

The Pittsfield Township Talk
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The Pittsfield Township Talk

WHO TO CALL

TRUSTEES

Steve Magyar, Chairman 774-4338

Mark Diedrick 774-2174

Mark McConnell 647-3427

FISCAL OFFICER

Jim McConnell 775-3352

ROAD SUPERVISOR

Dan Shinsky 440-774-7223

ZONING INSPECTOR

Dan Shinsky 440-774-7223

<http://www.pittsfieldtwp.us>

TYPE II BUSINESS PERMITS

Jim Gleason 775-3795

TOWNSHIP HALL SUPERVISOR

Pat Koniarski 774-3828

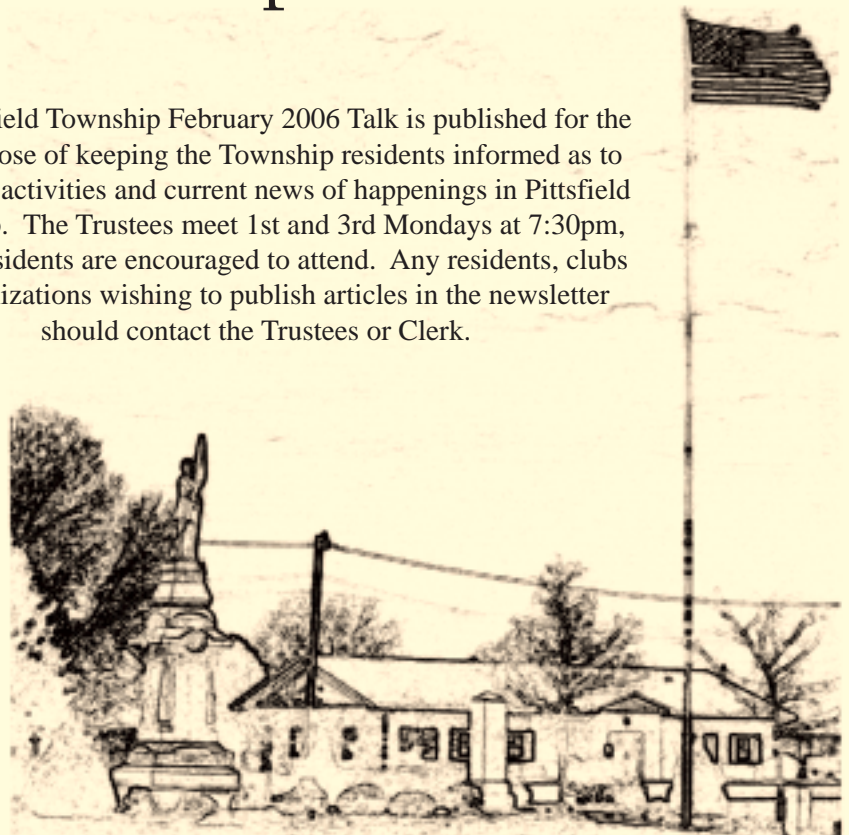
CEMETERY SEXTON

Jim Sheffield 775-7147

NEW WEBSITE:

