

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

July 13, 2022

Chairman William Spellman called the July 13, 2022, regular meeting of the Ellsworth Trustees to order at 7:00 pm. A roll call was taken to establish a quorum: Chairman William Spellman - present, Vice Chairman Fredrick Houston - present, Trustee Robert Toman - present. Also present were Fiscal Officer James DeCenso, Road and Maintenance Supervisor Tom Hoffman, Fire Chief Edward Smith, and Zoning Inspector Wayne Sarna. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

MINUTES: Fiscal Officer DeCenso presented the minutes from the last regular meeting which was held June 8, 2022. No one in attendance requested that the minutes be read. **Motion 2022-59:** Trustee Toman made a motion to accept the meeting minutes. Trustee Houston seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

FISCAL REPORT: Fiscal Officer James DeCenso reported that June's receipts were \$20,531 and expenditures were \$52,223. The total gross fund balances as of June 30, 2022, was \$739,017. He reported that the unencumbered General Fund amount is currently \$1,578. The Fiscal Officer then presented invoices in detail for approval of \$1,487.75, including \$80.00 due to the Ohio BWC as findings from the 2021 Premium Audit performed in June. **Motion 2022-60:** Trustee Houston made a motion to approve the \$1,487.75 in expenditures presented. Trustee Toman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. Mr. DeCenso then explained the Ohio Opioid Settlement. The Townships' portion would have been approx. \$300, however any entity that is scheduled to receive under \$500 will have their settlement go to the county. He explained that Mahoning County would have better programs for drug addiction than the Township could initiate. He reported that the ARPA 2nd deposit of \$111,006 was received on July 12, 2022. Mr. DeCenso then distributed a first half 2022 property tax collection analysis. The collections for the Township were \$170,335, which is approx. 64% of total budgeted annual collections. It is normal that the first half collections exceed 60% of the total year's collections. The amount collected is \$7,376 greater than the 1st half last year. After subtracting the County Health Dept and other fees, the Township netted \$157,545. He then distributed for review, the first half 2022 Fire and EMS financial analysis. The EMS Fund has a deficit of \$23,542 for the first 6 months of 2022. That is \$7,957 more than the same period in 2021. The Fire Fund has a deficit of \$10,907 which is \$1,298 better than the same period in 2021. The Fiscal Officer reminded the Board that there was also a \$13,628 supplement from the 2020 CARES ACT monies, so the actual difference is that the combined funds have a deficit that is \$12,330 more than the same period in 2021. The Fiscal Officer then went on to report that due to a recent merger by Farmers National Bank, the Township's checking account number is a duplicate with an account from the merged bank and so a new account will need to be opened. Farmers will reimburse the Township for new checks and deposit slips, but all on-line vendor accounts, Federal tax, State tax and Ohio treasury accounts will need to be changed. The Fiscal Officer then reported on the 2020-2021 audit and that he thought that it should be concluded by month end. No issues have been identified at this time.

ROAD and MAINTENANCE: Mr. Tom Hoffman reported that Lane brought three more cremations to the Mausoleum. He has been working on the parking area at Geeburg Cemetery by removing some stumps and cutting back some trees. He reported that he had to replace the bladder in the well tank that supplies water between the Road Bldg. and the Fire Station, as a leak had been discovered. Mr. Hoffman reported that he arranged for Berlin township to come up with their ditch mower to mow the locust trees on Elk Rd. He surmised that Ellsworth and Berlin townships may begin crack sealing roads and parking lots around the second week of September. Mr. Hoffman then presented a quote from Braun Tree Service to remove a tree at the ballfield and one at the cemetery. The Board discussed the costs and decided to have the ballfield tree and stump removed at the \$1,300.00 quoted. **Motion 2022-61:** Trustee Houston made a motion to approve the \$1,300.00 quote to have the dead tree removed at the ballfield. Trustee Toman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

ZONING REPORT: Mr. Sarna reported that there were three permits issued since the last meeting and that he also received one variance determination from the BZA. Permits were issued for a garage on Herbert Rd.; an above ground pool and deck on Duck Creed Rd.; and an addition to a garage on Lower Lake Rd. at Diehl Lake. He Reported that the BZA approved a zoning variance to a property on Duck Creek Rd. allowing the installation

