

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

November 8, 2023

Chairman Fredrick Houston called the November 8, 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 Maintenance Supervisor Tom Hoffman, and Fire Chief Edward Smith. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

MINUTES: Fiscal Officer DeCenso presented the minutes from the last Regular meeting which was held October 8, 2023. No one in attendance requested that the minutes be read. **Motion 2023-113:** 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 October's receipts were \$57,969 and expenditures were \$67,798. Receipts included \$21,781 from the State of Ohio for property tax rollback reimbursements, \$12,346 in EMS collections, and \$4,733 (5.65%) in bank interest. Expenditures included \$13,365 for the new Baseball Field fence, which was paid with ARPA funding. The Fiscal Officer then reviewed the Fund balances. The total gross fund balances as of October 31, 2023, was \$991,331 including \$37,548 in unspent ARPA funds; \$516,856 in Fire/EMS Operations and Equipment funds and \$343,992 in Road funds. The General Fund balance is \$77,880 (including Cemetery and Zoning funds). The Fiscal Officer then presented invoices for approval, including \$328.15 to Atty. Finamore, \$42.00 to Advanced Printing and \$1,868.40 to Ron Zielinski for three foundations. **Motion 2023-114:** Trustee Spellman then made a motion to approve the \$2,238.55 requested by the Fiscal Officer. Trustee Toman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. The Fiscal Officer then reminded the Board that the Township had yet to select a project that would qualify for NOPEC's 2023 Energized Community Grant of \$3,656. The Board and Mr. Hoffman discussed a few projects, and then decided that the replacement of the front glass doors to the Fire Hall would have the most energy saving results. Earlier estimates obtained were between \$4,500 and \$6,000. After discussion, it was determined to select the doors as the project, but to review the specifications and obtain new bids for review. **Motion 2023-115:** Trustee Toman then made a motion to use the NOPEC 2023 Energy Grant towards the eventual replacement of the Fire Hall front glass doors. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. The Fiscal Officer then distributed the Fire/EMS funds analysis through October 2023. Some highlights reported included billing receipts of \$64,829 YTD, versus \$38,202 collected through October 2022. Mr. DeCenso then reviewed the OTARMA risk assessment report as a result of the September 27th audit. He listed a few items including the documentation of employee personal driving records and some mitigating safety items at the playground. He will forward copies of the report to the Board, Mr. Hoffman, and Chief Smith. Trustee Spellman asked about the 2024 budget. A public workshop will be scheduled for January.

ROAD and MAINTENANCE: He reported that he had assisted Berlin with a burial and that Berlin had assisted with a disinterment at Ellsworth Cemetery. He requested that an Ash tree on the east side of the cemetery be removed as its growth may eventually destroy some headstones. The Board agreed to review. Mr. Hoffman reported that the fume extractor hose was received, but the disconnect cable sent was wrong and he will need to order the correct cable. He reported that the Fire Hall carpets were cleaned by Steam Action prior to election day and that he was pleased with the results. All of the Ballard covers are on and caulked. Two new keyless entry knobs were installed at the Fire Station in the bunk room area. He reported that the parking lot light was replaced, gratis by Matt Leon from Tri-Area Electric. The roads have all been crack sealed. He also reported that the Christmas Tree will be delivered to the Church on Friday and that the Lighting ceremony will be held on Saturday, December 2nd at 6:00 pm. As requested, additional quotes for snow removal were obtained. The Board reviewed the quotes, and it appears that the pricing was similar or exceeded the current Agreement. The Board decided not to take any action. The current contract remains in effect until terminated by either party.

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Regular Trustee Meeting November 8, 2023, Continued

