

# 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

July 10, 2024

Chairman Robert Toman called the July 10, 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 was Fire Chief Edward Smith, 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 June 12, 2024. No one in attendance requested that the minutes be read. **Motion 2024-74:** 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.

FISCAL REPORT: Fiscal Officer James DeCenso reported that June's receipts were \$30,348 and expenditures were \$138,712. Receipts included \$3,749 (5.53%) in bank interest. He commented that 2<sup>nd</sup> half property tax collections will begin in July and that revenue will increase accordingly. The total gross fund balances as of June 30, 2024, was \$853,929 including \$25,963 in unspent ARPA funds w/\$5,173 committed for the Gazebo project for a net available of \$20,945; \$489,172 in Fire/EMS Operations and Equipment funds and \$278,577 in Road funds. The General Fund balance is \$45,950 (including Cemetery and Zoning funds) and there is \$19,687 unencumbered in the General Fund. The Fiscal Officer then presented a request to encumber \$1,295.00 for the 2024 Baseball season handicap Port-a-Johns and \$360.45 for an ambulance payment refund to Anthem. **Motion 2024-75:** Trustee Houston then made the motion to approve \$1,655.45 for the invoices presented. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. The Fiscal Officer then continued by reporting that he mailed in the Canfield Fair reservation form. There is no charge for a local government display. He also reported that the US Postal Service has opted to extend their lease by an additional five years which maintains the post office location through October 2031. The current lease is \$375.00 per month. The rent will increase to \$392.00 per month from 11/1/2026 through 10/31/2031. The USPS has an additional 5-year option to extend the lease through 10/31/2036. The Fiscal Officer then reminded the Board that the OTA has made available a Safety Grant of \$500 and a Fire Dept Equipment Grant of \$1,000. The Fiscal Officer then distributed a summary of the 1<sup>st</sup> Half Property Tax Collections. The total collections were \$409,286. After County expenses of \$20,064, the Township netted \$366,590 which is \$22,632 higher than the first half collected in 2023. Mr. DeCenso ended his report by distributing a six-month review of the Fire and EMS Funds versus the prior year. Of significance is the increase of ambulance transports by 85% over 2023. Also, that the combined Fund balances have increased by \$35,074 during the first six months of 2024. This becomes a surplus going forward.

ROAD and MAINTENANCE: The Road and Maintenance Report of Tom Hoffman was read by Chairman Toman. Mr. Hoffman reported that more trees were trimmed at Geeburg cemetery and that the sign at Ellsworth Cemetery has been clear coated. He also repaired two headstones there. The generator at the Fire Station was serviced for preventative maintenance by Professional Engine. His report indicated that the maintenance building roof will be sealed by in-house labor. A pop off valve on the Maintenance boiler does need to be replaced and he is getting a quote from EMS Plumbing. The dump truck required a new fuel pump, filter and sensor. The work was done by Ellsworth Auto at a cost of \$757.89 which was approved as emergency repairs by the Fiscal Officer. Mr. Hoffman included two quotes for weed control around the pond. Jones Lake Mgmt. quoted \$645.00 and Aqua Doc quoted \$1,500.00. **Motion 2024-76:** Trustee Houston then made the motion to approve up to \$645.00 to Jones Lake Management for pond weed control. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. The Fiscal Officer requested approval for Ellsworth Auto for \$757.89 and \$335.07 to Professional Engine Systems for the generator PM. **Motion 2024-77:** Trustee Houston then made the motion to approve \$1,094.96 for the invoices presented. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

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## Regular Trustee Meeting July 10, 2024, Continued

**ZONING REPORT:** Zoning Inspector Wayne Sarna reported that he had issued three Zoning permits since the last meeting: for a detached garage on Knauf Rd; a detached garage on Diehl Lake Rd; and an above ground swimming pool on Duck Creek Rd. The lawsuit filed against Canfield Corner LLC is still pending. A telephone status hearing is scheduled for July 31<sup>st</sup>. The collapsed wall has been replaced with large concrete blocks. The wall does seem secure however the appearance is questionable. He will seek input from the Zoning Commission and will ask the County Building Dept to review the wall and determine if it meets building standards. He then reported on six other cases that he is following. A recent violation for a shed location on S. Salem Warren Rd has been corrected as the shed was moved and a zoning permit was issued. Mr. Sarna reported that he has reviewed that latest draft of the Solar Panel amendment as drafted by the Zoning Commission and that he will attend the July 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Mahoning County Planning Commission, when the amendment will be submitted for their review.