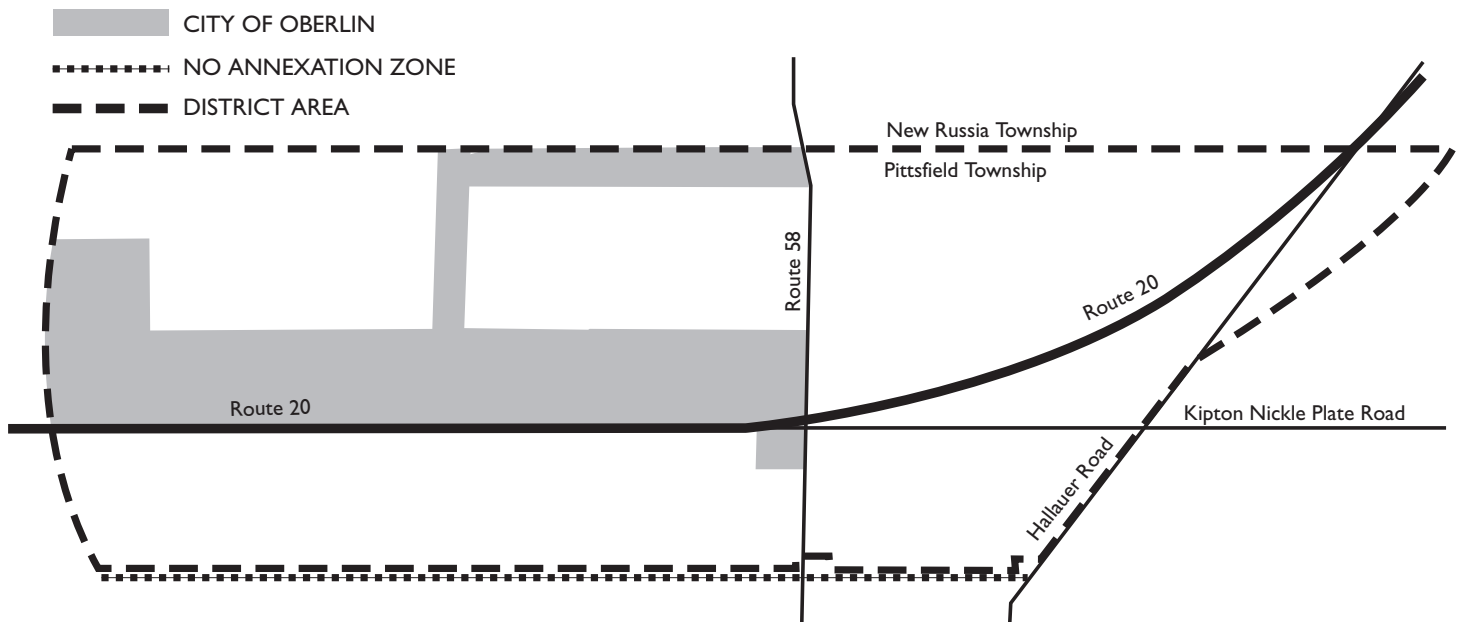
<http://www.pittsfieldtwp.us>

The Pittsfield Township February 2006 Talk is published for the sole purpose of keeping the Township residents informed as to the plans, activities and current news of happenings in Pittsfield Township. The Trustees meet 1st and 3rd Mondays at 7:30pm, and all residents are encouraged to attend. Any residents, clubs or organizations wishing to publish articles in the newsletter should contact the Trustees or Clerk.



Pittsfield Township - Oberlin City Annexation Agreement

Public Meeting to be held February 27th at 7:30 PM



Pittsfield Township and the city of Oberlin have reached agreement on a revision to the annexation agreement that has existed between the two communities since 1991. This revision addresses many of the deficiencies that have become apparent in the existing agreement and focuses on issues that are critical to both communities regarding the current and future development of the northern portion of the township that borders the city.

The township trustees have scheduled a public meeting for Monday evening, February 27th, 7:30 pm at the township hall to review the primary points of this agreement with interested residents. This will not be an official public hearing but an open discussion concerning the purpose and terms of the agreement. No action will be taken at this meeting.

The question is often asked why an agreement of any sort is needed with the city. In answer to that question, Pittsfield Township has found itself in the same position as most townships that border expanding municipalities. Namely, services that are needed for the development of properties close to the city are only available from that community. In our case, the primary service that the city can provide that is not available in the township is sewer service. All other utilities, as well as police and fire protection, are already available in the township and could be made available for new commercial and residential developments. Oberlin, as with most cities, is only willing to provide services if a property annexes into the city.

