

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

Meeting

BEAR GRAPHICS 800-325-8094 FORM NO. 10148

Held

20

MINUTES OF ELLSWORTH TWP BOARD OF TRUSTEE'S

REGULAR MEETING

September 13, 2023

Chairman Fredrick Houston called the September 13, 2023, regular meeting of the Ellsworth Trustees to order at 7:00 pm. A roll call was taken to establish a quorum: Chairman Fredrick Houston - present, Vice Chairman Robert Toman - present, Trustee William Spellman - present. Also present were Fiscal Officer James DeCenso, Zoning Inspector Wayne Sarna, Road and Maintenance Supervisor Tom Hoffman, and Assistant Fire Chief Jillian Smith. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

MINUTES: Fiscal Officer DeCenso presented the minutes from the last Regular meeting which was held August 9, 2023. No one in attendance requested that the minutes be read. **Motion 2023-95:** Trustee Spellman made a motion to accept the minutes from the last meeting. Trustee Toman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

FISCAL REPORT: Fiscal Officer James DeCenso reported that August's receipts were \$245,007 and expenditures were \$61,248. Receipts included \$209,000 in property tax collection advances, \$6,439 in quarterly cable franchise fees, and \$4,541 in bank interest. The Fiscal Officer then reviewed the Fund balances. The total gross fund balance as of August 31, 2023, was \$1,044,611, including \$50,913 in unspent ARPA funds; \$564,052 in Fire/EMS Operations and Equipment funds and \$327,428 in Road funds. The General Fund balance is \$87,684 (including Cemetery and Zoning funds). The Fiscal Officer then presented invoices for approval, including \$950.00 to Grace Exterminating for the 2023-23 contract, \$95.80 to Professional Engine Systems for a generator repair, and \$762.00 to the Ohio Auditor for 4th qtr. 2023 UAN usage. Mr. DeCenso then informed the Board and the audience that the County Auditor is in the process of completing the property value reappraisals. This individual appraisal is done every six years. He cautioned that the increase percentage in property value is not the increase in property taxes. Tax levies bring in a fixed amount of dollars each year and the distribution of individual payments is based on their taxable property value vs the entire tax district's value. Some may go up and some will come down. He then concluded by distributing to the Board a list of taxing districts that have Fire and/or EMS levies on their ballots for November 2023. These districts may begin to compete with the wages paid by the Township for its Fire and Ambulance services.

At this time, Chairman Houston turned the meeting over to Trustee Toman, who provided a detailed report on the Elk Rd drainage issues and the Mahoning County Engineer's recommendations. Trustee Toman described, with the aid of a projected map of the affected homes, the three options proposed by the County. The first option includes 15" pipe on both sides of Elk with 6 road cuts, one driveway cut and 14 catch basins. The estimated cost is \$159,000. The second option includes 15" pipe on only the east side of Elk Rd with 2 road cuts, 3 or 4 driveway cuts and 10 catch basins. The estimated cost is \$127,000. The third option includes an open ditch on the east side of Elk Rd with 3 or 4 driveway cuts and 5 catch basins on the lower section only. The estimated cost is \$92,000. Many residents of Elk Rd were in attendance and asked questions about the proposals. It was determined that additional drainage issues may originate east of Elk Rd that may reduce the effectiveness of any of these proposals. Trustee Toman indicated that he would discuss these new findings with the County Engineer. The Board then discussed the concern of the Township to utilize all of its share of the quarter percent sales tax monies towards this project. The Township will only have available approx. \$60,000 each year for each of five years to use on all Township roads and related projects. The Board indicated that the affected residents may need to participate in some funding for any remediation project.

ROAD and MAINTENANCE: Mr. Hoffman reported that he had sold one Niche in Ellsworth Cemetery. He reported that Grace Exterminating has sprayed the buildings inside and out. He reported that Youngstown Fence has begun work on the baseball fencing. He will take the old fence to the scrapyard. He thanked Ellis Construction for donating his time and equipment to dig out a tree stump that was interfering with the new fence. He repaired a down spout pipe on a dugout. Mr. Hoffman reported that the boiler in the Road Building had sprung a leak on August 28th and has perhaps caused a short in the control board. He has scheduled a repair technician for this week. He reported that he had assisted Berlin Twp in pouring cement for their new fuel tank base. He reported that the Canfield Fair display was set up and returned after the fair. The Board heard comments from the audience that the Fair display needs updated or replaced. **Motion 2023-97:** Trustee Toman

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Minutes of Regular Trustee Meeting September 13, 2023, Continued

Meeting

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made a motion to appoint Angela Javorsky to chair a committee to recommend to the Board an updated or a new Fair display. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. 20

