

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

December 8, 2021

Chairman Robert Toman called the December 8th regular meeting of the Ellsworth Trustees to order at 7:00 pm. A roll call was taken to establish a quorum: Chairman Robert Toman - present, Vice Chairman William Spellman - present, Trustee Fredrick Houston - present. Also, present were Fiscal Officer James DeCenso, Road and Maintenance Supervisor Matt Stroney, Zoning Inspector Wayne Sarna, and Fire Chief Ted Smith. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

MINUTES: Fiscal Officer James DeCenso presented the minutes from the last regular meeting, which was held November 10, 2021, for approval. No one in attendance requested that the minutes be read. **Motion 2021-103:** Trustee Houston made a motion to accept the minutes from the last regular meeting. Chairman Toman seconded the motion. Trustee Houston and Chairman Toman voted in favor to accept the minutes. Trustee Spellman abstained from voting as he was excused from the last meeting.

FISCAL REPORT: Fiscal Officer James DeCenso reported that November's receipts were \$20,395 and expenditures were \$51,265. Extraordinary payments included \$17,300 to Joseph Painting. The total gross fund balance as of November 30, 2021, was \$621,067 not including the ARPA grant of \$110,564.75. The Fiscal Officer reviewed the General Fund Contingency Account, which has a balance of \$1,427 as of December 8th. He then presented invoices requesting approval of \$158.00 for EMS supplies, \$471.09 for Fire Dept roof repairs from April, \$482.56 for a new boiler pump, \$4,133.00 for the 2022 Ohio BWC premium estimate, \$203.56 to Professional Engine for generator maintenance, \$270.00 to E.L Welding for ambulance repairs, \$58.00 for stamps and \$319.20 to the Mahoning County Auditor to return an over-payment made by the auditor for 2021 2nd half tax advances. **Motion 2021-104:** Trustee Spellman made a motion to approve the \$6,095.41 in expenditures presented. Trustee Houston seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. Mr. DeCenso then reviewed with the Board a 2022 Purchase Order for Road Salt at \$82.00 per ton. **Motion 2021-105:** Trustee Spellman made a motion to approve a purchase order for 48 tons of road salt at \$82.00 per ton from Arms Trucking. Trustee Houston seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. The Fiscal Officer then presented to the Board his analysis for the 2022 budget. He projected the carry over funds from 2021 will be \$751,600 (including the ARPA funds of \$110,565). The projected revenues for 2022, including ARPA funds are \$638,190. This would provide total estimated resources to be \$1,389,790. Mr. DeCenso then requested temporary 2022 appropriations of \$948,660. Permanent appropriations will need to be passed with a 2022 budget by March 31, 2022. **Motion 2021-106:** Trustee Spellman made a motion to approve 2022 temporary appropriations of \$948,660. Trustee Houston seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

ROAD and MAINTENANCE: Mr. Matt Stroney advised the Board that there was one burial in Ellsworth and that he had sold one plot in November. Mr. Stroney reported that he is still trying to find a vendor for tree trimming at the cemetery. Vendors have not been showing up for their appointments to quote. He reported on the generator maintenance and that a new battery will be needed next year. The cost will be around \$210. He also reported on the emergency boiler pump replacement last month. He reported that all the flags have been removed from the local telephone poles for the winter season. Trustee Houston proposed that the Township purchase any necessary replacement flags now, before the prices increase next year. **Motion 2021-107:** Trustee Houston made a motion to approve up to \$600.00 in flag purchases. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

ZONING REPORT: Mr. Sarna reported that he wrote four permits since the last meeting. He wrote a permit for a garage on Gault Rd; a 5ft chain link fence on Rolling Hills Dr.; a 10ft x 28ft storage shed on West Hill, and a 12ft x 22ft addition to a residence on Diehl Lake Dr. He also received a request for a Zoning variance to a parcel on W Akron Canfield Rd. The parcel is a flag lot with 25ft frontage. The current Zoning ordinance requires 60ft frontage. The ZBA will meet to review the variance request from the landowner. Mr. Sarna then gave an update on some zoning violations including the property at 10749 Palmyra Rd for using an RV as a residence, installing a storage unit without a permit, and excessive debris. The Mahoning County Prosecutor has sent a letter. The prosecutor also sent a letter to owner of 10610 Akron Canfield Rd for an abandoned structure. Another

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prosecutor letter was sent to 11912 Akron Canfield Rd citing them for excessive debris. Mr. Sarna has contacted Atty. Finamore's office regarding the condemned property at 7015 Warren Salem Rd and the property on Elk Rd for an update. He had not received a response as of this meeting. He then reported that Atty. Finamore is preparing a letter to send to the Lewis attorney regarding the proposed site plan on the coal tipple property.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Chief Smith presented the Fire report. He reported that there were 26 calls in November, including 13 EMS calls with 8 transports of which the Township transported 5. He also updated the Board on YTD statistics. Chief Smith ordered the hardware to mount the new radios that the Department will be receiving from the 2021 Mahoning County Fire Chief Association grant project. He reported on the FEMA grant application for all Department members to have new pagers that will be compatible with the new 800 radios. Firefighters will no longer carry a personal portable radio, but rather a pager. He reported on the aerial repairs, recently completed on the ladder truck. The original quote was \$1,400, however additional hydraulic repairs of \$630 were needed to complete the repairs. **Motion 2021-108:** Trustee Spellman made a motion to approve \$630 for the additional ladder repairs. Trustee Houston seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. He also reported on some repairs to the ambulance where the cot wheels were catching on the bumper. The bumper was repaired by E.L. Welding. The expenditure was approved earlier. The Chief reported on decreased activity from some Department members. He has been contacting each member to discuss their future availability.

