The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Chairman Larry Earman.

Roll Call - Larry Earman, Chairman – Present
Timothy Roberts, Vice-Chairman – Present
Charles Wm. Buck, Trustee – Present

Also Present - Jamie Fisher, Township Administrator
Jeff Warren, Fire Chief
Greg Young, Assistant Fire Chief
Lamar Sweigart, Bureau Chief
Robbie Thomas, Cemetery Sexton/Road Superintendent
Jamie Miles, Fiscal Officer

AGENDA ADDITIONS - None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
Mrs. Myra Caplinger and Mrs. Kim Mahaney, representatives from The Refinery Church mobile kitchen committee, asked the Board for permission to utilize the space across from the Safety Services Building (4224 Avery Road) to serve meals to the community on Thursday, June 27th in the evening. If the event goes well and supports the need, then the committee would like to add additional evenings throughout the summer. With the exception of the week of the (Franklin County) fair, the Board agreed that the space could be used and asked that the trailer be set up to the area furthest east of the property. Mr. Buck requested that Rod Garnett be contacted to ensure he is aware of the event taking place. Mrs. Fisher will help coordinate this and will get with Mrs. Mahaney to confirm the details prior to the first event. Mr. Earman hopes it goes well.

On behalf of the Hilliard VFW Post 4931, Paul Ritzenhaler and Marty Sutton thanked the cemetery staff for their efforts with the Memorial Day service. In appreciation of their efforts, Marty Sutton invited Robbie Thomas and the rest of the cemetery staff to the VFW’s monthly steak fry. Mr. Roberts stated that the cemetery looked great and there was a great turn out for the event.

Approval of Trustee Meeting Minutes for 05/21/19
Motion by Mr. Buck, seconded by Mr. Roberts, for the approval of the Norwich Township Trustee meeting minutes for the regular meeting on May 21, 2019.
Vote: Buck-Yes Earman- Yes Roberts- Yes

POLICE DEPARTMENT
Chief Fisher reported that May activity was very light. There were a couple of reports of items taken from open garages. On Monday at 2 pm, HPD will be conducting an Oath of Office for five new officers and all are invited. July 4th planning is well underway and both the police and fire departments will be ready for another great event.

FIRE DEPARTMENT
Chief Warren requested the Board to appoint Inspector Scott Tigner to the rank of Fire Marshall. Chief Warren reported on the importance of the Second Set of Fire Gear Project for all firefighters. By all firefighters having access to a second set of fire gear, all fire gear can be cleaned in a manner
that upholds the standards as set by the NFPA. Mr. Earman asked about the status of Engine 81. Chief Warren reported that the rear spring has been fixed on Engine 84 and the replacement gearbox is in route from the manufacturer for Engine 81 and once received it will take three days of labor.

**Approval to Appoint Fire Marshal**
Motion by Mr. Buck, seconded by Mr. Roberts, for the approval to appoint Inspector Scott Tigner to the rank of Fire Marshal effective June 5, 2019 at 0800 hours.
Vote: Buck-Yes Earman-Yes Roberts-Yes

Motion passed - #190604.02

**CEMETERY & ROAD DEPARTMENT**
Mr. Thomas reported that the Memorial Service went very well and it was the most people he has ever seen. He thanked the Fire Department for the use of their PA system. The roads crew is working on storm drains. Shelly & Sands was awarded the bid from Franklin County for the road projects. The County should be notifying the Township by the end of the week about when the work will start. Mr. Earman asked that Mr. Gierman (Timberbrook HOA President) be notified once we hear back from the County on a start date. Mr. Buck asked when street sweeping was going to happen. Mr. Thomas stated that it was in process.

**FISCAL OFFICE**
Mrs. Miles reported that the Budget Hearing for the 2020 Fiscal Year Tax Budget is scheduled for the next Trustee meeting on June 18th.

**TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATION**
Mrs. Fisher reported that the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Norwich Pavilion is scheduled for June 21st at 2 pm. Drug Free Workplace training is scheduled for all employees June 18th-20th. The Spring/Summer Planning meeting is scheduled for June 25th at 9 am. Morgan Gierman, II has completed his probationary period and his review has been conducted.

Mrs. Fisher stated that she received an e-mail from a resident about foot traffic along Darbyshire Drive. Officer Bright was out on Wednesday and saw a number of people dropping kids off in the intersection. The resident received a verbal warning that she could not drop her kids off. From this, conversation ensured about what the Township should or would do to address the matter if anything. Mrs. Fisher reviewed that the Township currently has “No Parking” signs posted along Darbyshire and Cameron. Back in November, Mrs. Fisher worked with Officer Bright to come up with a solution that would allow parents to drop off along Darbyshire but eliminated any drop off from Cameron. Last Wednesday, Officer Bright was out policing the area and saw a number of residents dropping their kids off in the intersection. Per the ORC code, you cannot stand or stop in an intersection, so these parents were in violation of the code. Officer Bright did give written warnings to parents. When Officer Bright came into the Township that morning, he explained that he was following up a complaint from a resident and saw residents dropping off in the intersection and you can’t do this within 20 feet of a crosswalk. This has started a conversation about how the Board wants to move forward with this drop off location. An option would be to remove the “NO Parking” signs along Darbyshire and possibly add a drop off zone within a designated area beyond the requirements of the crosswalk. Mrs. Fisher did contact the School District about adding a sidewalk that extends out from the bridge sidewalk so that kids could access the bridge from an area away from the crosswalk. However, the School District stated that it does not have it in their budget to do something like this.
She invited guests to speak on behalf of the Ridgewood Elementary School student drop off on Darbyshire Drive:

Mr. Bret Benack, resident of Ridgewood, stated that he received a written warning from Officer Bright for using the Darbyshire bridge as a drop off. He stated that he had a very frank conversation with Officer Bright and told him that the situation as it stands is probably never going to change unless the dynamics of the situation change. Parents are not going to stop dropping their kids off at the bridge - it is just far to convenient. Some changes in the dynamics is necessary. His understanding is that officers were policing the drop off due to a resident complaint. He is a relatively new resident, having only lived in Ridgewood for the past 5 years, but he frequently uses the drop off and would like to see the practice to continue to be allowed. Mr. Benack feels having access to the bridge adds value to the properties and it was a selling point when he bought his house. Fortunately, if the Board decides to discontinue allowing drop offs at the bridge, Mr. Benack will just use his parent’s driveway to pull into since they live two houses away from the bridge access.

Mrs. Cindy Conway, resident of Ridgewood, stated that she too received a written warning from Officer Bright who was extremely courteous. Mrs. Conway has lived in Ridgewood for twelve years and Ridgewood is a designated walking subdivision due to the proximity of the school. According to Mrs. Conway allowing her daughter to walk to school from home is not feasible because there are no sidewalks. The roads are narrow and to do so, she would have to walk down Ridgewood Drive and drivers often are going more than 25 mph; it is just not safe. Mrs. Conway does use the school drop off but sometimes in order to navigate the logistics of her high schoolers’ schedule she must use the bridge drop off. Having access to the Darbyshire bridge allows her to get her family where they need to be safely and on time. Mrs. Conway remembers when the “No Parking” signs were put up and is respectful of the affected residents not wanting cars to pull into their lawn. But “No Parking” signs does not mean that I can’t stop and drop off my child at the bridge. Mrs. Conway has never been aware of the 20-foot rule for crosswalks or that you can’t stop in an intersection. Mrs. Conway is not recommending sidewalks but she is in full support of a designated drop off zone. She would like to see everyone work together to identify a reasonable solution and she would also like to see residents be given more education on what can and cannot be done in the intersection because it would relieve some of the confusion for residents on both sides of the matter. Mrs. Conway sees many parents walking their kids to school so she understands the need to keep all kids safe. Chief Fisher asked how many people use the drop off. According to Mrs. Conway there is about 20-25 families that use the drop off.

Mr. Earman asked what happens at night when kids are picked up? Mrs. Miles stated that it is not the same issue because many of the families pick up at the school.

Mr. Kevin Colwell, resident of Ridgewood, said the difference in the afternoon is that you are not dealing with 8 am rush hour traffic and Dublin Road is not backed up headed towards Fishinger Road. He stated that he grew up in Ridgewood and went to Ridgewood Elementary and using the Darbyshire drop off has happened since the 70’s and he is not sure what has changed. Mr. Colwell addressed the fact that allowing drop offs to continue at the bridge is not going to increase traffic along that portion of the road because he and his wife are going along that way even if they don’t drop their children at the bridge.
A resident from Cameron Road spoke about her concern that adding a designated drop off zone would create more traffic in general. She asked if a crossing guard was a possible solution. Mrs. Conway stated that there used to be two safety patrol students but that has gone away for some reason. Mrs. Miles stated that Ridgewood was the only subdivision that attends Ridgewood Elementary that does not have access to buses. Mr. Benack agrees that he doesn’t think people are all of the sudden going to be dropping kids off just because it is a drop off zone.

Mrs. Jamie Miles, resident of Ridgewood, spoke on the change in procedure. She stated that back in November after the matter was reviewed due to the same or similar resident complaint, Mrs. Fisher worked with HPD and the school district to come up with an acceptable plan that would allow drop offs from Darbyshire at the bridge but not on Cameron due to the proximity of the stop sign and crosswalk. The school district sent out a notification to parents informing them of this change. Mrs. Miles stated that she has been abiding by the rules as laid out in the notification. Then last week, Officer Bright was policing the area and she was told that drop offs could not happen. Chief Fisher stated that he was not aware of all of the facts but that the ORC prohibits cars from parking in an intersection or within a certain number of feet of a crosswalk or stop sign. Mrs. Miles stated that if this is why cars were given written warnings then this is an educational issue but she was told that she could not drop off at the bridge any longer. Since notification was sent in a formal e-mail to parents, if the plan changed, then the Township and School should have been notified along with parents.

Mr. Kevin Miles, resident of Braidwood Drive, asked Chief Fisher to confirm that “No Parking” signs mean the same thing from one jurisdiction to another. Chief Fisher stated that is correct. Mr. Miles stated that so if nothing changes, so long as people don’t stop within the intersection, or within 20 feet of the crosswalk, or within 30 feet of the stop sign you are still allowed to stop and drop someone off. Chief Fisher nodded in agreement.

Mr. Earman stated that it requires some work and some study so he doesn’t believe the Board is going to make a decision. Safety for the kids is a concern for all of us. The “No Parking” signs were put up for a reason and I don’t think they are going to be taken down. We will figure out something so it will be resolved before school starts. We want the kids to be safe.

TRUSTEE-OLD BUSINESS - None

TRUSTEE-NEW BUSINESS - None

Motion by Mr. Buck, seconded by Mr. Roberts to adjourn from the regular meeting at 6:45 PM. Vote: Buck- Yes Earman- Yes Roberts- Yes

Larry Earman, Chairman

Jamie Miles, Fiscal Officer