ZONING REPORT: Mr. Wayne Sarna advised the Board that he wrote one Zoning permit since the last meeting for a single-family dwelling on Leffingwell Rd. He also received a request for a replat to five Diehl Lake lots. A hearing is scheduled for September 26th with the Mahoning County Planning Commission. He reported that a lien is being placed on 6336 Elk Rd to cover the demolition costs to the condemned structure that was removed at the Township's expense. Mr. Sarna then reported that the hearing notice has been served and the deadline for any hearing requests regarding the condemnation of the structure at 10610 W Akron Canfield Rd will expire on September 20th. Mr. Sarna then reported on eight other properties that he is reviewing for zoning violations. He then commented to the Board his review and edits of the language used in a recent Milton Township resolution that requests the Mahoning County Commissioners to ban 5 to 50 megawatts commercial wind and solar farms in the County. The Board discussed proposing a similar resolution from Ellsworth Township. The Township Zoning Commission had previously recommended that the Board consider a ban. The Board determined that additional information is necessary and that a public hearing may be beneficial. The Board recommended that the Zoning Commission hold public hearings and propose any zoning resolutions regarding such. Angela Javorsky notified the Board that the Zoning Commission will return to the Fire Hall for their regular meetings.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Assistant Chief Jillian Smith reported that there were 39 emergency calls in the Township in August of which 23 were EMS related. There were 20 transports during the month that were all provided by Ellsworth. Chief Smith then advised the Board that the Brush Truck is having a lot of issues starting. It appears to be a carburetor issue. Firefighter Lilly May has begun her EMT-B classes under the County scholarship program. There is no cost to the Township. She then described to the Board an opportunity to purchase a used power-cot for the older ambulance. A new power-cot would cost over \$40,000. This cot and a used stair chair are available from KLG for \$10,250.00. The cost from Stryker for a power cot upgrade to the ambulance would be \$2,458.70 and a new battery and charger would cost \$1,493.64. Chief Smith indicated that the equipment is in excellent condition and that a potential grant for Ohio BWC could be used for other necessary items. **Motion 2023-98:** Trustee Toman then made a motion to approve spending up to \$14,500 for a used power-cot, stair chair, battery and charger, and the necessary upgrade. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. The Board thanked Chief Smith for his diligence in procuring good used equipment for the Department. The Board and Assistant Chief Smith then discussed the Brush Truck and the potential to sell it at auction. **Motion 2023-99:** Trustee Spellman made a motion to take the 1989 GM Brush Truck out of active service and to sell it pursuant to the Township's auction policy (Motion 2023-29) and to appoint ACE Hardware of Ellsworth, Inc. as the auction representative. All expenses for advertising and auction fees from this sale shall be reimbursed to the representative. Chairman Houston seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. Chief Smith and the Board discussed the annual Trick-or-Trunk event that will be held Sunday, October 29th from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. The Fiscal Officer reminded the Board that there is \$750 available from the 2023 NOPEC Community Grant. Chief Smith then presented invoices of \$1,093.31 for EMS supplied from Bound Tree, \$503.10 for Department uniform tee shirts from Ron Jacco, \$485.00 to D&T Truck for pump tests on Engine 41 and Ladder 48. The Board discussed a budget of \$1,000 (including NOPEC's \$750) for the Trick-or-Trunk. **Motion 2023-100:** Trustee Toman then made a motion to approve the \$3,079.41 as requested, including a \$1,000 budget for Trick-or-Trunk which will be held October 29th from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Trustee Spellman reported on the County Committee that meets regarding countywide EMS and Fire issues. This includes hospital wait times as well as regionalization. Congressman Bill Johnson indicated his support to assist the committee in whichever direction they deem necessary. Trustee Spellman discussed work on the Canfield Fair display.

Trustee Toman provided a current crime report. He also reported on his efforts involving the Canfield Fair display.

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Regular Trustee Meeting September 13, 2023, Continued

Trustee Houston discussed his work with Mr. Hoffman and Youngstown Fence to get the ballfield fence replaced.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS:

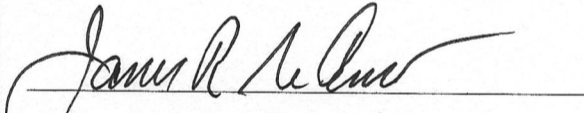
The next regular meeting will be Wednesday October 11, 2023, at 7:00 pm.

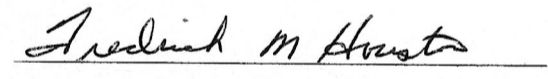
At 9:30 pm, **Motion 2023-101:** Trustee Spellman made a motion, pursuant to ORC 122.22(G)(2) to enter into executive session to consider the sale or purchase of property for public purposes. Trustee Toman seconded the motion. The roll call was Trustee Spellman – Yes, Trustee Toman – Yes, Chairman Houston – Yes. The motion carried and the Board invited the Fiscal Officer to join them in executive session.


At 9:45 pm, **Motion 2023-102:** Trustee Spellman made a motion to return to regular session. Trustee Toman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

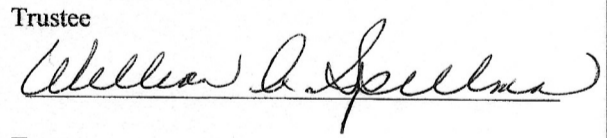
Motion 2023-103: Trustee Toman made a motion to empower the Fiscal Officer to enter into negotiations for the purchase or sale of property for public purposes, as instructed in executive session. All details will be disclosed when reasonably appropriate. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

With no further business, at 9:47 pm, **Motion 2023-104:** Trustee Toman made a motion to adjourn. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.


Fiscal Officer


Chairman


Trustee


Trustee