

# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

Meeting

BEAR GRAPHICS 800-325-8094 FORM NO. 10148

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

## MINUTES OF ELLSWORTH TWP BOARD OF TRUSTEE'S

### SPECIAL MEETING

June 14, 2017

Chairman Fredrick Houston called the June 14, 2017 special meeting of the Ellsworth Trustees to order at 6:00 pm. A roll call was taken to establish a quorum: Trustee Robert Toman - present, Vice Chairman William Spellman absent, Chairman Fredrick Houston – present. Also present were, Fiscal Officer James DeCenso, Zoning Inspector Wayne Sarna, Maintenance Supervisor Matt Stroney, Fire Chief Robert Sternburg, Asst. Chief Brian O'Neil. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Chairman Houston explained that the special meeting was called to review and discuss the needs of the Township's Fire and EMS Services. Trustee Spellman asked the Chairman to hold the meeting in a workshop format, which allows for give and take discussion with the audience. Chairman Houston agreed.

The Chairman then asked Chief Sternburg of the department's recent review of ambulances. The Chief responded with descriptions of new vehicles visually inspected from LifeLine and from Myers Equipment. The vehicle from Myers has been purchased by Canfield but was available for inspection. Others reviewed on-line were from Braun and Medix. The larger "box" construction allows for medical personnel to stand erect in the ambulance while attending to a patient.

Trustee Spellman then asked the Chief to review the overall needs of the Department to include the EMS and Fire. The Chief distributed a worksheet that detailed the number of calls by the departments for the first five months of the year. He discussed how much monies have been collected by EMS and described the average fee received by transport. He reported that the costs that Township residents have paid would have been higher if provided by a commercial ambulance company.

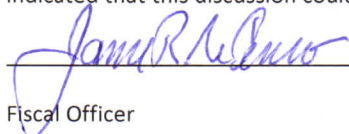
The Board then heard questions and comments from the audience that were answered by Chief Sternburg and Chief O'Neil. Questions arose as to how the Department defines "Soft Billing". Chief O'Neil described that a Township resident is not responsible for any amounts determined payable by insurance if it exceeds their deductible. Any amounts due from non-met deductibles are still payable from Township residents as required by law. Out of Township residents are required to pay the full amount.

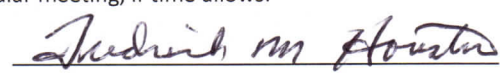
Discussion then went back to vehicle costs. A new ambulance may cost upwards of \$200,000. Demos are available for 10%-15% less or contain more equipment options that are not included in the price. The current ambulance is eleven years old and newer models have advanced efficiencies. The Township's EMS is the primary responder within the Township. Lane Ambulance is back up to the Township. Other entities, such as Canfield and Berlin may also provide mutual aid as needed.

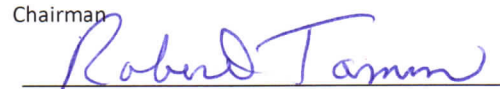
Chairman Houston then asked the Fiscal Officer to review the levy process and possible revenues raised. Mr. DeCenso advised that Ohio no longer reimburses local entities for the 10% non-business and 2.5% owner occupied rollback credits, as those credits are no longer available on new or replacement levies since 2014. The Township would loose the current State monies and increase the taxpayers' portion for those credits if existing levies were replaced. He suggested leaving the current fire apparatus levy as is and any needs for additional funding be raised with a new levy. To get a levy on the ballot, the trustees would first need to first pass a "Resolution of Need" that identifies the amount of funds required. The county auditor then certifies that amount. After certification, the Board is required to pass a "Resolution to Proceed", which is then delivered to the Board of Elections ninety (90) days prior to an election date. A special election is also an option, however the Township would bear the total expense of any special election. Mr. DeCenso then shared a spreadsheet that calculates the potential collectable tax based on current Township taxable property valuations with a variety of levy millage amounts.

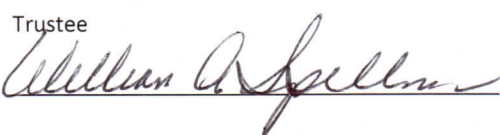
Discussion continued with the pros and cons of used versus new vehicles. Safety issues and efficiencies of newer ambulances were reviewed. Chiefs Sternburg and O'Neil reviewed their explorations of different vintage vehicles and felt that the newer vehicles would provide the best services for the residents of the Township.

At 7:05 PM, Chairman Houston closed the special meeting and proceeded to direct the Board to the regular meeting. He indicated that this discussion could continue at the end of the regular meeting, if time allows.

  
Fiscal Officer

  
Chairman



Trustee  


Trustee