

# Edinburg Township Trustees – Regular Trustee Meeting

At Edinburg Town Hall

May 11, 2017

Jeffrey Bixler called the regular meeting of the Edinburg Township Trustees to order at 7:31 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call shows: John Hayes, present; Jeffrey Bixler, present; Diane Austin, present; Bill McCluskey, present; Kevin Biltz, absent; Nathan Worley, present; Mike Pittinger, present; Sandy Templeton, present.

- I. Jeffrey Bixler called for a motion to approve the minutes of the April 27, 2017 regular meeting as presented; motion was made by John Hayes; this was seconded by Diane Austin. Roll call shows: John Hayes, yes; Diane Austin, yes; Jeffrey Bixler, yes.
- II. Jeffrey Bixler called for a motion to approve the Agenda as presented; motion was made by John Hayes; this was seconded by Diane Austin. Roll call shows: John Hayes, yes; Diane Austin, yes; Jeffrey Bixler, yes.
- III. Introduction from Jeffrey to guests attending:  
Zach Stewart, FVIS Ohio                      Dan Ellenberger, University Hospitals  
Rob Swauger, Fire Dept.                      Ray Pace, University Hospitals  
Tim Paroz, Resident

**Dan Ellenberger**, Director of Emergency Services and Ray Pace, EMS Coordinator of University Hospitals Portage Medical Center presented Edinburg Township with the LIFEPAK 15 [monitor/defibrillator]. He said they are trying to provide this unit to all of the communities in Portage County. He gave an update on the cardiac care at UH. About \$25,000,000 has been invested in care improvements at UH.

**Diane** asked when their computers will be updated so each hospital can communicate with each other. He said within two years it should be all complete.

**Zach Stewart**: It's good to be up here again. It's been awhile. Here's copies of what we're currently doing for you guys. I understand you guys had some questions. Did you want to start with questions or do you want me to do a quick review of what we're doing?

**Jeffrey Bixler**: I would like to—why don't you start with a quick review please.

**Zach Stewart**: Ok. Just so you're aware, for being insured with VFIS we do have a extensive catalog of our training courses that are free for you guys we put on our **EVOT** classes in Summit County and **Mahoning** County—that's a \$600 value where you guys can send two people to get **instructor qualified for your driving** so that's free for you as well. **A learning portal** also that your members can use. Our side's free – we at Target Solutions, they're \$12.00 per class and then you can get their EMS certificates on there; they are CE approved; there's 100 of them and that's \$12.00 as well; so there's some free resources there, or low cost as well.

**Jeffrey Bixler**: Is that in the package too?

**Zach Stewart**: Yeah I gave all that to Chief over there. All the training and safety posters; all that kinda stuff. I'm going to start on page four, The Loss of Life. So for where we're covering you guys, anywhere your members come and name the Fire Department we're covering them. The Chief coming here tonight for the meeting; going to the county meeting for Chiefs or the Association we're covering them as well. Parades, training events and of course emergencies, we're covering your guys. Who we're covering is anybody acting on behalf of the Fire Department; so of course the members, volunteers are helping out at dinners or anything like that with their spouses or their kids we could cover them as well. If your department has a cadet program or is thinking about starting one up Workers' Comp would not cover them for their injuries but this policy would. So we can cover them as well.

Now diving into this—ok, now Loss of Life—we have a \$25,000 accidental death on your members. Like I said, anything their doing in the Fire Department they could potentially get this. For wearing their seat belt they get an additional \$6,200.

Do you guys have any National Guardsman or Reserves that are part of the Fire Department?

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**Mike Pittinger:** Not at this time.

**Zach Stewart:** Ok. We updated this policy about two years ago; one of the things we added was a military death benefit so if they're ever called up and they're doing their one weekend a month or two weeks of the year and they pass away from that event, we could actually pay out flat benefit of \$15,000 for that purpose, for their military time. They'd get their death benefit, of course, but they'd get a little bit of something from us.

We do have dependent child support. The caveat for this is they need to be claimed on their current year's tax return but it's \$30,000 per child; there is no limit in the number of children. We've paid out, the most I heard was out west, was sixteen and they each received \$30,000. The spousal support is 15 [thousand]. A memorial benefit comes back here to the department. Dependent Elder, same way, if they're taking care of their elders.

**Reparation** this is if you ever get called away for a mass event 40 miles outside your territory and your member would pass away, what we could do is actually pay to have the remains brought home for the family; so this is just \$2,500 to help them; not having an out-of-pocket cost.

So all these benefits here, all we would need is our claims form and that certificate – you know, what happens on a call run, there is no receipt for it to be paid out so like the spousal support then the child, we don't need any receipts on how that's being spent for the memorial benefit or the repatriation; it's a flat benefit that we pay out once the claims been accepted.

