

# 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 9, 2020

Chairman Fredrick Houston called the September 9th 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 Matt Stroney, Zoning Commission Chairman Sean Giblin, Zoning Board of Appeals Chairman Jim Tripp, and Fire Chief Ted Smith. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

MINUTES: Fiscal Officer DeCenso presented the minutes from the last regular meeting held August 12, 2020. No one in attendance requested that the minutes be read. Trustee Toman made a motion to accept the meeting minutes. Trustee Houston seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

Chairman Houston recognized Troy Rhoades from First Energy. Mr. Rhoades advised the Board of the steps taken by First Energy to assure quick response to power outages caused by weather or other events. He also wanted to announce that non-payment disconnects will begin again soon. These disconnects for non-payment were temporarily delayed dues to the Covid-19 pandemic. He urged all citizens who are having difficulty in paying their utility bills to reach out to any of the many local agencies that can help, such as HEAP.

FISCAL REPORT: Fiscal Officer James DeCenso reported that August's receipts were \$86,812 and expenditures were \$98,084. Included in August's receipts was \$52,000 in property tax advances and \$12,529 in insurance proceeds for the Town Hall roof repair due to the April 8<sup>th</sup> wind damages. Expenditures included the ODOT SIB loan payoff of \$51,566. Total receipts through the first eight months of 2020 were \$417,002 and total expenditures were \$458,185. Excluding the BWC grant purchases and the additional payments to ODOT SIB in 2020, normal-operational expenditures were \$326,808. The total gross fund balance as of August 31, 2020 was \$570,847. The outstanding loan to ODOT is now zero. The General Fund contingency balance is \$-0-. He then presented for approval an invoice previously paid via VISA of \$397.90 from LED Outfitters for a light bar on the dump truck. Also presented for approval was \$566.30 that was added to last month's approval of \$51,000 (Motion 2020-74) to pay off the ODOT SIB loan; \$59.85 cost overrun on July's approval of Fire Truck Hose Fittings (Motion 2020-60); and to pay Robert Stukshis \$285 for his work on the Road Crack Sealing. **Motion 2020-77** Trustee Toman made a motion to approve the \$1,309.05 requested. Trustee Toman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. The Fiscal Officer advised the Board that a second round of Ohio Coronavirus Relief in the amount of \$2,531 was received in September. This raises the total amount received to \$7,597 from the Federal CARES Act funding. He then advised the Board that the 36-month lease for the new LifePak has begun at \$1,117.26 per month and that he will set it up as an auto pay from the EMS Fund. Mr. DeCenso then introduced the 2021 County Rate Resolution as received from the County Budget Commission. The Commission projects that 2021 Property Tax Collections will total \$243,850 on 60.9 million dollars of taxable property values in the Township. **Motion 2020-78** Trustee Spellman made a motion to approve the 2021 proposed County Rate Resolution. Trustee Toman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. The Fiscal Officer then reminded the Board that the 2020 NOPEC grant of \$3,622 must be applied for by October 31<sup>st</sup>. He advised the Board that 2020-2021 winter season salt expense will be \$80.85/ton from Arms Trucking. Mr. DeCenso then advised the Board that he had just received the preliminary 2018-2019 audit report and will give a review at the October meeting.

ROAD and MAINTENANCE: Mr. Matt Stroney reported that there was one burial last month. He reported that the new Cemetery Sign has been erected on Rt 224. He reported that Crack Sealing has been completed on the Township Roads, the cemetery, the Town Hall, and the Old School area. Also, the pavement areas have been repaired by Everbrite and Seal coating is about 80% complete. He has received a quote to repair the parking lot around the recycle bins. He proposed a cement pad to accommodate the heavy trucks that remove the recycle bins. The Board and the Fiscal Officer discussed the use of the Recycle Fund to replace the asphalt with a cement base. Mr. Stroney had received a quote of \$14,224 from Elliot Construction to excavate a 34' x 43' area to accept 8" of concrete with a 4" base. The Board discussed the options to repair the pavement and the future of recycling in the Township. **Motion 2020-79** Trustee Toman made a motion to approve the \$14,224.00

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## Regular Trustee Meeting September 9, 2020 Continued

expenditure as quoted from Ellis Construction and to pay from the Recycling Fund. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. The Board thanked Mr. Stroney for his diligence in both the Crack Sealing and Pavement Sealing projects.