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of a five-foot wire fence in the front of their property. He also reported that the condemned property on Elk Rd has been demolished and removed and that the condemned property on S Salem Warren Rd has been removed by the new owner. He then reported that the realtor representing the property at 10610 Akron Canfield Rd has arranged for bids to have the structure removed. Mr. Sarna then reported on seven other properties where he had sent violation letters. Included is a collapsed wall on the property at Country Pantry. He has been advised that the wall came down due to a loose utility pole and that Oho Edison was to repair the wall.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Chief Smith reported that there were 33 calls in June including 16 EMS calls with 11 transports of which the Township transported 6. The other 5 transports were provided by mutual aid departments due to no Department crews available. Chief Smith advised the Board that he has advised Craig Beach that they need to contact departments closer to them before contacting Ellsworth. The Department will continue to respond to life threatening calls but will be further down the list for routine calls. Chief Smith advised the Board that most of Mahoning County, including Ellsworth had switched to 800 MHz radios. However, some communities, such as Berlin are switching to Merx style radios with are not compatible with the 800 MHz radios. He and Chief Powell have arranged to have one radio on each truck reprogrammed to the Merx system. Chief Smith is waiting for a quote to repair the ladder on the ladder truck. He also reported that the Medic 400 ambulance needs a full injection solenoid replaced. The quote from Fairway Ford was \$1,210.00. The Fiscal Officer presented a VISA bill for \$510.53 for emergency repairs on the air conditioner at the Fire Station. The Chief and the Board discussed the current staffing at the station. He has been offering 12 hours as well as the 8 hour shifts. He discussed situations where members have transported patients to the hospital but do not return until well after their shift ends. The Board directed that the staff is paid the extra transport fee whenever department members are required to work over their shift time. **Motion 2022-62:** Trustee Houston made a motion to approve the \$1,720.53 in expenditures presented. Trustee Toman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Trustees Toman discussed the crime watch and his attendance at the County wide EMS meeting with the County Commissioners. He reported that very few township trustees attended and that the larger townships seemed to be in charge. He also reported that Mill Creek Metro Parks is spending 1.5 million on the Vickers Preserve located in the Township. They will be demolishing the house there and upgrading the facilities, including the building of a playground. He thanked the Fire Department for their participation in the Canfield 4th of July parade.

Chairman Spellman also discussed the EMS staffing and financial issues. He gave a summary of the work over the past few years to get the surrounding townships and the County to consider a fire or EMS district. The Board discussed the needs of Ellsworth Fire and EMS and the need to consider the Department going alone to provide full time coverage to its residents. He suggested a flyer to the residents to communicate ongoing Township matters to the public. **Motion 2022-63:** Trustee Toman made a motion to encumber \$1,500 for a Township mailing and/or any other community wide event. Trustee Houston seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business to discuss.

Chairman Spellman recognized Dee Tripp from the Zoning Commission, who requested that the Board consider postponing the new zoning fees that went into effect July 1st, as it was discovered that there was an error in one of the formulas. **Motion 2022-64:** Trustee Houston made a motion to rescind the new zoning fee schedule that was approved during the June 8th regular meeting (Motion 2022-52) and retroactively return to the previous fee schedule while the Commission reviews their proposal. Trustee Toman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

The next meeting will be held August 10, at 7:00 pm.

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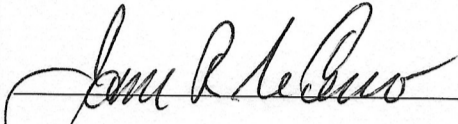
Regular Trustee Meeting July 13, 2022, Continued

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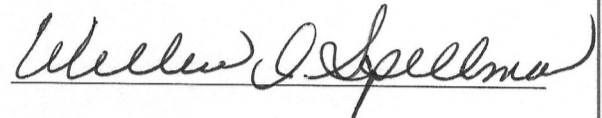
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Chairman Spellman reminded the audience of the Primary elections to be held Tuesday, August 2nd.

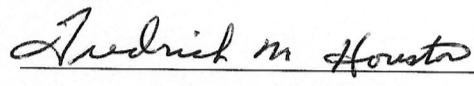
With no further business, at 9:16 pm, **Motion 2022-65:** Trustee Toman made a motion to adjourn. Trustee Houston seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.



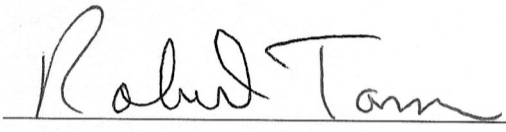
Fiscal Officer



Chairman



Trustee



Trustee

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MINUTES OF ELLSWORTH TWP BOARD OF TRUSTEE'S

SPECIAL MEETING

August 1, 2022

Chairman William Spellman called the August 1, 2022, special meeting of the Ellsworth Trustees to order at 7:00 pm. A roll call was taken to establish a quorum: Chairman William Spellman - present, Vice Chairman Fredrick Houston - present, Trustee Robert Toman - present. Also present were Fiscal Officer James DeCenso and Fire Chief Edward Smith. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Chairman Spellman opened the meeting by explaining his reasoning to call this special meeting. He explained that for several months, he and the other Trustees have worked towards a goal of providing continuous 24 x 7 emergency services to the residents of Ellsworth. He and the other Board members described meetings with other townships' officials and fire personnel, that they initiated, to discuss the need of a fire and/or emergency EMS district for the western portion of Mahoning County. However, while all involved agreed that each community could benefit from sharing personnel and other resources, there has not been a joint effort to go forward with a district approach.