Lump Sum Donor Fund - I'm gonna kinda clump all these up in one big thing except for the heart. So this is where if your member survives the accident and what have you, loses part of an arm or finger they get the percentage of the injury of the \$25,000. Same for the vision, the burns, the illness is based on how severe it is at the time of the loss. HIV is if you ever would get HIV from an EMS call or a fire call, we could pay for that. So the Heart Permanent Impairment Benefits—we do cover heart attacks. The number two cause of death from fire fighters—we paid out about four claims on a heart coverage alone this year alone already. So we have a 48-hour window; your member goes to a scene or to training says his chest hurts, goes home and then seven hours later has a heart attack, we could cover that still, where Worker's Comp may decline it, we could pay those claims for you guys so they won't have any out-of-pocket costs. Now the one little hiccup I've learned from a claim we had earlier this year is if they have the event, go home and have a heart attack but in that meantime they played a basketball game, mow the yard or did a physical activity our claims is always going to ask what caused the heart attack? Was it the fire event or was it him doing the other, you know, basketball game or mowing the yard or that other thing that may have caused more stress. So that was the one thing we found, we still paid it because it was traced back to the fire. It was a guy going back to work so it wasn't a stressful job, he was driving around so we were able to figure out it was due to the fire so we did pay that. Any questions on the heart coverage? That's been a big one this year.

The next parts going to be the weekly income; the disability. So just like Workers' Comp we always look at your taxable income just like Workers' Comp does. Workers' Comp for the first twelve weeks pays 77%, one of our policies is to pay that 23%, but we have a flat benefit for the first month where we pay 200 bucks a week, so they potentially for the first month could get \$800 from us if they're going to be off for longer than 30 days. So let's say they're only going to be off a week, they'd get \$200. We can go down to a couple days I've seen us do that, but it may only be 50 or 60 bucks. After the 29<sup>th</sup> day, that's when we would start coordinating with Workers' Comp. So that's a little different for us. Some of the other carriers out there they start coordinating from day one so they may give you a \$500 benefit but they may only get \$100 of it after they start coordinating so that's why we wait a little bit longer. So starting on the 29<sup>th</sup> day our benefit jumps up to \$300. So let's say your member is making a \$1,000 a week (it's just easy math) Worker's Comp is gonna pay \$770 of that we're gonna pay that additional \$230, so we're going to try to keep them financial whole or up to the \$300. This benefit is paid up to five years but if an injury has a permanent impairment of 50% or greater, we will pay our benefit for a lifetime and they can go back to any gainful employment and we will still keep paying.

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A lot of policies like this stop after they go back to gainful employment but we still honor his service with the Fire Department for the rest of his life. Any questions on the disability?

**Diane Austin:** I do. So we had a situation with an employee ... and he has to pay back VFIS.

**Zach Stewart:** Oh he does?

**Diane Austin:** I believe it's been stated that it's because our Fire Department members – we paid for the VFIS insurance – correct me if I'm wrong on this cause I can't remember – that they have to pay a dollar each or some form of this, ok? Is that right?

**Zach Stewart:** Yes, it is.

**Diane Austin:** So is the issue with the claim because we paid it in full?

**Zach Stewart:** Yes.

**Diane Austin:** Ok, so we did not know this in the past. We had no idea about this.

**Zach Stewart:** We had sent out in our renewals, on the letterhead we've always—when we started doing—we just found this out about two years ago and what we started—

**Diane Austin:** This has been longer than that though, his claim was longer than that ago I'm pretty sure; three or four years ago now.

**Zach Stewart:** I think his was three years ago but it didn't become an issue with Workers' Comp until about two years ago from what we've learned and this has been a very tricky situation with Worker's Comp. So what we started doing with anybody that we could get ahold of, we started telling them and what we also did was in our renewals on our letterhead we put a paragraph in there stating that you needed to have each member contribute at least a minimum of one dollar per year.

**Diane Austin:** Yeah but when he was on the Department and we paid that benefit, that was before this happened.

**Zach Stewart:** Yes, that was before and then it was about two years ago now that we found out but it hasn't been a coordinated effort by Workers' Comp either and we've tried to get it in writing from them so that's why we did a blanket, telling everybody –cause you guys could have it happen to him, but you could go to Hiram and they have a different Workers' Comp person, I don't know what you call 'em, their handler, and they may not catch it all.

**Diane Austin:** Well this is one reason why I was apprehensive about why we wanted you to come out here. This is the big reason why we wanted you to come out here because, do we –so now they all have to pay a dollar on their own, even if it's only one dollar?

