

# 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

May 8, 2024

Chairman Robert Toman called the May 8, 2024, 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 Assistant Fire Chief Zach Williams, and Zoning Inspector Wayne Sarna. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

MINUTES: Fiscal Officer James DeCenso presented the minutes from the last Regular meeting, which was held April 10, 2024. No one in attendance requested that the minutes be read. **Motion 2024-57:** Trustee Houston made a motion to accept the minutes from the last regular meeting. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Assistant Chief Zach Williams reported that there were 52 emergency calls in the Township in April of which 26 were EMS related. There were 15 transports during the month that were all provided by Ellsworth. Chief Williams congratulated Lilly May for completing her Fire Fighter I class and credentialing. He presented invoices for \$5,400 for the annual TimeClock Plus software fee, \$584.84 to Bound Tree for EMS supplies, \$150.00 assessment from the Ohio Firefighters Dependency Fund, \$147.20 to Eastern Medical for Oxygen and an additional \$379.29 added to BC 4-2024 (approved \$200.00 on 1/6/24) for Firefighter Tee Shirts. Chief Williams then presented an invoice from AlaCart Catering for \$550.00 to cover the Mahoning County Fire Chiefs dinner, sponsored by Ellsworth. **Motion 2024-58:** Trustee Houston then made the motion to approve the \$7,211.33 in invoices presented. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. Chief Smith described the controlled burn in Canfield where five Ellsworth members participated. He then discussed a weeklong training program for junior firefighters sponsored by the Ohio State Fire Association. He indicated that Chief Smith is promoting the program and that all four juniors are interested. The cost is \$600 per student. The parents are responsible for transportation. The Board asked about liability and was told that waivers must be signed by the parents prior to registration. The Fiscal Officer warned that this project would utilize 60% of the annual training budget. The Board requested additional information and will review this again at the next meeting. Chief Williams updated the Board on the recent computer and Wi-Fi upgrades. All is now in place and each of the private disk (folder) spaces has been assigned. There is also a shared folder for access to any user.

FISCAL REPORT: Fiscal Officer James DeCenso reported that April's receipts were \$125,791 and expenditures were \$92,519. Receipts included the 2023 Property Tax final settlements of \$48,500 and Ohio Roll Back deposit of \$23,300, and \$4,580 (5.5%) in bank interest. The total gross fund balances as of April 30, 2024, was \$1,015,804 including \$27,545 in unspent ARPA funds; \$597,565 in Fire/EMS Operations and Equipment funds and \$279,656 in Road funds. The General Fund balance is \$96,071 (including Cemetery and Zoning funds) and there is \$20,942 unencumbered in the General Fund. The Fiscal Officer presented invoices of \$382 to the Mahoning County Township Association for annual dues of elected officials and affiliate memberships for the Zoning Inspector and the Fire Chief. **Motion 2024-59:** Trustee Houston then made the motion to approve \$382 for the invoice presented. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. The Fiscal Officer then reported on fee updates that he received from the 911 Dispatch Center. Currently, the Township pays \$6,000 per year, 2025 will be \$6,500, 2026 will be \$6,700 and 2027 will be \$7,000 annually. The Fiscal Officer then discussed a proposed lease for a shared printer at a cost of \$320.69 per month. Valley Office is requesting a five-year lease. However, he has added an Appropriation Amendment which will allow a cancellation at the end of any fiscal year with a 30-day notice. Trustee Houston explained that the printer was originally leased by his private company and would be moved to the Township office if approved. **Motion 2024-60:** Trustee Spellman then made the motion to approve the 5-year lease with Valley Office Supply for a network printer at a cost of \$320.69 per month with the Appropriation Amendment which allows the Township to terminate the lease with appropriate reason and notice at each year end. Trustee Toman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was Trustee Spellman-Yes, Trustee Toman-Yes and Trustee Houston abstained. The Fiscal Officer then continued by describing an internet phone service to replace the Armstrong phone service. He had obtained a quote from Spectrum VoIP to lease six phones and a host package service for \$200.14 per month for five years or \$212.14 per month for three years. The system would provide one call-in number for residents who could then select their party using a phone tree. The call would then be forwarded to an existing office phone or forwarded to a

