

# 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

October 13, 2021

Chairman Robert Toman called the October 13<sup>th</sup> 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 Fiscal Officer James DeCenso, Road and Maintenance Supervisor Matt Stroney, Zoning Inspector Wayne Sarna, and Assistant Fire Chief Jeremy Blosser. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

MINUTES: Fiscal Officer James DeCenso presented the minutes from the last regular meeting, which was held September 8, 2021, for approval. No one in attendance requested that the minutes be read. **Motion 2021-89:** Trustee Spellman made a motion to accept the minutes from the last regular meeting. Trustee Houston seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

FISCAL REPORT: Fiscal Officer James DeCenso reported that September's receipts were \$25,109 and expenditures were \$45,739. The receipt figure does not include the American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) receipt of \$110,564.75. The total gross fund balance as of September 30, 2021, was \$662,143 not including the ARPA grant. The Fiscal Officer then presented invoices requesting approval of \$1,875.50 for annual fire engine hose testing, \$99.40 for EMS Oxygen tank refills, \$299.17 to Emergency Reporting for a software update, \$1,394.26 for 2 Cemetery niche plates, and \$7,677.20 to Sealmaster for road sealing supplies and equipment rental. **Motion 2021-90:** Trustee Houston made a motion to approve the \$11,345.53 in expenditures presented. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. Mr. DeCenso then discussed with the Board the receipt of the \$110,564.75 from the ARPA grant. A like amount will also be received in 2022. The grant uses are highly restricted and more information regarding the lawful use of funds will continue to be received. Mr. DeCenso then advised the Board that the anticipated increase for the township's group health plan will be approximately 15%. Discussions with the agent indicated that other carriers' quotes would be similar and would require applications with health history. Mr. DeCenso indicated that he will continue to review other carrier rates. He then reviewed the Fire and EMS fund activities for September. EMS collections were \$7,476 and were sufficient to pay all expenses incurred in the month and still leave a \$469 surplus. This was only the second month in 2021 that a surplus balance was realized. Through September 30, 2021, the EMS fund has spent \$24,419 more than the revenue received. The deficit was offset by \$13,628 in 2020 COVID grants and the remainder from Fire Fund property tax receipts. The combination of the EMS and Fire Funds have a surplus of \$11,397 through the first nine months of 2021. Mr. DeCenso then reported his review of the Ohio Township Stimulus Grant. The grant uses a scoring system to assist Ohio townships with township road, sidewalk, and culvert repairs. The scoring is based on needs, traffic, and local poverty levels. It does not appear that Ellsworth would score high enough to secure any funding from this program. The Fiscal Officer then requested that departments begin to review their 2022 capital budget requests and any changes to their operational needs.

ROAD and MAINTENANCE: Mr. Matt Stroney advised the Board that there was one cremation burial in Ellsworth and one funeral in Berlin Twp. where he assisted. He also sold one plot in September. Mr. Stroney reported that the road crack sealing and pavement sealing was completed in September. This included the Cemetery, Old School Park and the Town Hall and Township Complex Parking lots. Also, that the striping has been completed for the Post Office and Fire Bay areas. The painting of the Fire/Admin building and Road Dept buildings have been completed by Joseph Painting Mr. Stroney and the Board discussed the need to maintain seasonal staff until the grass cutting season is over. **Motion 2021-91:** Trustee Spellman made a motion to re-hire Ellen Borchers through Callos Temp Agency at a rate of \$15.00 per hour plus the Callos hourly fee. Trustee Houston seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. Mr. Stroney then advised the Board that arrangements have been made to move the porta johns from the baseball field to the complex parking lot for Trick or Trunk.