**Zach Stewart:** Yes, but it does not come to us.

**Diane Austin:** It comes to us.

**Zach Stewart:** It comes to you guys cause what it is is, they're looking for proof from you guys saying that— cause I guess on the BWC claim form when you submit it there's a check box that says do your members have an ANS policy or like an AFLAC or whatever it is and then there's another box, did they contribute towards that policy and that's if you checked no it could become an issue. But like I said, it hasn't been a coordinated effort from Workers' Comp and they won't give us anything in writing stating why they are doing it. Cause our policy—they're primary no matter what. Our policy is approved by the DOI, the Department of Insurance as an access policy over Workers' Comp so everybody knows what this policy is meant to do, but what they're trying to do saying our policy on a disability alone should be the primary source which it's not approved by the state to be that. So that's why we've been trying to get in writing explained to us why they're doing this.

**Diane Austin:** That's why I'm apprehensive about going on. I mean, I don't want any of our members to have issues.

**Zach Stewart:** Yeah, neither do we at the end of the day and that's why what we started to do was anybody we could get ahold of we started telling them in person or over the phone and then we put it on every renewal letterhead, our letter that went to go out explaining any changes in the premium or any changes in the coverage, we also put in big, bold letters and I believe we even highlighted it.

**Diane Austin:** But the problem is, he was gone by the time that happened, he didn't work here anymore but he was still covered under that policy so that's really not fair.

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**Zach Stewart:** I know and I'll do some research when I get back into it, when I get back in the office I'll send an email out tonight.

**Diane Austin:** Ok. That's my big concern right there. I want to make sure that if we pay this policy—

**Zach Stewart:** I did not hear that he had to pay it back. I apologize that that happened to him.

**Diane Austin:** I believe that's right, isn't it? Ok. Yeah I believe he has to pay back a pretty good size amount of money. So what did we pay for? You know, I mean, I guess that's what I feel about it and he was here before we had that letter so that should not affect him; it's not right.

**Bill McCluskey:** The thing to deal with Workers' Comp is they're looking at the injury and all the income that comes in, so Workers' Comp's view is, this is an employer paid benefit therefore that becomes a primary before we (BWC) start going in, rather than it being kinda like a secondary insurance policy, so that's where that issue is so....

**Diane Austin:** I understand but I don't think that when it's not clear and people don't know that's kind of—

**Zach Stewart:** It's been very tough getting the word out there and we've been trying to do our best cause there's only so many ways we can you know get ahold of you guys.

**Diane Austin:** So let me ask you this, so if we pay this policy and then each member of the Fire Department or anybody that's new that comes in, has to pay a dollar to the Township; can their Fire Association pay that on behalf of all of them or does each person have to pay it themselves; the one dollar?

**Mike Pittinger:** Everybody has to pay their own dollar. With the reading that I've done on it that's the way it is.

**Bill McCluskey:** If the Association wants to reimburse them that dollar that's fine.

**Diane Austin:** That's their business.

**Zach Stewart:** At the end of the day what BWC's gonna ask for is like a receipt saying the Chief contributed one dollar towards the policy or you know on a pay stub because we've had some cause we've had some municipalities what they'll do is one time a year they just deduct it from their pay, is one thing some of them do. I had a Chief one night hand me \$25 in cash I'm like no, this is for you guys. You know, but I mean, at the end of the day, all it is is the proof. You know, how it gets to you guys is it's internally on you guys how you would handle it.

**Diane Austin:** And it doesn't matter the amount, it's just a matter that they pay it.

**Mike Pittinger:** And that's exactly what Chief Cain and I discussed with him and he said they deduct it, one dollar from everybody's pay and they make sure all the members sign off stating that they agree that it's ok to take that one dollar out because with the legal thing there they have to sign it's ok for that to happen because some people might opt out of it. Why? But for a dollar, I wouldn't.

**Zach Stewart:** Yeah and this policy is covering anybody automatically that works under 28 hours a week so your volunteers can come and go, they're automatically covered so the BWC question is as soon as you do get a new guy or new member, woman or man, just make sure they do that dollar right away. And we're not the only carrier that offers this in the State and we have not heard—we're the largest – we have about 400 of these policies around the state and our other competitor, we haven't heard a word about it from them that they're even getting hit with it like we are.

**Sandra Templeton:** If you remember Diane, we sent all that stuff every time that Workers' Comp wanted any of that we sent all of that stuff from VFIS we sent all of that stuff to Workers' Comp. I probably myself sent it four times. But the thing of it is we were telling them that all of the time that nobody was paying attention.

**Zach Stewart:** I know what your point is, he's kinda getting screwed because it came at a later date. I don't mean to say screwed but that's kinda what's happening.