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## Regular Trustee Meeting May 8, 2024, Continued

designated number such as a cell phone. This would simplify the system by eliminating the need for four different call-in numbers (although the existing numbers would still be in service). Also forwarding could be added for the trustees, who currently do not have a number or extension at the Township. Those calls could be forwarded to their designated numbers. The Trustees asked about an Appropriation Amendment, similar to the that offered by the central printer lease. Mr. DeCenso indicated that he would investigate such. Mr. DeCenso also projected that eliminating the Armstrong package would save approximately \$100 per month. After additional discussion, **Motion 2024-61:** Trustee Houston then made the motion to approve the 3-year lease with Spectrum VoIP but authorize the Fiscal Officer to increase the lease to 5-years if an Appropriation Amendment could be obtained. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. The Fiscal Officer then advised the Board that he has added a Maintenance Wage account to the Fire Fund when in-house maintenance is provided to the Fire Station. He will reallocate current Fire Fund wages to this new account, so as not to require additional appropriations for the Fund.

**ROAD and MAINTENANCE:** Chairman Bob Toman read the Maintenance report for Mr. Tom Hoffman, as he was unable to attend the meeting. His report included that the tree at the northeast side of the cemetery has been removed. Also, that all of the veteran's flag poles have been erected and that he repaired one foundation and reset four headstones. He has requested a quote to repair the frames on the two metal doors on the front of the Fire Station, as they are both rusted and rotting. He reported that the waterline in the boiler room had to have a new shut off valve installed by EMS Plumbing at a cost of \$214.00. He also repaired (in-house labor) the waterlines on the Road Dept. building bathrooms. The pavilion pad was pressure washed and the tables were cleaned. All of the ballfield tables are now out. He reported that the road flags are ready to be installed. He is working on trimming a tree on West Hill. One speedbump still needs painted and he has been advised from Everbrite that the blacktop repair should be completed in May, weather permitting. **Motion 2024-62:** Trustee Spellman then made the motion to approve \$214.00 for the invoice presented. Trustee Houston seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

At this time, Chairman Toman recognized Earl Morocco, an Ellsworth resident. Mr. Morocco expressed his dissatisfaction that one speedbump on West Hill Rd. still needs painting and that is a safety issue. He is also concerned that crack sealing has not completed on all of Elk Rd and West Hill for the last two years. This failure to crack seal will eventually result in premature deterioration of the Township roads. He also asked as to why the sign for Geeburg Cemetery is done. And finally, he felt that the Township complex lot needs sealed as it too will begin to deteriorate prematurely. The Board responded by advising Mr. Morocco that the paint for the speedbump has been ordered. They will note that crack sealing should be completed on all parts of Township roads and that there are plans to completely seal the Township complex parking lot this year. Also, the cemetery sign was temporarily removed as the ground around it was being repaired. The sign will be reinstalled upon completion of the work.

**ZONING REPORT:** Zoning Inspector Wayne Sarna reported that he had issued one Zoning permit since the last meeting for a 600 square ft addition to a single-family residence on Leffingwell Rd. Mr. Sarna then advised the Board that the demolition of the structure at 10610 Akron Canfield has been completed and that the property assessment of \$14,000 was filed with the County Auditor by the Fiscal Officer. He reported that the Mahoning County Prosecutor has filed for injunctive relief against Country Pantry aka Canfield Corner LLC to repair the collapsed wall on the northern property line along State Rt 45. He then reported that he met with the property owner and her son at 12036 N Palmyra Rd to discuss the debris situation including vehicles and trailers. He advised the owner that he would return later in May to review the progress. Mr. Sarna felt that it was a productive discussion. The Board thanked him for attempting to resolve this ongoing issue. He also reported that the Mahoning County prosecutor has sent a letter to the bank that owns the property, through foreclosure, at 12082 N Palmyra Rd to remove an abandoned trailer and garage. He will follow up with the prosecutor. Mr. Sarna reported that he has been in contact with the owner and the occupant of 5843 Gault Rd and that they will work on removing the accumulated debris from that property. Mr. Sarna then reported on a violation letter that he sent to 8740 Palmyra Rd regarding abandoned vehicles, trailers, and other debris. His letter had required that the property be cleaned up by April 15, 2024. He reported that the property owner has threatened to sue him for