ZONING REPORT: Mr. Wayne Sarna reported that four permits were issued since the last meeting. He had issued permits for a storage building for Youngstown Bridge on Akron Canfield Rd.; an accessory structure and porch on Leffingwell Rd; a shed with a porch to a residence on Diehl Rd. and a pole building on S Salem Warren Rd. Mr. Sarna advised the Board that he met with Atty Finamore and provided to him all the public records that were requested by the appellant of the Site Plan denial for the former Coal Tipple property on S Salem Warren Rd. Mr. Sarna then advised the Board that he went to inspect the property at 11535 W. Akron Canfield Rd for Zoning violations and was told by the owners that their legal counsel had advised them not to let him into the house. The Board discussed the possible health and fire hazards at the property and Mr. Sarna indicated that he will contact the Mahoning County Prosecutor's office for further advice. Mr. Sarna advised the Board that the shooting range at 14050 Bailey Rd has ceased as the business owner has moved the range to another location outside the Township. He advised the Board that he will reinspect property on Berlin Station Rd for excessive debris. Also, that he has sent a letter to a property owner on Elias Lloyd Rd for adding on to an accessory structure without a permit. Mr. Sarna advised the Board that the guardian of the owner of the property at 11971 Palmyra Rd had applied to the Court to sell the property, however the owner has died. It will now be up to the executor of her estate or the Probate court to decide the future of the property. He advised the Board that he had sent a letter to the owner of the property at 7015 State Rt 45 to request the owner's intentions and to gain entry into the house. Mr. Sarna and the Board then discussed the Transient Vendor policy that was adopted at last month's meeting. Mr. Sarna advised the Board that a recent change in Ohio Revised code has changed certain applications of the policy which is forcing other townships to rescind their policies. **Motion 2020-80** Trustee Toman made a motion to rescind immediately the Transient Vendor policy that was adopted as Motion 2020-70 at the August Board meeting. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. Mr. Sarna will contact the Mahoning County Prosecutor's office for advice on a revised policy. Mr. Giblin requested from the Board that the Zoning Commission be advised of any potential transient policy before the Board enacts any new resolutions. He also reminded the Trustees that the Commission may need another alternate.

Chairman Houston then recognized Jim Tripp who advised the Board that the upcoming Appeals Board meeting may require to hold their next meeting in a larger room than the Fire or Town Hall can accommodate. The Board discussed the possibility to rent the VFW hall. **Motion 2020-81** Trustee Toman made a motion to authorize the ZBA Chairman to arrange rental of the VFW hall for up to \$75.00 and as needed. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Chief Edward Smith reported that there were 18 calls in August, including 15 EMS calls with 13 transports of which the Township transported 11 patients. He also reported that the Department provided mutual aid seven times to surrounding communities. He reported that the Hose testing has been completed and no significant issues were found. The Chief reviewed with the Board two new firefighter applicants, Hannah Koran, and Brandon Smith. Chief Smith advised the Board that, in August, the department trained on SCBA and the new LifePak 15. The Chief and Board then discussed using Ohio Coronavirus Relief Funding to purchase a Lucas Chest Compression device to reduce the risk of Covid-19 spreading from a positive cardiac patient. The quote from Stryker is \$14,655 including a four-year maintenance contract of \$4,774 and the trade-in of the old LifePak 12 of \$5,000. The Fiscal Officer then explained a response that he solicited from the Ohio OMB who is overseeing the Ohio CRF. The email response indicated that the Lucas device should be an allowable item covered with CARES Act funds. The Board discussed using the \$7,597 from CARES Act, \$1,942 from previously donated funds and the \$5,116 from other sources. The Board and the Chief discussed the ability for Stryker to charge the maintenance monthly, instead of a four-year prepaid plan. Chief Smith will investigate this possibility. Chief Smith and the Board also discussed the need to begin replacing firefighter gear, and any other large capital purchases, which would have an impact on the One-Mill Apparatus Fund. **Motion 2020-82** Trustee

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## Regular Trustee Meeting September 9, 2020 Continued

Toman made a motion to authorize the purchase of a Stryker Lucas Chest Compression System with a four-year maintenance plan for \$14,655, which includes the trade in of the old LifePak 12; using available CARES Act funding first and supplement with available EMS donated funds and One-Mill Apparatus Funds. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. **Motion 2020-83** Trustee Toman made a motion to approve adding Hannah Koran and Brandon Smith as probationary Firefighter/EMS staff to the Ellsworth Fire Department. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. The Board, Chief Smith and Assistant Chief Blosser discussed the need to purchase five sets of firefighter gear. Multiple vendors had been reviewed by Chief Blosser and he felt that Lion and Globe Gear Co. quoted the best gear for the best value. **Motion 2020-84** Trustee Spellman made a motion to approve purchasing five sets of firefighter gear at \$3,000 per set, for a total of \$15,000 from the One-Mill Fund. Trustee Toman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. Chief Smith then reviewed department statistics, including the reduction of emergency response time.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Trustee Spellman identified an upcoming MCTA virtual meeting where Ryan Tekac from the Mahoning County Health Dept will speak.

Trustee Toman reviewed recent crime activities which included some car and garage break-ins. Also, that the perpetrators of some recent mailbox vandalism, have been apprehended.

Trustee Houston reviewed on how the Township has saved over \$5,000 by using in-house labor to crack seal the roads and parking lots.

### OLD BUSINESS:

No old business.

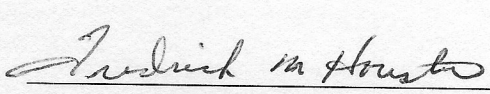
### NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Houston raised the question of having trick-or-trunk and/or Halloween events this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The Board agreed that no inside activities could be held, but other safe outdoor events would be explored.

The next meeting will be held at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, October 14, 2020 at the Fire Hall.

At 9:10 pm, Trustee Spellman made a motion to adjourn. Trustee Toman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

  
Fiscal Officer

  
Chairman

  
Trustee

  
Trustee