The obvious result of the transfer of property from the township via annexation is a loss of tax revenue to the township. In our township's case, the most likely area for development, either as residential or commercial, is the area south and southeast of Oberlin along US Rt. 20 and in the vicinity of the intersection of US Rt. 20 and St. Rt. 58. Looking into the future, the loss of a significant portion of this area to Oberlin as a result of annexation would seriously jeopardize the township's ability to remain financially viable and maintain the current level of services to the remainder of the township.

This is the reason that the township trustees negotiated the current agreement with Oberlin in 1991 following the annexation by the city of the property that included the former Ames store and sites that eventually became the Pizza Hut and the Wal Mart store currently under construction. Without that agreement, the township stood to lose all tax revenue from the area. The city recognized the need to gain the township's support for that and future annexations by reducing the financial impact to the township.

After more than a decade of both communities attempting to live within the terms of the 1991 agreement, it became obvious to both the city and the township that the original agreement was not fully accomplishing what was intended, and was hard to administer. As a result, changes were needed. After many months of discussions and negotiations, a revised agreement has been completed and is currently being reviewed by the city and the township. If both Oberlin City Council and the Pittsfield Township Trustees approve this new agreement, it will supercede the existing agreement and be retroactively effective to January 1, 2005.

Some of the main features of this proposal include:

- A reduction of the area ("District") covered by the agreement in an attempt to channel development into a more compact area where infrastructure can be most economically provided. (See accompanying map of District area.)
- The Township will cooperate on any annexation petition submitted by property owners from within the district area.
- There are restrictions on potential annexations south of the District to insure concentration of development.
- The city and township have agreed to common land uses within the District that insures, whether development takes place while still part of the township or following annexation, the end result will be conformity to a development concept acceptable to both the city and the

township. It will be necessary for the township to rezone some areas within the District and likewise, the city agrees to amend its annexation ordinance to accept parcels from within the District with predetermined various use designations.

- The city agrees to pay the township for the term of the agreement an amount equal to 2.375 mills on all commercial/industrial properties annexed into the city from within the District.
- The city agrees to pay the township an amount equal to 18% of the income tax withholdings collected by the city from employers on properties annexed into the city from within the District.
- The city agrees that it will collect a one time payment, to be forwarded to the township, for each residential building permit issued for property within the District.
- The term of the agreement is to be 25 years, automatically renewable for another 25 years unless both the city and the township agree otherwise.
- The agreement is amendable, allows for termination if approved by both the city and township, and includes a predetermined dispute resolution process.

This proposal represents the best efforts of both the city and the township to establish a logical concept for the present and future development of an area of major importance to both communities. It attempts to address the development priorities as represented in both communities' long range land use plans and is a financial compromise that should allow both the city and the township to remain as mutual assets to each other. Please give this information your due consideration. Bring your questions and comments to the public meeting on February 27th, 7:30 pm at the township hall. Note that this is not an official meeting of the township trustees and no action will be taken that evening.

To see a copy of the agreement, visit <http://www.pittsfieldtwp.us>, click on Zoning and download a pdf. Copies of this proposed agreement are available from the township's Fiscal Officer, Jim McConnell (440-775-3352) or Trustee Steve Magyar (440-774-4338). Copies of the agreement will also be available at the public meeting Monday. Or you could pick one up at Pier 58 Marine during regular business hours.

Home Sweet Home

By Jim McConnell

Pittsfield Township Fiscal Officer

Article from the *AgCredit Leader*, November 2005
Reprinted with permission

I grew up in a house that was, and is, our family's home, and an important part of the family's history. Having a place to claim as the family home, regardless of where life takes a person, provides a sense of stability, an anchor, a center for our universe. I can only imagine how different a person's childhood would be if it were spent in a succession of different houses in different neighborhoods in different cities and states. My boyhood home where my mom and brother still live, is a fixture in my life and, quite simply, has provided roots and a base for me for nearly sixty years.