**Diane Austin:** I know what you're saying.

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**Zach Stewart:** Like I said we can't get anything from BWC in writing and we've asked for numerous times and you could go ten miles down the road to another department and they may walk away from it scot free.

**Diane Austin:** But this one dollar and the receipt transfer is the magic thing.

**Zach Stewart:** And that's what's really annoying for us, it's only one dollar, why not five, why not twenty, why not make it a sizeable, you know I mean, would a quarter suffice?

**Diane Austin:** Yeah exactly.

**Zach Stewart:** And that's what is irritating on our part cause we know it's like going to the Chief, hey you need to have all your members contribute one dollar and it's like that's why that Chief is like, here's 25 bucks that's like it's so stupid.

**Diane Austin:** It is. Well, I understand, though.

**Mike Pittinger:** Excuse me one minute, you're telling me that if our employees are exceeding 28 hours a week then they are not eligible for this?

**Zach Stewart:** Or 1,500 for the year.

**Mike Pittinger:** So we might be not covered

**Jeffrey Bixler:** It doesn't say that on the 1,500. That's what I was wondering.

**Zach Stewart:** Yeah, what they always look at is the 28 hour first but what VFIS will do is they'll go three months out or six months out or nine months out and then they go to the year, cause I believe for part time it's 1,500 by the state?

**Jeffrey Bixler:** Yup.

**Zach Stewart:** So that's what we try to keep anything under 1,500 hours—that's kind of the magical number is 15, the 28 it just kind of an easy cause a lot of chiefs go, oh yeah he's working 28 this week but you go in the summer when it's slower he may only be working 14 or 15 so you know things change.

**Mike Pittinger:** But I'd like to see that in writing, 1,500. I don't see anything in the documentation here and you have people that are close to that.

**Zach Stewart:** Yeah I can find something for you in the policy language and send it to you.

**Mike Pittinger:** I'm sure the Trustees would feel the same way, I think we'd want to see that in writing.

**Diane Austin:** So anybody who works over 1,500 hours per year is not covered.

**Zach Stewart:** Not as you guys have it now. Let me just double check. Yeah, not included.

**Jeffrey Bixler:** Where did you read that at?

**Diane Austin:** But he worked full time...

**Bill McCluskey:** I don't know if it was the exact same policy, Diane.

**Diane Austin:** Ok.

**Zach Stewart:** On the backside of page nine is the Career Rider. Well what VFIS would have done is asked for his W-2s and his hours, the amount of hours he was working. So they would have asked for all that information. Cause I had one chief that was working 27 and a half hours a week, I mean that's how they nailed it down to that half hour on his pay stubs.

**Mike Pittinger:** Is there other policies we need to look at?

**Zach Stewart:** Well, and just so you guys are aware, was it three years ago I believe, that we actually reduced this policy by half.

**Diane Austin:** Ok. Alright. That makes sense.

**Sandra Templeton:** I thought it went from like 16 to 12.

**Mike Pittinger:** I guess when we reduced it we might have shot ourselves in the foot for the simple fact of where people are at as far as their hours.....

**Zach Stewart:** The benefits, you guys are at like 50 and like 400/600 or something like that and then due to previous circumstances the board didn't really want to keep the policy and one thing I—was it John who was my old contact?

**Diane Austin:** No, Tom.

**Zach Stewart:** Tom. He, talking to the Fire Department decided to reduce it in order to keep it, cause everybody thought it was worth having but—

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**Diane Austin:** It was a lot, yeah, I remember that now.

**Zach Stewart:** Right, I think we did reduce the premium by almost half if I remember correctly.

**Diane Austin:** Yeah right, you did.

**Sandra Templeton:** I think it was maybe \$2,000.

**Zach Stewart:** It was like \$2,200 or something like that then we cut it back in order to keep it cause it was kind of like, I don't really know how to say this, like one person was kind of like shoot everybody else in the feet and that's how it was explained to me so that's the way we were able to work around the situation. But I don't think you guys— we may have had a one person Career Rider on it at the time, I'm not positive though. Cause some departments have those chiefs that kind of work close to that 28 hours what we do is if they don't really know we just tack on a one person rider just in case cause we're on asking for a name, it's just pretty much like a position schedule is the best way to look at it, so even if the chief one year didn't do it but let's say the assistant chief did it, well the assistant chief would automatically be covered or another EMT that's worked over that amount of hours; it's just covering one person, not a name.

**Mike Pittinger:** This particular policy just covers [indecipherable] 1,500 rule?

**Zach Stewart:** Yeah, the 28 hours or the 1,500 for the year anybody under that.

**Mike Pittinger:** I didn't see that in writing.

**Jeffrey Bixler:** Yeah that should be part of that last page.

**Bill McCluskey:** Now as far as identifying who is "members" or not, is what I'm confused, there's not actually a specific list of names.

