

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

January 8, 2022

Chairman William Spellman called the January 8, 2022, regular meeting of the Ellsworth Trustees to order at 10:00 am. A roll call was taken to establish a quorum: Chairman William Spellman - present, Vice Chairman Fredrick Houston - present, Trustee Robert Toman - present. Also present were Fiscal Officer James DeCenso, Road and Maintenance Supervisor Matt Stroney, Zoning Inspector Wayne Sarna, Fire Chief Ted Smith and ZBA Chairperson James Tripp. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Chairman Spellman recognized Sherman Yeager of the Ellsworth Fire Department who announced his retirement. Mr. Yeager thanked the Board and the Department members for the opportunity to serve the community. Chief Smith and the Board all individually thanked Mr. Yeager for his many years of volunteerism. He will certainly be missed.

MINUTES: Fiscal Officer DeCenso presented the minutes from the last regular meeting held December 8, 2021. No one in attendance requested that the minutes be read. **Motion 2022-6:** Trustee Toman made a motion to accept the meeting minutes. Trustee Houston seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

FISCAL REPORT: Fiscal Officer James DeCenso reported that December's receipts were \$37,618 and expenditures were \$44,745. Expenditures included \$4,133 for BWC 2022 estimate. Preliminary 2022 total receipts were \$557,327 (not including the \$110,565 of ARPA receipts) and expenditures were \$536,970. The total gross fund balance as of December 31, 2021, was \$724,504, including the ARPA receipts. The final 2021 General Fund contingency balance was \$1,427. The Fiscal Officer then presented invoices for approval of \$4,259 to the Ohio BWC for the 2021 balance. This is known as the "True Up". It is the balance due based on 2021 total wages. Total 2021 premiums were approx. \$8,500. The amounts paid are based on statewide rates and total payroll. **Motion 2022-7:** Trustee Toman made a motion to approve the \$4,259 in expenditures presented. Trustee Houston seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. Mr. DeCenso then reported to the Board that the 2021 MORE (\$500) and Fire Grants (\$1,000) were submitted to the OTA. The Fiscal officer provided some information on the January 7th, US Treasury's Final Interim rule for use of the ARPA funds. The final rule has relaxed some of the restrictions as to the use of ARPA funds. The rule is allowing Townships to utilize funds for any general government service. However, use for wages and salaries are still somewhat restricted. There will be multiple seminars and information available soon. The upcoming OTA winter conference will be a good source of information, as well as an upcoming seminar by the Mahoning County Prosecutor. Mr. DeCenso and the Board then discussed a 2022 budget workshop. The Board agreed to hold a workshop on January 18th at 6:00 pm and is open to the public. Mr. DeCenso then reported that the upcoming Bi-annual audit will be done by Paul Cantor & Co. The price for the audit will be \$5,800.

ROAD and MAINTENANCE: Mr. Matt Stroney reported that the latest tree trimming quote for the cemetery is \$2,000. This is the third quote received. He also reported that he assisted Berlin Township with some cold patching on their township roads. He also completed the clothes dryer installation for the Fire Department and the Town Hall lights have now all been retrofitted for LED lighting. The Board discussed the increasing pricing for tree trimming at the cemetery. The Board discussed increasing the previously approved \$1,400 so that Mr. Stroney could schedule a job as soon as a vendor is ready. **Motion 2022-8:** Trustee Toman made a motion to increase the previously approved \$1,400 for tree trimming to \$2,300. Trustee Houston seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

ZONING REPORT: Mr. Sarna reported that he approved one permit since the last meeting. He issued a permit for a storage building on Knauf Rd. He advised the board that in 2021, he had written 20 Zoning permits, including four single family homes. He reported on the Lewis site plan review. He had sent another letter to the applicants requesting additional information and documentation. Once received, he can refer the matter to the Zoning Commission for their review and recommendation. He reported on an updated inspection of the Mathews property that has been approved for removal. He recommended that he would continue to attempt to resolve, but that an appeal meeting should be scheduled as requested by the property owner. He is also working with the McCourt property owner to waive their appeal rights so that the property can be removed. Mr. Sarna then

