Building is complete, the Board of Trustees has decided to revive the newsletter using a new format. We hope you enjoy this first edition, but we would like your input. Please give us your opinions on new layout, ease of readability, or additional information that would be important or useful to you. Call our Administration Office at 614-876-7694 or e-mail our Administrator Wayne Warner at wayne_warner@norwichtownship.org with your comments or suggestions. 🌱

Have a safe and pleasant Spring!

-Chuck Buck

WHAT IS A TOWNSHIP?

MANY PEOPLE are familiar with the word “township”, but, when asked to define a township, they are stumped. Actually, townships are one of the oldest forms of local government in Ohio.

When Ohio became a state in 1803, it was comprised of ten counties. It soon became clear that only 10 counties in a state as large as Ohio were not effective in providing services to the growing population. As a result, in 1804, the state government created Townships to provide necessary government services at a grassroots level. Initially, electors could apply to the county commissioners to create a Township if there were eighty or more “inhabitants” in a five or six square mile area. Townships were governed by Trustees who were charged with the responsibility as “overseers of the poor” and to maintain roads within the township.

Over the years, local government in Ohio has evolved to include 704 villages (towns with a population under 5,000 residents) and 232 cities (municipalities with a population over 5,000 residents). Currently, there are 1,308 townships in Ohio to serve residents who live in unincorporated areas not governed by a village or a city. Ohio’s townships range in size from several hundred residents in rural areas to tens of thousands of residents in urban areas. Norwich is one of 17 townships in Franklin County. Norwich Township covers a 14.5 square mile area with a population of nearly 30,000. Most of the population lies within the city of Hilliard.

All townships are governed by a Board of three elected Trustees that serve staggered four-year terms. A Township Fiscal Officer also serves a four-year term as the township’s chief financial officer. With nearly 100 employees, Norwich Township provides

its 3,600 residents in the unincorporated area with fire and EMS services, road repair and maintenance, and police services through a contract with the Hilliard Police Department. In addition, Norwich Township’s Fire Department serves residents in Hilliard and Brown Township through a contractual agreement.

Because they are close to their residents, townships have developed into one of the most responsive branch of government in Ohio. Norwich Township Trustee meetings are held on the first and third Monday of each month at the Township Administration offices at 5181 Northwest Parkway. The first meeting of the month is held at 12 noon and the second monthly meeting is held at 6:30PM. Residents are encouraged to attend Trustee meetings to learn about issues facing the township and share ideas and comments with the Board. If you are not able to attend a meeting, but would like to participate, feel free to call the Township Administration office at 614/876-7694 or go to our website at www.norwichtownship.org.

YOUR FULL SERVICE FIRE DEPARTMENT:

THE NORWICH TOWNSHIP Fire Department provides services to the residents of Norwich Township, the City of Hilliard, and Brown Township. Collectively, these communities encompass approximately forty square miles and a population of 35,000-40,000.

The department has a full time staff of 86 employees, operating out of three fire stations. Our emergency response vehicle force includes three fire engines, three medics, and one ladder truck, as well as, other emergency support equipment. These vehicles

are staffed with fully trained fire fighters and paramedics. In addition, all of these vehicles are equipped to function as advance life support units. Due to this, we have the ability to respond to seven life threatening incidents at any given moment. Both a fire engine and a medic are staffed and equipped to treat, stabilize, and prepare a patient for transport. The only response difference



between a fire engine and a medic is that a fire engine cannot transport a patient to the hospital. So do not be surprised if a fire engine is dispatched to a call for medical assistance.

In addition to fire and emergency response services, we provide fire safety inspections, home safety inspections, and new construction plan reviews. Each October, we conduct fire safety education programs for all of the community elementary schools. During June, we partner with Hilliard Recreation & Parks and the Hilliard Police Department to host Safety Town, a community wide safety program geared toward children ages 5 and 6.

OTHER PROGRAMS/ SERVICES OFFERED INCLUDE:

- CPR training
- Car seat inspections
- Juvenile Fire Setters program
- Fire station tours

If you would like more information on the department or any of the programs/services listed above, please visit our web site at www.norwichtownship.org or contact our Administrative Office at (614) 876-7694.

-Chief Dave Long
Norwich Township Fire



NORWICH TOWNSHIP
1813

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Norwich Township
5181 Northwest Parkway
Hilliard, Ohio 43026
614/876-7694

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Larry Earman, *Vice-Chairman*
Michael D. Cope, *Trustee*

Administration
Wayne A. Warner, *Administrator*
Mildred Brooks, *Administrative Assistant*

Road/Cemetery Department
Steve Montgomery, *Road Superintendent/Cemetery Sexton*
Mike Johnson, *Asst. Road Superintendent/Asst. Cemetery Sexton*
3225 Dublin Road
Hilliard, Ohio 43026
614/876-2236

Fiscal Office
Jamie Miles, *Fiscal Officer*
Ellen Woodford, *Fiscal Assistant*

Fire Department
Dave Long, *Chief*
Robert Kaufman, *Assistant Chief*

ORC 9.03 Allows for Public Funds to be used for newsletters

NOTICE TO SCHIRTZINGER ROAD RESIDENTS !!!



THE CONDITION of Schirtzinger Road has been a chronic problem for years. The pavement needs constant repair and the shoulder is deteriorating. On top of that, storm water management has been a constant headache for the Township and residents. To address these issues, the Norwich Township Board of Trustees directed the Franklin County Engineer's Office to conduct a study and develop plans to improve the roadway and drainage problems in the Schirtzinger Road area. The Board of Trustees cordially invites the public to attend a **Public Involvement Meeting on March 16, 2009, from 7PM to 9PM at the Joint Safety Services Building, 5181 Northwest Parkway.** Norwich Township officials and representatives from the Franklin County Engineer's Office will be present in an open house format to inform residents of the improvement plans and answer questions. We especially encourage residents of Schirtzinger Road attend this meeting to find out how this project could affect their property. 🌱

WHERE DO TOWNSHIPS GET THEIR MONEY?

UNLIKE OTHER local political subdivisions in Ohio such as counties, villages, and cities, townships are barred by statute from imposing income or sales taxes. The primary source of revenue for townships is property taxes. Other minor sources of revenue include estate tax, motor vehicle license fees, and gasoline tax.

If you go to the Franklin County Auditor's website (www.franklincountyohio.gov/auditor), you can perform a property search and view the taxes on your property. The largest portion of your property taxes goes to your school district. The remaining portion is distributed to libraries, children's services, MRDD, alcohol/drug and mental health services, and townships. The portion of your taxes that Norwich Township receives helps to fund fire and EMS services, police services, road repair and maintenance activities, and operations at the Wesley Chapel Cemetery.

Not surprisingly, recent economic conditions have had an adverse effect on property tax revenue. Fortunately, due to past prudent spending policies and wise money management, Norwich Township is better prepared for the present financial downturn than most political subdivisions. Norwich Township has not proposed a levy in over 10 years; however, we are unable to rely on our current declining revenue base indefinitely. Like everyone else, we are hoping for a speedy end to our country's economic crisis. 🌱

-Jamie Miles
Norwich Township Fiscal Officer

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