**Zach Stewart:** Yeah, so of course you're going to have your working roster, and then it's anybody that's acting on behalf of the Fire Department so of course your active members, let's say a retired guy shows up at the scene and starts helping out and chief goes hey, he's deputized; let's say you guys show up and start helping out, your automatically covered. Let's say spouses come to the scene and hand out food, water, stuff like that and one of them trips over a hose and would get injured, we could actually cover that so what we always fall back on is anything the members do in the name of the Fire Department or anybody acting on behalf, so the chief deputized somebody, they're covered.

**Bill McCluskey:** How do you know how many people?

**Zach Stewart:** So what we do each year about 90 days before renewal, we send out a renewal questionnaire where we just kind of update everything, you know that's for your population search change, the number of calls, the number of stations and then it gets into the personnel on that side. With this policy, though, it always falls back to under 28 hours so regardless if you had 25 this year and then you add six more during the middle of the year, they're automatically covered by the policy.

**Bill McCluskey:** Ok, and that information is going to the fire chief, or you've been sending it to Mr. Repcik?

**Zach Stewart:** Well, since --it was Mr. Repcik is I believe who we had as our old contact. I think we—maybe we have your email wrong, cause I think I got it off of your website.

**Mike Pittinger:** Yeah, that's the wrong email. That's the email that we haven't been able to get into since the previous people left.

**Zach Stewart:** I know you talked to Ruth (from VFIS) so we can add you as the primary and add like the Chief as a backup or have Chief as the primary you as a backup; really it's whatever you guys tell us to do to be honest with you.

**Mike Pittinger:** Want my name on, to be back up?

**Jeffrey Bixler:** Yeah that's what I definitely what. Get my name on there too.

**Bill McCluskey:** I was just calling in regards to the billing, so as far as the policy that's up to the trustees—

**Zach Stewart:** Yeah, if you guys want you can just shoot me an email with whoever you want to have be as contact with your file number and email all that kind of stuff and then we can get that taken care of.

**Bill McCluskey:** Is there any type of coverage, I kind of didn't notice, for inhalation, maybe long term? Let's say asbestos or something.

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**Zach Stewart:** What this policy does not cover is long term, you know just from being a firefighter. It has to be related to a certain event.

**Bill McCluskey:** Ok, I know Workers' Comp is playing with that as well.

**Zach Stewart:** I know the cancer bill just passed so that's in affect and that's taken five years or longer in the service so that's that side of it. This policy more or less you know your firefighter responds to a call, falls through the ceiling or you know stuff like that; training events, anything like that, that's really what this is meant to— where we kind of extend the policy a little bit is on that heart coverage and take it to 48 hours after the event.

And the only other thing, there's retraining costs in here, there's hospital stay costs in here, the only other thing I'll point out on page six is the medical expense benefit. Like we talked earlier, Workers' Comp is your primary on your hospital side, if they ever deny a claim, we can actually—you said that's the denial letter—we could actually pay up to \$5,000 of those medical costs for your member. So allowed - we pay is bodily fluids, smoke inhalations, chest pains, strokes, that's just some of the ones I can think off the top of my head that Workers' Comp has denied and we've paid out underneath this policy.

I was down with a chief on Ohio River and he said BWC declined a claim where a wall fell on a member at a fire down there. Now was his department declined? He said in the last year they've had six claims denied. We just paid out just shy of \$10,000 of his medical costs for him in the last six months so we do pay out, you know so it's just that one dollar thing. Trust me, it's been a pain in our butts trying to get everybody up to speed on that. And at the end of the day, we can only advise it's not something we say you HAVE to do; it's in the—I'm just letting you know what they're doing, so what you do at the end of the day, that's your business decision.

**Diane Austin:** But one dollar can save a lot of headaches.

**Zach Stewart:** That's usually what we say.

**Diane Austin:** But I know it is, it's like really, one dollar?

**Zach Stewart:** Yeah, and I think on our letter we don't actually say one dollar we just say that each member is recommended that they contribute towards their policy and I believe it's right in the middle of that cover letter we sent out.

**Jeffrey Bixler:** Yeah I think we had, like I said, a couple of questions which the one was the payment from the [BWC] and also the staffing requirements for volunteers versus career personnel.

**Zach Stewart:** Yeah, we-- at your renewal time when we send out that RQ we do not require a roster back on it. The only time that we would require a roster is if you guys took like an off duty coverage or a 24-hour coverage to where you could take AD and D portion, accidental death and dismemberment and take it 24 hours. So if they're here on the station and they go home and go four wheeling and are in a bad accident or killed from that we could actually pay out like a \$10,000 benefit. That's the only time we want a roster cause only people we're going to cover is who's on that roster. But other than that we don't require any names, birthdays, anything like that; they're automatically covered.

