

# 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 8, 2021

Chairman Robert Toman called the September 8<sup>th</sup> 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. Special Guests included the Mahoning County Engineer Pat Ginnetti and the First Energy Regional External Affairs Liaison Troy Rhoades.

Chairman Toman began the meeting by introducing the Mahoning County Engineer, Pat Ginnetti. Mr. Ginnetti gave a PowerPoint presentation of his Proposed County Paving Plan that is based on the passage of a ¼% county sales tax increase, which will be voted on this November. The levy for a 5-year sales tax increase would raise approximately 9 million dollars annually, with 4 million to be used by the County for roads, 1 million for County infrastructure and 4 million to be distributed to townships. Ellsworth Township would receive an estimated \$60,000 annually. None of the money generated can be used for wages, salaries, buildings, or equipment. It may only be used for paving. It is estimated that 30% - 35% of the sales taxes collected in Mahoning County are paid by non-County residents. The Mr. Ginnetti's presentation also included 2021 and 2022 paving projects that are not dependent on the increased sales tax revenue. At the end of the presentation, the Board and Mr. Ginnetti answered questions from the audience which mostly pertained to particular Township roads and when they would be paved. The Board thanked Mr. Ginnetti for his presentation.

Chairman Toman then introduced Troy Rhoades from First Energy who notified the Board and the audience that First Energy has begun to reinstate actual meter readings where the pandemic had limited their access. Some residents may be receiving large bills if the many months of estimates were low. He indicated that these residents contact First Energy for payment assistance. The Board thanked Mr. Rhoades for his appearance.

MINUTES: Fiscal Officer James DeCenso presented the minutes from the last regular meeting, which was held August 16, 2021, for approval. No one in attendance requested that the minutes be read. **Motion 2021-82:** Trustee Spellman made a motion to accept the minutes from the last regular meeting. Trustee Houston seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

FISCAL REPORT: Fiscal Officer James DeCenso reported that August's receipts were \$90,082 and expenditures were \$37,847. Receipts included 2<sup>nd</sup> half tax advances of \$70,000. The total gross fund balance as of August 31, 2021, was \$682,773. The Fiscal Officer then presented invoices requesting approval of \$400.00 for annual fire engine pump tests, three cemetery foundation installations of \$1080.00, annual Fire Chief's Association dues of \$100.00, an additional \$157.09 for the Ambulance cooling system repairs that were originally approved in August, printer ink cartridges for Zoning of \$250.93, \$42.56 to reimburse the Fiscal Officer for travel to Canton on Sept 8<sup>th</sup> for an Ohio OBM meeting about ARPA funding and \$9,435.00 to AIM construction for installation of the new windows in the Fire Station. **Motion 2021-83:** Trustee Houston made a motion to approve the \$11,465.58 in expenditures presented. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. Mr. DeCenso then advised the Board that in addition to approving the payment to AIM construction for installing the windows, he would need a motion to approve the original purchase order and encumbrance of those funds. He reminded the Board that the 2020 NOPEC energy grant of \$3,622 was used towards the windows and installation. **Motion 2021-84:** Trustee Houston made a motion to approve the encumbrance of \$9,435.00 for the installation of the Fire Station windows. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. Mr. DeCenso then reported on his attendance of a meeting in Canton regarding the available uses of the American Rescue Plan grants that are being distributed to local governments. Ellsworth's share will be \$221,129 paid over two years. The first installment of \$110,565 Should be received this month. He reported that uses of this federal grant have many restrictions. Under the interim rules, ARPA funds are limited to clean water lines, wastewater, and broadband access use. The grant can be used as matching funds for other grant opportunities. There is also limited use for direct Covid-19 mitigation, but the definition is much stricter than the 2020 Covid-19 grant provided through the State of Ohio. However, it is possible that the final rules will provide the local governments more leniency in uses of these monies. The Township will have until December 31, 2024, to encumber the grant

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## Regular Trustee Meeting September 8, 2021, Continued

money and December 31, 2026, to spend the money. He also reported on other available grants through the state of Ohio for more road and broadband grants. The Fiscal Officer gave an overview of the EMS and Fire Funds through August 31, 2021. The combined funds have increased as EMS service collections and property taxes, have exceeded expenses by \$28,438 through the past eight months. The comparative period in 2020 had an excess of \$43,523. The amount was higher in 2020 as there was more Covid-19 relief monies available to supplement the funds.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** Chief Smith reported that there were 16 calls in July, including 13 EMS calls with 8 transports of which the Township transported 6. He reported that the 911 Center has completed a grant that will issue new radios to all communities that utilize the dispatch center. Also, that a few more communities have joined the Austintown Center and that may assist in lower future costs for all members. He reported that he needed to replenish Oxygen levels and purchase more bottles for the ambulance. He does not yet have a final cost. Chief Smith reported that three department members are now attending fire school. The Board discussed the on-call staffing. The Chief estimated that 90% of the shifts are currently covered. He has begun using a smart phone app for members to schedule their shifts. The Chief reported that there is an inflatable 11' Zodiac boat for sale locally for \$200.00. He indicated that currently the department does not have a water rescue vehicle.