The Board members discussed, through committee reports, their recent participation with meetings initiated by the Mahoning County Commissioners to review a County wide fire district. The Board members all felt that this attempt appeared to benefit those larger metropolitan cities and townships, who would enjoy the benefits on an unequal scale. They also reported that the differences between those larger departments will take years to make the necessary compromises for leadership and the distribution of resources throughout the County.

The Board called on Chief Edward Smith to discuss his efforts to fill EMS shifts with available personnel. Chief Smith reviewed the ability to maintain daytime coverage for emergency calls, but the evenings, early mornings and weekends mostly rely on volunteer responses and mutual aid from surrounding communities. He reported that approximately 90% of all emergency calls involve EMS. While the volunteer response for fire related calls has been outstanding, it is understandable that off shift medical calls may not have the required personnel response and even when there are available responders, the time element added to travel to the station and respond adds critical time. The Chief reported that almost half of all emergency 911 calls fall outside of the daytime covered shifts. He also indicated the difficulty to attract qualified personnel to work shifts as the financial ability to maintain the scheduling is not permanent.

The Fiscal Officer reminded the Board that the daytime staffing is running on deficit spending and that the current program would need to be curtailed or suspended before year's end. It was only due to CARES Act grants received in 2020, that allowed the daytime shifts to exist, and those monies have since been depleted. Mr. DeCenso then distributed two handouts. The first depicts the current property tax situation for Township residents that reside in the Western Reserve School District. The current taxes collected for the Township represents 7% of the total. That 7% is pretty evenly split between the Township's General Fund and the Fire/EMS Funds. The second handout compiled the cost to maintain one Medic and one EMT at the station 24 x 7. He projected the total cost to maintaining the current Fire Department and adding around the clock emergency medical coverage to be approx. \$625,000 annually. The current Fire and Apparatus tax levies bring in \$110,000 annually, with another \$100,000 potentially collectable from insurance billings. This still leaves a deficit of \$412,000. Estimating that one mill of tax revenue would generate \$71,000, the Township would need a minimum 5.80 levy to finance the program. He admitted that this may not include sufficient funding to replace fire or ambulance vehicles in the future.

The Board discussed the many options that the levy monies would give to the Township. The Township could begin by hiring sufficient emergency staff and support to maintain around the clock scheduling. The Township could also attempt join the adjacent Canfield Fire District. The current tax levies in the Cardinal Fire District totals 5.77 mills. The Board also discussed that a passing levy could entice other surrounding townships to reconsider a fire and/or an emergency medical district.

The Chairman then opened up the discussion to the audience, who provided both supporting and opposing comments to the Board.

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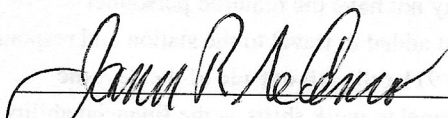
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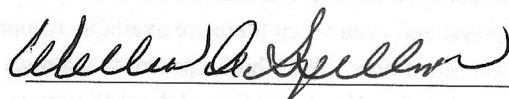
Special Trustee Meeting August 1, 2022, Continued

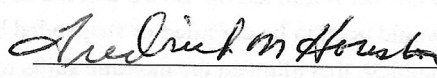
After listening to and discussing audience input, **Motion 2022-67:** Trustee Houston moved for the adoption of a resolution determining the need for a 5.77 mill tax in order to provide sufficient fire, ambulance, and emergency medical services to all inhabitants of Ellsworth and further resolved that the Township, pursuant to ORC 5705.03(B) requests the Mahoning County Auditor to certify the total current tax valuation of the Township along with the dollar amount of revenue that would be generated by the 5.77 levy that would be for a continuous period of time. The tax levy is to be submitted to the voters and appear on the ballot at the general election to be held November 8, 2022. The tax will be levied in the tax year 2022 and first collected in calendar year 2023. The purpose of the levy will be for "The payment of full-time or part-time firefighter and emergency medical service personnel, including the payment of any employer contributions required for such personnel under Sections 145.48 or 724.34 of the Revised Code, for the purchase of ambulance or fire equipment, and for the provision of ambulance, paramedic or other emergency fire or medical services operated by a fire department". Trustee Toman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

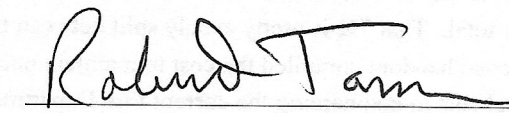
Trustee Toman indicated that the required resolutions and the certification from the Auditor's office would need to be submitted to the Board of Elections by August 10th which is the next regularly scheduled meeting. In order to meet the Board of Election deadline for the November 8th elections, **Motion 2022-68:** Trustee Toman made a motion to reschedule the next regular Board meeting to August 9, 2022, at 7:00 PM. Trustee Houston seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

With no further business, at 8:35 pm, **Motion 2022-69:** Trustee Toman made a motion to adjourn. Trustee Houston seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.


Fiscal Officer


Chairman


Trustee


Trustee