But I'll see if we can pull it from the policy on that 1,500. Like a letter from claims or something like that cause all this is, at the end of the day, is just a summary of coverages. This is not the policy itself, this is just a quick and easy read-through version for you guys with some of the key parts of the policy and the descriptions.

**Jeffrey Bixler:** Does a new policy come in every year that we renew?

**Zach Stewart:** Yes. It's usually on a disc.

**Bill McCluskey:** In December.

**Jeffrey Bixler:** It's what? It's usually where?

**Zach Stewart:** So what we do is we send out a packet or if you want it emailed we can email everything to you. But if you do the mail version, we send a copy of this, we send beneficiary cards, and we send a disc, a CD rom disc, with the policy on that so we don't send you a 300 page document this big.

**Jeffrey Bixler:** That would have gone to whom this last time?

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**Zach Stewart:** Whoever we had on file. So if we had the Chief's email wrong, unfortunately it may have gotten lost in cyberspace.

**Jeffrey Bixler:** That's what I was kind of afraid of.

**Zach Stewart:** Yeah, cause when I knew Tom left and then the old chief left I started, cause I couldn't get ahold of anybody, so I started googling like crazy I believe on you guys' website I found the chief's information so that's what I kind of worked off of; kind of explains a lot why I never heard back. But yeah, as soon as you guys shoot me an email with whoever you want as the primary, I can send all that out and then we can get all the updated stuff to you.

**Mike Pittinger:** I think all three of us need a copy of that.

**Jeffrey Bixler:** Yeah we'll send it out accordingly.

**Zach Stewart:** Yeah and just so you guys are aware we went ahead and paid the premium for you guys to the primary just so there wasn't a lapse in coverage cause we understand how meetings are and we didn't want something to happen and you guys didn't cancel 30 days out, so we do that a lot so coverage is in effect. We don't cancel anything until we hear from you guys.

**Diane Austin:** Ok.

**Jeffrey Bixler:** Very good.

**Zach Stewart:** Cause that's the last thing we want; cancel and one of your guys get hurt; well I had to cancel it.

**Bill McCluskey:** But you're just covering us the 30 days, we still owe you the money.

**Zach Stewart:** Yes, you still owe us but what we do on our side is our due diligence, while we're sending invoices out, is we go ahead and pay it cause we pay quarterly to our carrier, VFIS so what that does is just make sure there's no lapse in coverage.

**Diane Austin:** Thank you very much.

**Jeffrey Bixler:** Thanks, Zach.

**Zach Stewart:** Any other questions, concerns about the training?

**Jeffrey Bixler:** Yeah just one real quick. During the presentation you said our cadet program. You said, "could be covered". I'd like to know is it covered or is it not covered currently, our cadet program?

**Zach Stewart:** How many cadets do you guys have?

**Jeffrey Bixler:** How many?

**Mike Pittinger:** Right now we got two.

**Rob Swauger:** Two main active.

**Zach Stewart:** Yeah they would be covered. I just didn't -- I've been out of the office two or three days so I didn't get a chance to look at your policy before I left. I usually just say that as a reference because they are not covered by Workers' Comp. I don't know where you guys stand on all this stuff but since they're not covered by Workers' Comp all they have in med payments is that \$5,000 from us so I don't know if you have a hold harmless agreement signed between you guys and the parents so if they're ever injured here they fall back on their parents health insurance or if you guys are taking a more proactive role and are actually covering them for any injuries or death or anything like that that could happen to them while they're acting on behalf of the Fire Department. I can send—as soon as I get something from you guys, in that catalog we have a cadet program training in there I can send some risk communiques there on VFIS.com; steps that you guys can take to minimize your exposure from it but there's all those resources out there you guy get for free.

**Jeffrey Bixler:** Ok. Very good. Thank you.

**Diane Austin:** Thank you very much.

**Zach Stewart:** Did you guys have anything else?

**Jeffrey Bixler:** Good? Alright.

**Zach Stewart:** Is this something you guys want to keep? Cause I need to let the office know. Were you guys going to vote on that or just shoot me an email?

**Jeffrey Bixler:** We're going to probably bring it up for discussion and go further on the motion to either accept or decline.

**Diane Austin:** You just want us to email you or you just want to wait?



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**Zach Stewart:** You can just shoot me an email or you can just call the office. I'm actually on vacation next week so if you just call the office, talk to Ruth or Darlene or anybody really in there can take of you guys and it will get taken care of for you.

