

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

June 9, 2021

Chairman Robert Toman called the June 9th 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 May 12, 2021, for approval. No one in attendance requested that the minutes be read. **Motion 2021-47:** 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 May's receipts were \$24,418 and expenditures were \$38,120. Receipts included \$16,701 from the State of Ohio to reimburse the Township, for Property Tax Credits. He noted that another \$12,000 in gasoline tax revenue that would have been credited in May was received late and will be in June's revenues. The total gross fund balance as of May 31, 2021, was \$642,166. The Fiscal Officer then presented invoices for approval of \$3,000.00 from Austintown Township for Jan-June 2021 911 dispatch services, \$15,601.00 from OTARMA for June 2021–May 2022 Property and Liability Insurance, and \$402.20 from the Warren Tribune for two (2) ZBA Hearings - legal notices. **Motion 2021-48:** Trustee Spellman made a motion to approve the \$19,003.20 in expenditures presented. Trustee Houston seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. Mr. DeCenso then reviewed the EMS and Fire Fund revenues and expenses for Jan through May. The EMS fund has run at a \$13,058 deficit while the Fire Fund has gained a surplus of \$21,571 for a combined surplus of \$8,513 through the first five months of the year. He reminded the Board that the remaining balance in 2021, of CARES Act monies of \$15,820 used, raised the total surplus to \$24,333.

ROAD and MAINTENANCE: Mr. Matt Stroney advised the Board that there was one burial in Ellsworth in May and that he had sold another Niche. He suggested that the Board consider purchasing the final sections of piping for the back pond. He related that product is scarce and prices are rising. Current pricing for two 20' sections is \$913.20 each. Mr. Stroney also indicated that the new mower appropriated for 2021, could be ready for pickup. Pricing and scarcity are also an issue for the mower. He reported on the Township clean-up program. Eight containers, three roll-offs and one trailer of scrap have already been removed. The Board then discussed the pipe issue. **Motion 2021-49:** Trustee Houston made a motion to approve up to \$2,000.00 for the pipe. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. The Board discussed purchasing the mower now as they are becoming very scarce. **Motion 2021-50:** Trustee Houston made a motion to approve \$10,399.00 for a new Exmark 60" rear-discharge mower from Hilltop Lawn and Garden. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. The Board and Mr. Stroney thanked the staff and students at MCCTC for the clean-up banners.

ZONING REPORT: Mr. Sarna reported that he wrote two permits since last meeting: for a carport at a home on Palmyra Rd and a deck addition to a home on Berlin Station Rd. The BZA held a hearing on May 10th regarding an accessory building to be added to a Diehl Rd. property 15' closer to the road than the home. The variance was granted by the BZA. He reported on a June 9th Zoning Commission hearing for a requested zone change from agriculture to business to parcel #23-050-S-023.00-0 on W. Akron Canfield Rd. The Zoning Commission and the Mahoning County Planning Commission recommended approval of the change. The matter must now go before the Trustees for a public hearing and final decision. Mr. Sarna discussed numerous complaints regarding parcel #24-011-0-025.00-0 which has no plumbing or electric. The property is split between Jackson and Ellsworth townships. He advised the board that he has sent numerous letters to various Township property owners regarding excessive debris, junk, and inoperable vehicles. His letters advised the property owners to make use of the Township's clean-up program and that the matters can be referred to the Mahoning County Prosecutor's office if not abated by June 26th. Mr. Sarna then discussed the need to have the Board review and create a policy for zoning complaints. He receives numerous phone calls, but only a few citizens are willing to file a written complaint.

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Regular Trustee Meeting June 9, 2021, Continued

Chairman Toman then recognized Sean Giblin, the Zoning Commission Chairperson who expressed his concern regarding numerous complaints that the Zoning Inspector and the Commission receive on various zoning violations. He reported that residents have complained that the violation abatements are not enforced by the Commission nor the Board. Some residents in the audience concurred. Chairman Toman responded that a new resolution passed last year by the Board can provide some enforcement powers to the Township. He felt that the Board may require action to get some of these matters resolved. Trustee Spellman indicated that the Board and Zoning Commission need to have contingency plans prior to any enforcement attempts. He referred to ORC 660 and the limited powers granted to a township by the Ohio legislature. Trustee Houston re-iterated the need to review all the options and potential legal issues prior to pursuing any enforcement actions. The Board discussed the 2020 resolution and information received from Atty. Finamore regarding the process required to enforce zoning regulations.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Chief Smith reported that there were 41 calls in May, including 24 EMS calls with twelve transports of which the Township transported eight. He reported that he is setting up hose testing dates for the department. He announced that Dustin Rogers passed his Advanced EMT, and Abigail Schors passed her 36-hour firefighter course. He requested \$483.48 for EMS supplies. Chief Smith recognized Matt Stroney and Jillian Smith for their actions and quick thinking that made a difference in responding to a recent accident victim.

Motion 2021-51: Trustee Houston made a motion to approve the \$483.48 for EMS medical supplies. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Trustee Spellman updated the Board on a proposed one-quarter percent sales tax increase to be considered by the Mahoning County Commissioners at their June 10th meeting. If approved, it would most likely be on the ballot this fall. Approval of the increase would fund county wide infrastructure improvements with half of the sales tax collections distributed to townships based on road mileage and population. It is estimated that \$8,000,000 would be collected county wide by the sales tax increase.

Motion 2021-52: Trustee Houston made a motion to create a resolution to support Richard Allison and to express the Board's appreciation for all the support and work provided by Allison Brothers to the Township. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Fiscal Officer requested that the Board amend motion 2021-42, dated May 12, 2021, to change the hire to Bruce Wehr at a rate of \$11.00 per hour plus Callos fees. **Motion 2021-53:** Trustee Houston made a motion to hire Bruce Wehr at a rate of \$11.00 per hour plus the Callos fee effective May 25, 2021. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion 2021-54: Trustee Houston made a motion to hold a public hearing on July 14, 2021, at 6:00 pm at the Town Hall to consider the proposed zoning change of parcel #23-050-S-023.00-0 on W. Akron Canfield Rd from agriculture to business. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. The hearing is being held one hour prior to the regular meeting of the Board.

Chief Smith then presented an application from Caleb Quinn to join the Fire Department. **Motion 2021-55:** Trustee Houston made a motion to add Caleb Quinn as a Firefighter 1 to the Ellsworth Fire Department, effective immediately. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

The next meeting will be held July 14, 2021, at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall.

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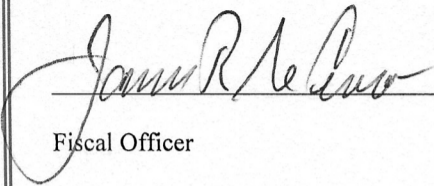
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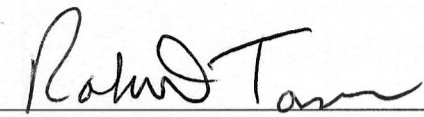
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Regular Trustee Meeting June 9, 2021, Continued

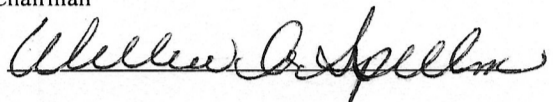
At 8:35 pm, with no further business to discuss, Trustee Spellman made a motion to adjourn. Trustee Houston seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.



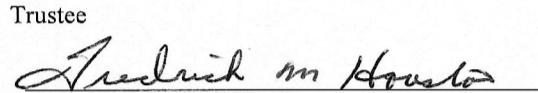
Fiscal Officer



Chairman



Trustee



Trustee