ZONING REPORT: Mr. Sarna reported that he wrote four Zoning permits since the last meeting for a single-family dwelling on Campfire Circle; a detached garage on Diehl Lake Dr; a detached garage on Berlin Station Rd; and a detached garage on Gault Rd. He reported again that he is still waiting for an update from Atty Finamore regarding the notice to demolish the building at 10610 W. Akron Canfield Rd. Mr. Sarna's report then went on to review five other zoning complaints within the Township. The Board suggested that the Township cite the Country Pantry for their refusal to fix the retaining wall on the north end of their property. Chief Smith also reported that the storage buildings for sale, at the northwest corner of Rt 224 and Rt 45 are not 50 ft back from the roadway and are obstructing the view of emergency personnel as they enter that intersection. Trustee Spellman indicated that he would contact the State regarding the necessary right-of-way established for that property. Mr. Sarna then reported that he had been contacted regarding a 40-acre solar project. He advised the caller that they would need to submit a site plan, but he has not yet received any follow up. The Board then discussed the need to hold a public hearing on potential solar projects in the Township. The Zoning Commission will add that to their December meeting.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Chief Edward Smith reported that there were 52 emergency calls in the Township in September of which 29 were EMS related. There were 19 transports during the month that were all provided by Ellsworth. The Chief discussed adding monthly stipend pays to senior officers in the 2024 budget. Chief Smith then presented invoices of \$1,331.26 for EMS supplies from Bound Tree and Eastern Medical, \$150.00 to have the Medic 45 pulled from the side of a driveway, \$720.00 to D&T to repair the alternator on Tanker 46, \$442.56 to Myers for oil changes to both Ambulances, and \$102.30 to R&R Mack for exhaust repairs on Engine 45. He discussed purchasing accountability tags for the Department members. The older tags have the members names engraved, and the County is moving to a numbering system. A quote for 76 tags is \$1,149.15 including shipping. Chief Smith and the Board discussed the need to bill neighboring townships when a Department Medic or EMT joins their department ambulance for patient transports. The transporting township does the billing and collections. Chief Smith suggested the fee for a Medic be \$250.00 and an EMT is \$100.00. **Motion 2023-116:** Trustee Toman then made a motion, effective immediately to approve charges to any ambulance district of \$250.00 for a Medic and \$100.00 for an EMT to join their ambulance crew for a patient transport, when the billing is done by the other district. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. Chief Smith will write a letter to adjoining townships advising them of the new charge. **Motion 2023-117:** Trustee Toman then made a motion to approve the \$3,895.27, including the accountability tags, as requested by the Fire Chief. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. Chief Smith then distributed intradepartmental statistics identifying mutual aid between the Township Department and surrounding departments. Chief Smith then presented an application from Olivia Hunter as a junior firefighter. **Motion 2023-118:** Trustee Toman then made a motion to approve Olivia Hunter as a junior firefighter. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Trustee Spellman reported that there were no updates on the Diehl Lake sewage system and requested tie-ins by some residents on Berlin Station Rd.

Trustee Toman discussed the need for the Township to move towards some type of solar project zoning recommendations. He stressed that a public meeting be scheduled soon by the Zoning Commission. Angela Javorsky, secretary of the Ellsworth Zoning Commission, reported that Jackson township zoning commission recently met and voted to recommend to their Trustees to prohibit solar projects in their township. Their Trustees will then schedule a public hearing before deciding. Trustee Toman then reported that the Brush truck eBay auction will begin soon.

OLD BUSINESS:

Trustee Houston reported to the audience that the Township has agreed to purchase the house and property at 10774 W Akron Canfield Rd as part of a potential Road Department storage location. There are two parcels and includes approximately 12 acres. This property is the adjacent property to the west of Ellsworth Cemetery. The property was first approved by the Board, while in Executive Session back in 2017, from the Federal Housing

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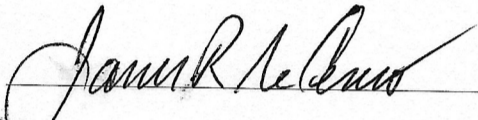
Regular Trustee Meeting November 8, 2023, Continued

Authority. At that time, the previous owner filed a lawsuit to attempt to stop the sale by the FHA. Earlier this year (2023), the Court finally dismissed the lawsuit and an appeal to make the property once again available for sale. The Township Fiscal Officer was given authority at the September 13th meeting (Motion 2023-103), to offer up to \$85,000.00 for the property. The FHA did finally agree to the \$85,000.00 offer. The closing date will be confirmed later.

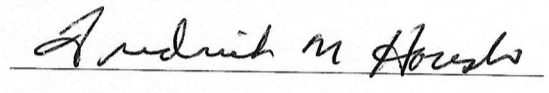
NEW BUSINESS:

The next regular meeting will be Wednesday December 13, 2023, at 7:00 pm.

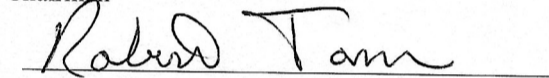
With no further business, at 9:10 pm, **Motion 2023-119:** Trustee Toman made a motion to adjourn. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.



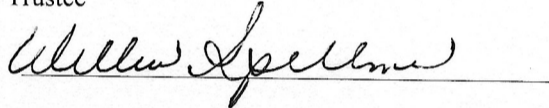
Fiscal Officer



Chairman



Trustee



Trustee