ZONING REPORT: Mr. Sarna reported that he wrote two permits since the last meeting. He wrote a permit for a storage building on Diehl Rd. and a single-family dwelling on S. Salem Werren Rd. Mr. Sarna then gave an update on the violation letters sent to 10 property owners in the Township. He discussed some of the responses

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and extensions that he has granted. He reported that any property owners that do not respond or follow up on their promises will be forwarded to the Mahoning County Prosecutor's office for review. He reported on the two Township properties recently condemned. The title searches have been returned and Atty. Finamore will now send letters to the parties of the actions taken by the Board. This will then begin the appeals process, if requested by the owners. Mr. Sarna reported on a letter sent from the Mahoning County Prosecutor's office to the property owner of 10610 W. Akron Canfield Rd., to make contact with him or he will begin the process to have the structure removed. Also, the Prosecutor's office sent a letter to the attorney representing the Carol Miller estate for removal of an abandoned mobile home and garage structure.

Chairman Toman then recognized Jim Tripp, chairman of the Zoning Board of Appeals. Mr. Tripp requested that the Township arrange for a zoning training workshop with Atty. Finamore. He indicated that it has been a few years since the last workshop and that both the ZBA and the Zoning Commission have new members, who would benefit from another workshop. **Motion 2021-92:** Trustee Houston made a motion to approve a zoning workshop and to spend up to \$500.00 for a qualified trainer. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** Assistant Chief Blosser presented the Fire report on behalf of Chief Smith. He reported that there were 34 calls in September, including 21 EMS calls with 9 transports of which the Township transported 4. He also updated the Board on YTD statistics. Chief Blosser reported that Chief Smith will work out a time to accompany the Zoning Inspector to 10610 W. Akron Canfield Rd. for a structure inspection. Chief Blosser requested funds be approved for the annual ladder testing and that the Medic-400 ambulance needs a new front tire, quoted at \$152.00. **Motion 2021-93:** Trustee Houston made a motion to approve the tire purchase and up to \$1,500.00 for the ladder testing. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. Chief Blosser finished his report by describing some of the training programs recently held at the station.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Trustee Spellman continues working with the Land Bank for funding some of the condemned property demolitions and working with the Mahoning County Commissioners and Engineer to secure funding to expand an existing sewer line north on Rt 45 to the Fire Station. He spoke about exploring some improvements for the Old School Park including a basketball court like the one recently built in Jackson Township.

Trustee Houston discussed the Township's website and the link to the link to the website sponsored by the Committee for Better Roads. He suggested that their site should advise the voters that passage of the five-year ¼% sales tax levy splits the proceeds between the county and all the townships. The ability to fund township road improvements is an important part of the levy.

Chairman Toman reported on Crime Watch and that the Mahoning County Sheriff's office is changing their process to report local crimes and so no recent data is available.

## OLD BUSINESS:

There was no new business.

## NEW BUSINESS:

The Board discussed the need to fill an open position for an alternate on the Zoning Board of Appeals. **Motion 2021-94:** Trustee Houston made a motion to appoint James Gilmartin to the Zoning Board of Appeals to the Alternate position. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. The Board discussed that he may be moved to the Zoning Commission when a position opens on that Board.

The next meeting will be held Wednesday, November 10, 2021, at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall.

At 8:20 pm, with no further business to discuss, **Motion 2021-95:** Trustee Houston made a motion to adjourn. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

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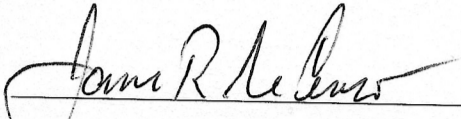
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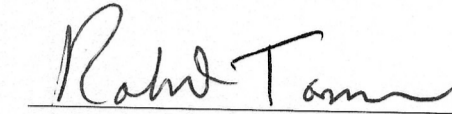
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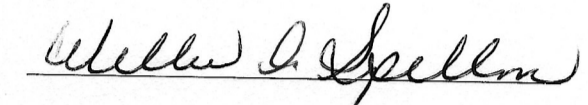
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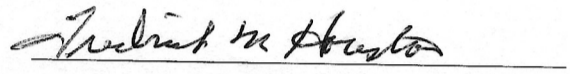
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Fiscal Officer

  
Chairman

  
Trustee

  
Trustee