**Diane Austin:** Thank you very much. (Zach leaves)

**Jeffrey Bixler:** So why we are on this do you want to have any other discussion on what we want to do?

**Diane Austin:** What's your recommendation?

**Jeffrey Bixler:** Well I think it's pretty clear but one thing I would like to have in my hand prior to...is the 1500 hour (documentation).

**Diane Austin:** But my concern is what about anyone that works over that, then they are not covered. But we don't have them scheduled, they're not full-time, we are trying to keep everyone under 1500.

**Jeffrey Bixler:** Yes, It would be up the VFIS how they pushed it, it would be our goal, according to what we do in our standard is to keep everyone under 1500 hours, Chris (Meduri) said he didn't have any problem defending us on the 1500 rule with insurance as long as that's what are intentions were and we work to achieve that. And the people that are on this would need be made aware that if they go beyond 1500 hours they are jeopardizing this and as long as they know it up front.

**Diane Austin:** Hopefully they would never have to use it.

**Jeffrey Bixler:** Yes but you know what in all the years I can only remember one time that I had anyone use this. And it became a very good tool for them to be able to keep ahead of their bills and medical expenses.

**Diane Austin:** And I agree with that but with that to happen and regardless of the circumstances and then to come back and say you have to pay it back because of Worker's Comp, because it's not consistent with the state, that's not right either.

**Jeffrey Bixler:** I don't disagree with that either but you know there are other...Issues

**Diane Austin:** Yes I do, but I just want to make sure we have the right answers. I think it is a good policy.

Discussion of amount of policy continued,

**Bill McCluskey:** If you decide to move ahead, I will need to know how you wish the payment withheld for employees, and that they have a record if they decline.

**Mike Pittinger :** I agree but I want it formal, not just a piece of paper.

Rehash of topics previously raised as well as discussion of cadets program, and hold harmless clause. Motion then made.

**A motion was made by Jeffrey Bixler to accept the VFIS accident and sickness coverages for the year 2017 pending receipt of the documentation on the 1,500 hours at a cost of \$1,040.00; this was seconded by Diane Austin. Roll call shows: John Hayes, yes; Diane Austin, yes; Jeffrey Bixler, yes.**

Tim Paroz, We are planning the memorial run this year and will be closing Rock Spring Road on morning of memorial day open to emergency traffic of course.

## IV. CORRESPONDENCE

- A. Letter from Portage County Combined General Health district on the 18<sup>th</sup> from 8 am to 1 pm at the Elks Lodge, for Health and Human serve disaster planning workshop. Mike Pittinger notified.
- B. Annual Report of Portage County Sheriff's department received and placed at the Zoning office.
- C. Letter from Clifton Durham from ODOT to confirm the State is paying for the appraisal of the Town center property.

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### V. OLD BUSINESS and New Follow-up

A. Diane Harget Austin presented paperwork from Mr. Durham regarding the purchase of property for the road work at Tallmadge and SR 14, John and Jeffrey had reviewed, of Parcel S 006WD and T, warranty dead, temporary easement for construction, and current State offer of \$995.00 , 916 for property and 79 for temporary easement.

Rob Swauger: regarding the easement, relating to area as there is a heliopad for emergency.

Jeffery Bixler and Diane Harget Austin: Review of plan did not identify this area as part of Emergency area.

John Hayes stated he did not think they would be putting heavy equipment on grassy areas.

#### **Resolution: 2017-046**

Motion was made By Diane Hargett Austin to accept the offer of purchase; as per listed on notice of intent to acquire and good faith offer. Seconded by John Hayes. Roll call shows: John Hayes, yes; Diane Austin, yes; Jeffrey Bixler, yes.

Papers shared with trustees for signatures and notarized.

### VI. TRUSTEE REPORTS

#### **A. Jeffrey Bixler**

--He reported the need to consider the Fair display for this year. Bill mentioned the at the Portage County Township Association meeting there was mentioned they need volunteers for the tent and that there may not be electricity available. Park committee was mentioned as possible volunteering.

#### **B. John Hayes**

--He stated he made a phone call to Mr. Gump regarding a schedule for teams, and he sid he would give one to us (trustees) and he didn't, Then he got a phone call from Mr. Proctor and he said they would both be here at the meeting tonight and give us a schedule,.....and how is that working.....

Jeffery Bixler: obviously it is not.

John said he explained to them that Ms. Brooks is having difficulty doing her job (pavilion rentals) without knowing what's going on with the schedules. He thought they would be here.

Jeffrey said he was holding off talking to Chris (Meduri) until we found out.

Diane Harget Austin: For the record....The reason I asked for the schedule was for Noreen and it is really as a courtesy for the Hot Stove and the people that would want to rent the pavilion. It's not because we need to know what the Hot Stove is doing every second, it just if she knows about tournaments or games she can tell the people calling about renting, That way they don't drive up to a pavilion they rented for a family reunion and be surprised. If they know theres games or a tournament and they chose to rent it, unlike what happened a few weeks ago, And for Chris to send a letter, we need to know who to send the letter to.

