

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

Meeting

BEAR GRAPHICS 800-325-8094 FORM NO. 10148

Held

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MINUTES OF ELLSWORTH TWP BOARD OF TRUSTEE'S

REGULAR MEETING

August 9, 2023

Chairman Fredrick Houston called the August 9, 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 and 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 July 12, 2023. No one in attendance requested that the minutes be read. **Motion 2023-87:** 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 July's receipts were \$97,714 and expenditures were \$94,660. Receipts included \$72,000 in property tax collection advances. The expenditures included the new tires for Fire Trucks of \$11,690 and the OTARMA Ins. payment of \$15,908. The Fiscal Officer then reviewed the Fund balances. The total gross fund balance as of July 30, 2023, was \$860,851, including \$50,913 in unspent ARPA funds; \$424,252 in Fire/EMS Operations and Equipment funds and \$320,747 in Road funds. The General Fund balance is \$50,315 (including Cemetery and Zoning funds). The Fiscal Officer then presented invoices for approval, including a \$335.07 to Professional Engine for generator maintenance and \$250.00 to Advanced Marking for 20 Zoning books. **Motion 2023-88:** Trustee Toman made a motion to approve the \$585.07 in invoices as presented by the Fiscal Officer. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. The Fiscal Officer then reported that the 2023 OTARMA distribution would be \$503.90. He continued by reviewing a list of open purchase orders and projects. As part of the 2024 Budget process, he requested that the report be reviewed and requested follow-up by August 31st on any projects that could be cancelled. Mr. DeCenso then reviewed the 2024 estimated Property Tax collections as approved by the County Budget Commission. The rate estimates require a resolution to accept. **Motion 2023-89:** Trustee Spellman made a motion to accept the 2024 amounts and rates as determined by the County Budget Commission and authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the County Auditor. Trustee Toman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. Mr. DeCenso then notified the Board that the Zoning Commission has requested to hold their monthly meetings at the Town Hall, rather than the Fire Hall. The Board did not have any objections.

ROAD and MAINTENANCE: Mr. Hoffman reported that he has reset four more headstones in Ellsworth Cemetery. He has also begun to cut back the trees on the northwest end. The front bricks and sidewalks of the Fire Station were cleaned and sealed. He reported on the generator maintenance. Fuel was added and donated by Paul Lyden. The Board acknowledged his generosity. Mr. Hoffman reported that he replaced the seal plate on the Post Office door. The Board and Mr. Hoffman then discussed ballfield fencing. Mr. Hoffman reported that there have been some price increases since these were quoted last spring. The most recent quotes from Austintown Fence and Esterlee were reviewed. It was suggested that another quote be obtained from Youngstown Fence. Mr. Hoffman indicated that the costs could be reduced by having his crew do all of the demolition. After further discussion, it was determined to proceed with the project this fall. The Board discussed allocating funds at this time. **Motion 2023-90:** Trustee Toman made a motion to approve up to \$14,000 from ARPA Funds, for new fencing of the ballfield and to appoint Chairman Houston to review the project quotes and authorize him to select the contractor along with Mr. Hoffman. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. Mr. Hoffman then indicated that the crack sealing will begin in September.

ZONING REPORT: Mr. Wayne Sarna advised the Board that he wrote one Zoning permit since the last meeting for a deck on Palmyra Rd. He then reported that he had spoken to Atty Finamore regarding the title search on the previously condemned building at 10610 Akron Canfield Rd. Atty Finamore will have the results of the title search and is preparing the necessary resolution for the Trustees to hold a hearing, if requested by the owner(s). Atty Finamore also indicated that he is in contact with Judy McCourt regarding the repayment of the demolition costs associated with her Elk Road property. Mr. Sarna then reported on seven other properties that he is

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reviewing for recent violations. He advised the Board that the goat farm property owner at 12525 W Akron Canfield Rd is scheduled for a Court Hearing in August and that he may be subpoenaed to testify.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Chief Smith reported that there were 42 emergency calls in the Township in July of which 22 were EMS related. There were 12 transports during the month that were all provided by Ellsworth. The Chief then presented invoices of \$240.00 from the Ohio Fire Chief's Association for membership and symposium attendance next spring, an invoice from D&T Truck Repair for \$361.64 to repair an air valve in the seat on Engine 400 and \$252.47 to replace batteries in the Theral Imaging Camera and is requesting \$1,100 to purchase 50 bags to store the SCBA masks for protection from dirt and debris. **Motion 2023-91:** Trustee Toman then made a motion to approve the \$1,154.11 as requested. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. Chief Smith reported that Firefighters Stubbs, Williams, and Gibbs have all completed their fire officer classes. The Chief advised the Board that he is still working with Ohio BWC for an additional power cot. Also in process, with the Fiscal Officer is the grant application for The Ohio Ambulance Transportation Program. The Chief discussed the FEMA grant to upgrade area pagers. The Township's share for 30 pagers and 17 microphones will be \$1,501.98. The Fiscal Officer reminded the Board that up to \$3,000 was approved in February 2023 (Motion 2023-27), along with the grant acceptance (Motion 2023-28). **Motion 2023-92:** Trustee Toman made a motion to amend Motion 2023-28 to include the Township's share of the grant amount of \$34,135.50. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. Jackson Twp is the grant host and will bill the Township for reimbursement once the equipment is received. Chairman Houston read a Fire Department resignation letter from Thomas Toporcer. The Board and Chief Smith discussed the amount of Fire calls to Jackson, Berlin, and Craig Beach. The Chief indicated that the Department is responding to the second alarms.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Trustee Spellman reported on the Land Bank and monies available for brownfield remediation. He had contacted Guttman Oil to attempt to get them to apply, but they seemed uninterested. He also discussed sponsoring a community social event with music. He reminded the audience of a VFW Auxiliary Breakfast to be held from 8-10 on Saturday August 12th.

Trustee Toman provided a current crime report and indicated that the Sheriff is providing these reports a bit quicker than before. He also reported on the design work with the County Engineer who has worked up plans to mediate the drainage issue on Elk Rd. Two plans have been submitted from the Engineer for review. Plan A would cost the Township \$118,848 and Plan B would cost approximately \$92,000. Another plan would be to dig open ditches in front of each residence. The Board suggested that the affected residents be invited to the next Trustee meeting on September 13th to discuss the options. Either plan would be eligible to be reimbursed from the 0.25% County Sales Tax fund.

Trustee Houston discussed that Paul Lyden provided information to him about erecting a fuel tank for Township use. Fuel usage would be controlled with fobs on each vehicle and would be available 24 hours per day. After discussion between the Board and Chief Smith, the matter lacked interest to pursue.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS:

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

With no further business, at 8:50 pm, **Motion 2023-93:** Trustee Toman made a motion to adjourn. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

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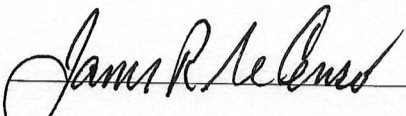
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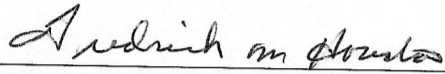
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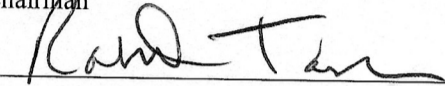
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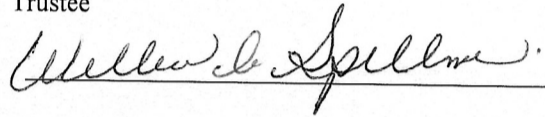
Fiscal Officer



Chairman



Trustee



Trustee