**ROAD and MAINTENANCE:** Mr. Matt Stroney advised the Board that there was one burial in Ellsworth and one in Berlin Twp. where he assisted. He also sold one plot in August. Mr. Stroney advised the Board that he has obtained a quote of \$1,000.00 for tree trimming around the cemetery. The Board had approved \$400.00 in 2021 appropriations from a prior quote, however that vendor is no longer in business. **Motion 2021-85:** Trustee Houston made a motion to approve up to \$1,000.00 for tree trimming in the Cemetery. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. Mr. Stroney then reported on the availability of the sealing machine. The newer model may not be available and if not, he will need to use the older pour and squeegee method. He also received a quote of \$685 from Sure Line for stripping the Road Dept. parking lot after it is sealed. He also reported that Joseph Painting should begin painting the buildings September 20<sup>th</sup>, weather permitting. He would also like to begin to accumulate any surplus items to take to auction. He will work with the Fire Chief to gather unused items.

**ZONING REPORT:** Mr. Sarna reported that he wrote two permits since the last meeting. He wrote a permit for a storage building on Lower Lake Dr. and a deck on Elk Rd. He reported that he filed the approved zoning resolution changing the zoning from agricultural to business on the parcel near the intersection of routes 224 and 45. Mr. Sarna then gave an update on the violation letters sent to 10 property owners in the Township. He discussed some of the responses and extensions that he has granted. He reported that any property owners that do not respond or follow up on their promises will be forwarded to the Mahoning County Prosecutor's office for review. He reported on the two Township properties recently condemned. As soon as the title searches are returned, Atty. Finamore will begin the process to notify the parties of the actions taken by the Board. This will then begin the appeals process, if requested by the owners. The Fiscal Officer identified that the state of Ohio is funding a grant program that will provide money to local governments for demolition of condemned properties. Trustee Spellman indicated that the Mahoning County Land Bank may also have funding available for demolition of condemned properties.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Trustee Spellman is working on the Land Bank funding matter and working with the Mahoning County Commissioners and Engineer to secure funding to expand an existing sewer line north on Rt 45 to the Fire Station.

Trustee Houston discussed the Township's website and that only those valid non-commercial requests to add information or "links" to the website will be considered.

Chairman Toman reported on Crime Watch. He reported on the Canfield Fair display and that he had received positive feedback from many residents. He indicated his pleasure with the large attendance at tonight's meeting to hear Mr. Ginnetti's presentation.

### OLD BUSINESS:

There was no new business.

### NEW BUSINESS:

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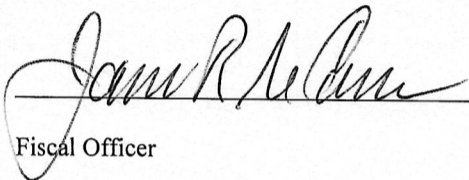
Held \_\_\_\_\_ 20 \_\_\_\_\_

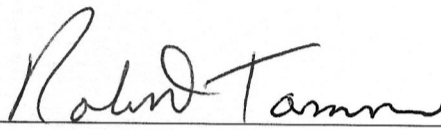
## Regular Trustee Meeting September 8, 2021, Continued

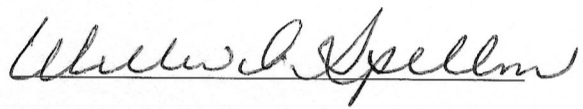
The next meeting will be held Wednesday, October 13, 2021, at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall.

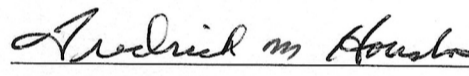
At the request of Mr. Stroney, the Board reviewed the current pay rates paid to seasonal workers hired through the Callos Temp Agency. The Board discussed that they had erroneously neglected to increase the hourly wage of Ellen Borchers earlier in the year. Due to her experience and reliability, she should have a wage comparable to Mr. Moracco. **Motion 2021-86:** Trustee Spellman made a motion to increase the net pay of Ellen Borchers to \$11.60 per hour. This result will be an increase in costs from The Callos Company from \$13.55 per hour to \$15.71 per hour. The change is to take effect at the next available pay period. Trustee Houston seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

At 9:43 pm, with no further business to discuss, **Motion 2021-87:** 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