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reported on other Zoning violations that have been identified in the Township. The Mahoning County Prosecutor's office has issued violations to the owners of both 10610 Akron Canfield Rd and 11912 Akron Canfield Rd. There has been some remediation to the 11912 Akron Canfield Rd property and Mr. Sarna will continue to monitor that situation. He also reported on the abandoned property on Palmyra Rd from the Carol Miller estate. The property has passed through probate court and an auction of the real estate will be scheduled in the next 30-60 days. The Board directed Mr. Sarna to schedule an appeal hearing for the Mathews property on February 9, 2022, at 6:00 PM, prior to the next scheduled Trustee meeting. The Board discussed the need to hire private council to represent the Township at this hearing. No action was taken.

Chairman Spellman then recognized Jim Tripp, from the ZBA, who reported that the ZBA will hold their Re-organizational meeting on Monday, January 17, 2022.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Chief Smith reported that there were 28 calls in December, including 13 EMS calls with 10 transports of which the Township transported 8. The Chief reported that he and Mr. Sarna did reinspect the two condemned structures in the Township. The Chief reported that the Medic 400 ambulance chassis rust is getting worse. He would like to pursue a newer vehicle due to the increased call volume. He suggested looking at a remount unit like the one purchased by Berlin Township from Myers Equipment. The cost for a remount would be approximately \$140,000. The Medic 400 would then become the back-up unit. He will bring information to the scheduled budget meeting on the 18th. He then discussed the need to order 5-6 sets of new gear. The quote is for \$18,980. He also reported about a new Medicare requirement that the Department will be required to capture additional data through 2022 and submit to Medicare. The chief then asked the Board to consider funding an appreciation dinner for Department members and their guests. The Chief then introduced Captain Jillian Smith who described an out-reach program that she is beginning that will identify residents that may need additional assistance. She is working with Direction Home of Eastern Home, fka Area Agency on Aging to schedule home inspections. Captain Smith distributed sample packets that can be distributed to the community. The Department is also able to install "Knox" boxes outside of homes that contain keys to use in the event of an emergency.

Motion 2022-9: Trustee Houston made a motion to expend up to \$2,000 from the general fund for a firefighter appreciation dinner and to approve up to \$20,000 for up to six new sets of fire gear from the One-Mill Fire apparatus fund. Trustee Toman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Trustee Houston discussed the exploration of maintaining some permanent staffing of EMS personnel at the station. Information such as funding by a levy or other means. Current Township property values would garner approx. \$71,000 per one-mill approved by the voters. Also information on call response needs to be reviewed to determine if this is a viable program and worth continuation.

Chairman Spellman discussed the need to review some long-term capital projects for the Township. This can be discussed in more detail during the budget workshop(s).

Trustee Houston and Chairman Spellman reviewed how the Ohio EPA and the Mahoning County Health Department will begin to roll out the new septic system inspection and maintenance programs. The fee program for Ellsworth will begin in April. Pumping and inspections must be done within three years.

OLD BUSINESS:

No Old Business to discuss

NEW BUSINESS:

The next meeting will be held February 9, 2022, at 7:00 pm with a Zoning Appeal hearing scheduled to begin at 6:00 pm.

At 11:11 am, Trustee Toman made a motion to adjourn. Trustee Houston seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

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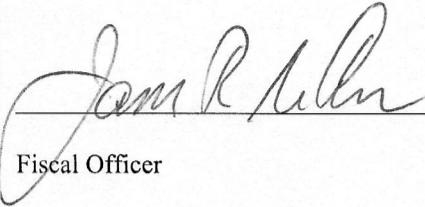
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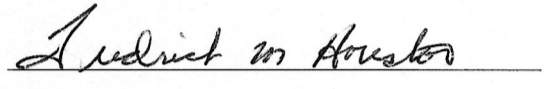
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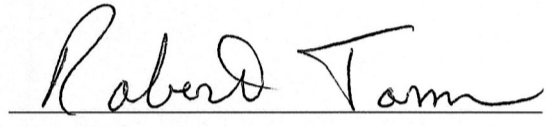
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Fiscal Officer


Chairman


Trustee


Trustee