Chairman Toman then recognized Angela Javorsky, from the Zoning Commission who briefed the Board regarding the recent APA workshop that she and Commission Chairman Jim Mayberry attended. She also informed the Board that the Commission's proposed solar amendment will be presented to the Mahoning County Planning Commission on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Board and she discussed the necessary hearing dates required before the Board can act upon any zoning amendments presented from the Zoning Commission.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** Fire Chief Edward Smith reported that there were 57 emergency calls in the Township in June of which 36 were EMS related. There were 22 transports during the month that were all provided by Ellsworth. Chief Smith provided an employment application from Dale Nelson, Medic w/FF II. Chief Smith then advised the Board that the Department was awarded a Grant from Firehouse Subs in the amount of \$20,428.00 to use for new gear. He and the Board thanked Asst. Chief Williams for his work on the grant application. The Board suggested that a press release be made to acknowledge the community's appreciation for the grant. **Motion 2024-78:** Trustee Spellman made the motion to accept the \$20,428.00 grant from Firehouse Subs. Trustee Houston seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. Chief Smith requested approval to purchase a second thermal camera. Currently there is one on the ladder truck, and he would like to also have one on the engine. The camera is very valuable when entering a smoke-filled building. The cost of the camera and charger is \$2,029.37. The Chief then requested monies of \$87.81 for accountability tags for the junior firefighters and \$654.87 for EMS supplies from Bound Tree. He also requested approval to send four members to a crash course to be held in Marlboro Twp. The course will cover rescue strategies, including hybrids and EVs. The cost is \$750.00 per participant. The Board asked if sufficient training monies were available. The Fiscal Officer acknowledged that there are still training monies available in the EMS Fund. **Motion 2024-79:** Trustee Houston then made the motion to approve the \$5,934.87 for the monies requested, including \$3,000.00 for the Crash Course and \$2,190.00 for the Thermal Camera w/charger and lanyard, and to approve the application of Dale Nelson. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. Chief Smith and the Board then discussed mutual aid to and from other communities. The Chief then reviewed with the Board that through mutual aid agreements, Ellsworth residents would be "soft-billed" by Berlin or Canfield if they were needed to cover in the Township. Likewise, Berlin and Canfield residents receive the same billing courtesy when Ellsworth responds to a medical emergency in their communities.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Trustee Spellman reported on the property purchased next to the cemetery. He will obtain GIS mapping to get boundaries and overhead photos. He also announced that the Mahoning County Sanitary Dept has announced that they will be extending the sewer line along S. Salem Warren Rd from the pumping station in front of the Ellsworth Twp Old School to the Fire Station and slightly further north as far as the gravity fall will allow. The cost of the project is approx. \$800,000.00 and will be paid in full by the County. The Township will be responsible for the cost to tie-in to the sewer line. This will enable the Township to eliminate the septic system in front of the Fire Station. He also reported that the Gazebo for the park and Fair display has been ordered. He is currently researching the cost to have a cement pad installed in the park area for the Gazebo.

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Regular Trustee Meeting July 10, 2024, Continued

Chairman Toman reported that he is waiting for the engineer estimate, as approved at the last meeting for the Elk Rd. drainage issue. He reminded the Board that the Ohio State Auditor office has designed a mandatory web-based seminar for all elected officials to view by September 28<sup>th</sup>. The course is mandatory.

OLD BUSINESS:

No Old Business

NEW BUSINESS:

The Board heard comments from some of the audience members who objected to the removal of certain rocks that outlined portions of the Geeburg cemetery. The rocks were removed to ease the task of mowing and maintenance around the cemetery. The objections were that the location of the rocks was used to as a grid to identify the locations of certain burials that do not have headstones. The rocks were also once used as the foundations for a fence. The Board was given some documents that addressed the rocks from a historical standpoint. Information from the Historical Society indicates that they may have been placed somewhere between 1853 and 1879. The Board agreed to review the documents.

The next regular meeting will be Wednesday August 14, 2024, at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall.

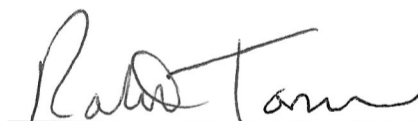
**Motion 2024-80:** At 8:27pm Trustee Spellman made a motion pursuant to ORC Section 122.22(g) to enter into executive session to discuss personnel issues. Trustee Houston seconded the motion. The roll call was all in favor.

**Motion 2024-81:** At 9:15pm Trustee Spellman made a motion to return to regular session. Trustee Houston seconded the motion. The roll call was all in favor.

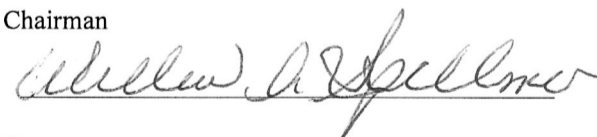
With no further business, at 9:15 pm, **Motion 2024-82:** Trustee Spellman made a motion to adjourn. Trustee Houston seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.



Fiscal Officer



Chairman



Trustee



Trustee