The first quarterly meeting of 2017 of the Williams County Township Association was held on February 16th, 2017, at the Center Township building on County Road 12, Bryan, OH. The meeting was called to order by President Bob Short, leading those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Secretary-Treasurer Nancy Barnes completed the attendance with twelve (12) members present. Guests present were Jenna Peper, District Representative for Robert Latta, Dawn Baldwin, Williams County EMA Director, Terry Rummel, Williams County Commissioner, John Waterstone, Williams County Deputy Engineer, and Steve Towns, Williams County Sheriff.

President Short asked if there were any additions or corrections to the November 17th, 2016 meeting minutes. He then asked for a motion to accept the minutes as presented for November 17th, 2016. Connie Simmons made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Rod Baker seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Treasurer Barnes then presented the treasurer’s report. Chris Maneval made a motion to accept the treasurer’s report as presented. Hillis Rockey seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Dawn Baldwin passed out Senior Officials Handbooks. It was a joint effort with Williams, Paulding, Putnam, Defiance, Henry and Fulton counties. It outlines the responsibilities of senior officials in an emergency.

Jenna Peper talked about the current affairs in Washington and the committees Representative Latta has been appointed to. There was also discussion of replacement of Obama Care.

Terry Rummel was present. There was a discussion on the dog warden situation. Terry also reported the bid for the emulsion had been received by the county, and there was only one bidder.

John Waterstone was present for the county engineer. He discussed the roads that had not been completed last year. The office is planning on getting the bids out earlier to avoid the work being delayed. He reported 10 – 12 miles of roads were done with chip and seal last year. Some equipment was borrowed from Henry County, and Williams county workers did some of the chip and seal.

There was then discussion on the culverts and the responsibilities that are the counties and those that fall to the townships. There is currently nothing in writing. Discussions are ongoing to attempt to put a policy in writing. Hopefully at some time in the future, a resolution can be passed with the county to address the culverts, bridges and guard rails. The county engineer is willing to help the townships and 3 projects are planned for this year. There is nothing yet planned for 2018.
A report of the state funds for roads that are to be worked on with the financial assistance of the state in 2017 was discussed. The roads close to the turnpike plazas, Co. Rd. M, M-50 and 21N, have been approved for resurfacing. There is also work to be done on Co. Rd. D between SR 576 and Co. Rd. 10. The other project is a bridge deck replacement on CR 20 north of CR D. Other discussion concerned rotating road work.

A question was asked about natural stone being used on the roads. John reported that they were not able to do that in 2016 but hope to use natural stone in some chip and seal for 2017. There was discussion on the crushing of the stone and the wear and tear on the plows. Jenna from Latta’s office stated that there was some Economic Development grants that may be available for road projects out of the Chicago office. Representative Latta’s office would be able to assist with those. She also commented further on the medical insurance issue. She reported that they are only in the beginning stages of legislation for repeal and replacement of Obamacare. Representative Latta is not in favor of a total replacement.

Terry Rummel then reported that his replacement for Bridgewater Township Trustee was his son Austin Rummel.

Sheriff Towns then gave an update from the Sheriff’s office. He reported that there were officially 9 opiate related overdose deaths in Williams County in 2016. He stated there were still lots of scams ongoing. Juvenile problems are still on the rise as well as mental health issues. There was a brief discussion on the sex trafficking article that had been in the Bryan Times. He feels things at CCNO are improving and is on the upswing.

Bob Stark then asked about classes being held for the drug items that are found. Sheriff Towns noted that his office is willing to do this training for any group that is interested.

Jeff Burkholder then reported on the OTA Winter Conference that has been held in January. He reported there were 90 workshops put on by the OTA, and that the trade show was the largest ever. Packets were also given to each township showing accidents that occurred in the township. He shared that a representative from Governor Kasich’s office closed the conference and the budget for 2017 was reported on.

The next meeting will be held on May 18th, 2017, at 7:00 at the East Annex on High Street in Bryan in the large conference room.

There being no further business from the floor, Linda Beck made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Bob Stark seconded the motion. Motion passed and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted.

Nancy J. Barnes