John said he believes Mr. Gump is the president of the Hot Stove, although the name may have changes to traveling ball or something. He said he mentioned to both of them that their dumpster did not show up and they may receive a bill for the extra work and they(the ball players) have a clean-up, but there was no where to put it. It is exactly what we talked about at the last meeting, and I now agree 100% and they are not helping at all.

Diane Harget Austin: I know they think I am attacking them but it is not. It is about keeping the township flowing. And if they are having a tournament it is a benefit, that's okay, but there are still expenses with that, and it shouldn't be up t the township to pay for that, the township is all the taxpayers. If we don't do something to wake them up they are going to keep doing what they are doing. Nothing is changing.

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Sandy Templeton: It's never changed and has always been the same, In my 20 years we have always asked for the schedule and never got it.

John Hayes: And so now I'm going on to my next point, I attended the park Advisory Board meeting, and wanted to know if they can work on planting flowers or something, but need to communicate with Parks liaison or Kevin or Nate. They also wished to put insert in the Memorial Day flyer. Sandy and Shannon said they decided not to put the insert in the Memorial Day pamphlet because it would take away from the parade theme. They said they would have someone to handout the flyer with the parade pamphlet.

Trustees had agreed it was okay. They also asked if there were any Community plans for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Finally they want to know what people can do in the concession stand.

Diane Harget Austin: The best place to start with what they can do is talk to Beth Ahrens at the Health department.

John Hayes: discussed Kevin request if there is an opportunity to buy a roller, for the roads patchwork to help bonding, at under 2,500 dollars.

Nate Worley said it would be 500 a month to rent.

Discussion of patching procedures discussed as well as life use expectation of the roller.

## **Resolution 2017-047**

**Motion mad by Mr. Bixler to approve bid maximum \$2500 for roller at acution.**

**Seconded By Diane Harget Austin.**

**Roll call: Jeffrey Bixler, yes, Diane Austin, Yes, Mr. Hayes, Abstained.**

## VII. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

### **A. Kevin Biltz – Roads / Buildings / Cemetery / Park**

Nathan Worley gave Kevin's report in his absence.

--They had a few residents contact them about ditch issues. They will start ditching as soon as possible.

--He reported that 1.5 dumpsters full of tires and roughly one dumpster of scrap [metal] were filled on Trash Day.

--Roadside signs and bridges have been sprayed.

--One "slow children playing" sign has been installed on Porter Road - between State Route 14 and Wilkes Road - and they are waiting for the arrival of another one to install.

--The have been mowing at the Park.

--At the Cemetery, they have been mowing and they did two cremations -- one was on Sunday, May 7. The wild flowers that were planted on the hill are now growing.

Nate Discussed need to mulch at cemetery before the Memorial Parade.

**Motion made by Diane to approve purchase of Mulch not to exceed \$600.00.**

**seconded by John. Roll call: Jeffrey Bixler, yes, Diane Austin, Yes, Mr. Hayes, Yes.**

### **B. Mike Pittinger – Fire Department**

Mike requested a meeting of Trustees with Vera a Grant writer from , Gatchell Grant Resources out of Canton, about working with the Township. Jeffrey said he would meet with her and share the information with the other trustees.

### **C. Sandy Templeton – Zoning**

--She made/received 17 phone calls.

--No permits were issued.

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**D. Bill McCluskey – Fiscal Officer**

Bill McCluskey: Stated there is no funding left in the Cemetery appropriations for the expenses and it would require a transfer from the General fund. He asked for approval of the transfer of funds. He said the repair of the post exhausted the appropriations in repair and maintenance.

**Resolution 2017-48**

**Motion made by Diane to transfer funds from general fund to cemetery repair and maintenance appropriation. Seconded by Mr. Hayes**

**Roll call: Jeffrey Bixler, yes, Diane Austin, Yes, Mr. Hayes, yes.**

**VIII. A motion was made by Diane Austin to pay payroll and warrants 40139 to 40167; this was seconded by John Hayes. Roll call shows: John Hayes, yes; Diane Austin, yes; Jeffrey Bixler, yes.**

**IX. A motion was made by John Hayes that the meeting be adjourned at 9:04 p.m.; this was seconded by Diane Austin. Roll call shows: John Hayes, yes; Diane Austin, yes; Jeffrey Bixler, yes.**

Next meeting: Thursday, May 25, 2017

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John Hayes, Chairman

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Jeffrey Bixler, Vice Chairman

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Diane Hargett Austin, Trustee

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William McCluskey, Fiscal Officer