The Board then reviewed the EMS and Fire Fund analysis. The Fiscal Officer presented that the EMS Fund decreased by \$27,354 through November 2021 and that the Fire Fund had increased by \$27,580. Additionally, both funds were able to be supplemented by \$13,628 from COVID relief funds in 2021. The summary of these two funds combined had an increase of \$13,854 through these last eleven months. The Board and the Chief then discussed the EMS daytime staffing program that accounted for over \$41,000 in expenses this year. The Board and the Chief would like to continue the daytime staffing program of EMTs; however, the cost continues to be a financial strain. The COVID relief funds have been able to supplement the program for the last two years, but now those federal funds are done. The Board discussed a possible outside study to determine the feasibility of a new tax levy to support permanent EMT staffing. The Fiscal Officer and the Fire Chief also have data to determine the future costs need to permanently staff EMTs at the station. That data will be reviewed at the upcoming 2022 budget workshops. In the meantime, the Board would like to continue the temporary staffing program of EMTs at the station. **Motion 2021-109:** Trustee Houston made a motion to approve staffing of EMTs at the station for an additional six months, through June 2022. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. The Board then discussed additional grants including ARPA funds that may be available in the future. The Board and audience also discussed the successful one-quarter percent county road repairs sales tax and the impact of county road paving in the Township.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Trustee Spellman discussed the possibility to engage a qualified legal firm to provide guidance for ARPA expenditures. More should be learned at the upcoming OTA winter conference in Columbus in January.

Trustee Houston discussed the website.

Chairman Toman discussed an extension by Dominion Gas down Akron Canfield Rd to the old NAPA building. Also, that he has had heard concerns from some residents about the new septic tank regulations set by the County Health Dept to comply with new Ohio laws that were enacted a couple years ago. The Board discussed the possibility to provide the Fire Hall to the Health Department for informational meetings.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Toman then recognized Carol Check, who presented a donation of \$100.00 from the VFW Post 9571 Auxiliary to the Ellsworth Fire and EMS Departments. The Board and Chief Smith thanked her for their generous donation.

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Regular Trustee Meeting December 8, 2021, Continued

Chairman Toman then recognized Dee Tripp from the Zoning Commission, who announced that the Commission will host a guest speaker from Valley Energy Solar, who will speak on solar panels.

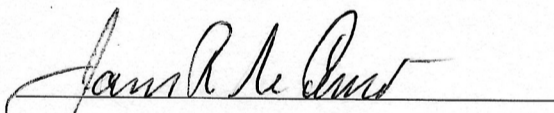
Chairman Toman then recognized Jim Trip from the Zoning Appeals Board, who discussed some proposed changes to the Zoning and ZBA Boards. He reported on a meeting of ZBA members on November 22nd to discuss previous minutes and other business matters. He also reported that the flag lot zoning appeal will be heard on December 27, 2021.

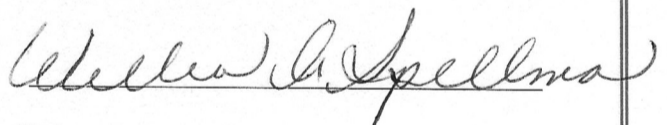
Charman Toman announced that Pete Rich did resign from the Zoning Commission effective year end 2021. Mr. Rich did indicate that he would be interested in the ZBA should a position be available. The Board discussed his experience and felt that he would be of value on the ZBA, and that Mr. Gilmartin would gain more experience on the Commission. **Motion 2021-110:** Trustee Houston made a motion to appoint Ronne Massullo, the current Zoning Commission alternative, to a five-year term on the Zoning Commission replacing Pete Rich; to remove James Gilmartin as a ZBA alternate and appoint him as an alternate on the Zoning Commission; to appoint Pete Rich as an alternate on the ZBA; and to re-appoint Jim Tripp to another five-year term on the ZBA. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

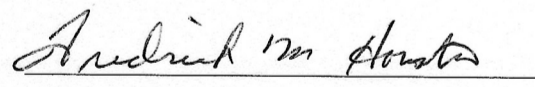
The Board then discussed the firefighter applications. **Motion 2021-110:** Trustee Houston made a motion to appoint Tristin McKinney as a probationary FF II / EMT and to appoint Hayden Fellows as a probationary Junior firefighter to the Ellsworth Fire Department. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

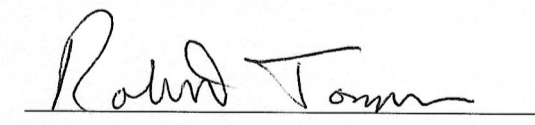
The 2022 Organizational meeting will be held Saturday, January 8, 2021, at 9:00 am at the Town Hall. The regular monthly meeting will be held immediately following the Organizational meeting.

At 8:51 pm, with no further business to discuss, **Motion 2021-111:** Trustee Houston made a motion to adjourn. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.


Fiscal Officer


Chairman


Trustee


Trustee