During the years I spent in college and the military I had some very lonely times, times of uncertainty and dread when it was impossible to know what the future held in store, and times when thoughts of home and all that was familiar and comfortable restored calm and order. I can recall more than once thinking how nice it was going to be to get back home, sometimes sooner, sometimes later.

Obviously, family plays a big role in making home a comfortable place to be. Even so, there is something very warm and fuzzy about the familiarity of a house where you know every nook and cranny, every nick and scrape and know how most of them came to

be. I notice the cracked windowpane as I walk onto the back porch and remember the fishing pole casting practice that went astray. In a remodeled back room where Mom once wrestled with the old wringer washer and laundry tubs, she now wrestles with the computer and fax machine. (*I think there are times when she would relish the opportunity to run the computer through that old wringer!*)

As I move from room to room I can remember various remodeling projects over the years. I remember the time we removed the dining room ceiling and had to contend with thousands of hickory nut and walnut chips left by squirrels who once claimed the attic for their own. Another time I found out how allergic I was to varnish stripper when the homegrown oak paneling in the living room needed a new start.

Climbing the stairs I still remember which steps creak and instinctively step around them just like I did coming home late at night as a teenager. In my old bedroom closet is a box of paperback books I used to spend my chore money on through the "Book of the Month Club" in school. And I know somewhere, packed away in a box or two, the P-51 and Flying Fortress plastic airplane models I so painstakingly put together on cold winter days will be.

The basement door hasn't been painted in a long while because it is still being used to mark the growth records of the younger generations every Easter and Christmas. The pool table is still in the basement. Dad splurged to buy it one day coming back from the Cleveland stockyards when my brother and I were just

big enough to be really interested. Soon, we found out our Dad was really good at pool!

The house now has baseboard heat and a relatively modern furnace instead of the old steam radiators and a gas boiler converted from coal and wood that kept us warm as kids. I can remember the crank telephone on the wall of the dining room and the "joys" of party line phone service. I remember how amazed we were at the technology of a dial telephone and the elimination of the switchboard operator. Now there is an antenna on the roof for wireless internet service and I can talk to Australia as easily as the next door neighbor.

We don't know the complete history of our family's home. We do know it was one of the earliest permanent homes built in Pittsfield Township and served at one time as the post office for the area. The rafters for the roof of the older section of the house are round saplings sawed flat on one side. The main beams are, as you would expect, notched and pinned with wooden pins. What nails were used in the original construction were forged, square tapered nails. It has withstood countless thunder and wind storms and at least one near miss from a tornado.

We are now starting the sixth generation of family who can call this house our family's home. My grandmother and father were both born and raised in this house, as were my aunts and uncles on Dad's side. Each of them has their own memories of this house as their home. Even though most of us have, or will establish, our own family homes, this particular house will always be thought of as THE family home.

Annual Reunion of Soldiers' and Sailors' Association of Lorain County

Information from the *Wellington Enterprise* dated *Wednesday, August 19, 1896*

The eighteenth annual meeting of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Association of Lorain County at Pittsfield center yesterday (August 13th) was one of the most successful ever held, and combined with the dedication of a beautiful monument to the soldiers of Pittsfield Township, rendered the occasion one of rare interest.

At ten o'clock the assembled people were called to order by the president, C. A. Wilcox, of LaGrange, who briefly explained that the place of meeting had been changed from LaGrange to Pittsfield center by the executive committee, on account of the dedication of the soldiers' monument. After music by the Oberlin band, prayer was offered by Rev. F. B. Bentley, followed by music from the LaGrange cornet band.

The address of welcome was then delivered by Silas D. Whitney, who very appropriately extended a hearty welcome to the soldiers and sailors of Lorain County to the hospitality of the people of Pittsfield. Mr. Whitney gave a brief sketch of the history of the township, which was laid out in 1819. He came to the township himself in 1834, when there was but one frame house in existence in it, and has been a resident of the township up to the present time. During the war 103 men went into the service and only 67 were left subject to draft. He was one of the trustees of that time, with Orlando Hall and Mark Whitney, and it was one of their duties to keep their quota full.