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trespassing. Mr. Sarna is in conversation with the Mahoning County Prosecutor regarding this matter. He then reported that the property at 6666 S. Salem Warren Rd, with a pending violation, is still for sale. He will continue to monitor that situation and will need to report any violations if a sale is processed. Mr. Sarna concluded his report by reporting that the Mahoning County Planning Commission has disallowed the Solar Zoning Amendment as recently submitted by the Zoning Commission. He has requested the Planning Commission's recommendations. He is also requesting that the Zoning Commission provide him with a copy of any new proposed Amendment.

Chairman Toman recognized Anjela Javorsky of the Zoning Commission who indicated, that after meeting with the Planning Commission, she has drafted a new amendment that she will present to the Zoning Commission members and the Zoning Inspector, to review at their next meeting.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Trustee Houston reported that he is working with the Zoning Commission to expedite the Solar Amendment process. He is not providing any input, but merely assisting with the scheduling and meeting process. Ms. Javorsky indicated that the Commission would move its June meeting to an earlier date to accommodate submitting the next proposal to the Planning Commission that meets on the following week.

Trustee Spellman suggested that the Township obtain some trash roll-offs to give residents a chance to discard trash and debris that may be an issue with Zoning violations. He also discussed the complexity of the Solar Amendment process. He suggested a zoning workshop to learn more about the Solar legislation in Ohio and the County. He advised the Board and the audience that there is a movement in Ohio to eliminate zoning, as some perceive it as impeding lower income housing construction in zoned areas. Also, reported on his on-going participation with the Mahoning County Sanitary Department attempting to find available funding for failed septic systems. He reported that the Mahoning County Health Department may attend the next Township Board meeting and speak about their services.

Chairman Toman reported that the Elk Rd up-dated engineering project is continuously delayed by the County Engineer, due to limited time available by the staff engineers. He reported that he and the Fiscal Officer met with their counterparts from Jackson and Milton townships to discuss Fire and EMS issues. He reported that there is a project to upgrade the high-tension power lines in the Township.

Chairman Toman then recognized Assistant Chief Willaims, who indicated that he had more information on the Junior Firefighter training program offered by the Ohio State Firefighters Association. He indicated that seating for the program is on a first come, first serve availability. **Motion 2024-63:** Trustee Houston made a motion to approve paying program fees of up to \$600 each for up to four Township Junior Firefighters to attend the OSFA Junior Training program from July 7 through July 13. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

### OLD BUSINESS:

The Board discussed the new property at 10774 West Akron Canfield Rd. Trustee Houston volunteered to brush hog the west border of the property. The maintenance department can then extend mowing to that side. There are no immediate plans for the front house, but a few out buildings may need to be removed. The main barn seems salvageable. The interior of the main house needs to be inspected.

### NEW BUSINESS:

Fred Schrock, representing the VFW Post 9571, advised the Board that the annual Memorial Day parade will be held Sunday May 26<sup>th</sup>. The parade is to start from the VFW Hall at 11:00 am. He reminded the audience that the parade and services are to commemorate the men and women that gave their lives for our nation.

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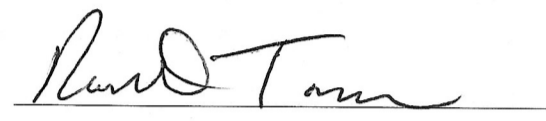
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## Regular Trustee Meeting May 8, 2024, Continued

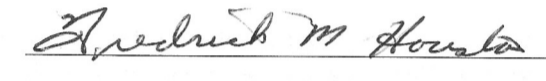
The next regular meeting will be Wednesday June 12, 2024, at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall.

With no further business, at 8:45 pm, **Motion 2024-64:** Trustee Spellman made a motion to adjourn. Trustee Houston seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

  
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Fiscal Officer

  
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Chairman

  
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Trustee

  
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Trustee