After dinner hour the beautiful soldiers' monument, erected by the citizens of Pittsfield, was appropriately dedicated with the services prescribed in the ritual of the Grand Army of the Republic, conducted by Commander H. H. Barnard, of Henry Lincoln Post, G.A.R. of Oberlin.

The monument is of Barre granite except the die which is Quincy granite. It stands twenty-two feet four inches in height from the paved surface surrounding it to the top. Upon the four sides are engraved the names of the 102 soldiers who enlisted from the township. The twenty-one who died in the service are placed by themselves on the south side. Below these on each side are engraved the names of some of the great battles in which these men participated: Five Forks, Atlanta, Knoxville and Chickamauga. Above on the four sides are the names of Custer, Garfield, Sherman and McPherson.

At each corner a cannon is engraved and the whole is surmounted by a life sized soldier with his arm encircling the flag. An iron fence encloses the monument which is located distant from the two streets crossing at the center of the township.

The price of the monument alone was \$1,800, and with the iron fence and stone paving, the entire cost was \$2,000, which was raised by taxation upon the property of the township. The monument was furnished by the Keystone Granite Co., represented by Paine & Neidig, of Oberlin.

A beautiful silk flag, which was raised and lowered during the ceremonies of dedication of the monument by Jno. Brister, has an interesting history. It was purchased in the year 1864 and offered as a prize to that township in the county which would show the greatest gain in the republican vote at the presidential election in November over the previous October election and was won by Pittsfield. It has been carefully preserved these thirty-two years as a trophy.

Editor's Note: If any of our readers have additional information related to the statue in front of the township hall, feel free to share with Jim McConnell. You can email him at hgf@kellnet.com. We may publish your article in a future issue of *The Pittsfield Township Talk*.



Purchase of the Aerial Ladder Fire Apparatus

After two years of planning and asking voters in May of 2005 to consider approving the millage needed, the township was able to purchase a new aerial ladder fire apparatus. The fireboard of trustees

and the Levy Committee promoted the levy by committing a percentage of the budget from the levy to purchase this apparatus plus continue providing adequate staffing and maintaining the balance of the fire apparatus. We explained to the voters that it was time to replace the 1976 fifty five foot (55') Snorkel apparatus. Fortunately, for the long term planning of the fire district, the majority of the voters agreed.

To preserve our budgets for the next five years, the fireboard of trustees were able to secure a loan for \$350,000.00 at 3.9% interest and pay for the balance of the expenditure from the operating budget. The loan will be paid back



The Aerial Ladder Fire Apparatus on the truck.

over the next five years, or sooner, if the budget allows.

The Fireboard of Trustees approved the purchase of the 2005 aerial ladder demonstrator at their January 4, 2006 meeting. Even though the aerial is demonstrator, all the warranties are as if it is a new apparatus. The aerial was custom built fire apparatus by KME in Nesquehoning, Pa. The cost of the apparatus is \$601,534.00. In comparison a new custom built apparatus with similar specifications would cost about \$100,000.00 more. A summary of the specifications are listed below:

- Predator X-MFD Chassis
- 100' 4-section Aerialcat Ladder
- 208" Wheelbase
- 438" (36'-6") Overall Length
- 140" Travel Height (11'6")
- Caterpillar 525 hp. Engine
- Waterous Single Stage, 2000 GPM Pump
- 650 Gallon Water Tank
- "Straight Shot" Hosebed capable of storing up to 1000' of five inch hose
- Painted Roll-Up Compartment Doors
- 10,000 watt hydraulic generator

We would like to thank our supporters from the townships of Brighton, Huntington, Penfield, Pittsfield, Wellington and the Village of Wellington.

**“REMINDER:
WORKING SMOKE
ALARMS SAVE
LIVES”**

Robert Walker, fire chief