

# 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

June 12, 2024

Chairman Robert Toman called the June 12, 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, Road and Maintenance Supervisor Tom Hoffman, 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 May 8, 2024. No one in attendance requested that the minutes be read. **Motion 2024-66:** 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.

Chairman Toman introduced Cynthia Grier, Deputy Director of Health Equity Strategies and Initiatives from the Mahoning County Health Department. Ms. Greer provided handouts and then explained some of the many health and welfare classes, and services that can be provided by the Health Dept to county residents. Many of the available services are listed on their website. She stressed the need for communities to reach out to the Department and let them know what other types of services are needed. The Board and audience thanked her for her informative presentation.

FISCAL REPORT: Fiscal Officer James DeCenso reported that May's receipts were \$25,820 and expenditures were \$79,332. Receipts included the 2024 NOPEC Community Event Grant of \$400 and \$4,392 (5.5%) in bank interest. The total gross fund balances as of May 31, 2024, was \$962,293 including \$27,545 in unspent ARPA funds; \$552,855 in Fire/EMS Operations and Equipment funds and \$286,659 in Road funds. The General Fund balance is \$80,617 (including Cemetery and Zoning funds) and there is \$19,687 unencumbered in the General Fund. The Fiscal Officer presented an invoice of \$19,254.57 to OTARMA for annual premium for liability and property insurances. The original appropriation was for \$18,000, therefore requiring the additional \$1,254.57 to be reallocated from the General Fund's unencumbered account. Also presented was an invoice for \$3,000.00 for the past six months of 911 dispatch services from Austintown Twp. **Motion 2024-67:** Trustee Houston then made the motion to approve \$22,254.57 for the invoices presented. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. The Fiscal Officer then explained the 2024 OTARMA Safety (\$500) and Fire Grant (\$1,000) that are available. He suggested that departments review any needs that can qualify for either of these two grants. Mr. DeCenso then gave a brief overview of the OTARMA invoice. He indicated that he had expected a higher increase for 2024/2025. He then discussed the Fire and EMS Fund analysis thru May 2024. He reported that there have been 73 transports in 2024 vs 40 transports in the first five months of 2023. That is an 83% increase. He indicated that in spite of the increase in services, billing receipts are 12% below last year. The billing company has explained that due to a hack of the billing clearing house in February, many claims are behind in processing by the insurance companies and are slowly catching up. He then discussed that the new phone system is due to be installed soon and the process of a phone "tree" for incoming calls.

ROAD and MAINTENANCE: The Road and Maintenance Supervisor, Tom Hoffman reported that there was one burial last month, in Berlin Twp where he assisted. The Geeburg cemetery sign has been remounted and some blacktop grindings from the Fire Station lot were used to square up the Geeburg parking lot. All graves have been dressed, seeded and strawed. He reported that Grace Exterminating has sprayed all of the Township buildings. Also, that the two boilers were inspected and passed. A pop off valve on the Maintenance boiler does need to be replaced and that he will obtain a quote. A gear rack was built and installed in the station for the Junior Firefighters. The blacktop patch work by Everbrite was completed at the Fire Station, Ballfield and Town Hall parking lots. He then presented bids from two vendors to replace or repair the exterior metal door and frame at the Fire Station near the rest rooms. One quote would replace the metal door with a glass door and the other bid replaced with a similar metal door. After discussion, the Board decided to postpone any repairs to the door frame until possibly 2025 when additional NOPEC energy grants may be available.

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## Regular Trustee Meeting June 12, 2024, Continued

**ZONING REPORT:** Zoning Inspector Wayne Sarna reported that he had issued six Zoning permits since the last meeting: for a storage shed on Elias Lloyd; an addition and attached garage to a residence on Diehl Lake Rd; a patio addition to a residence on Palmyra Rd; a pavilion at the rear of a residence on Palmyra Rd; a rear deck to a residence on S. Bailey Rd; and a single family dwelling on Kiwatani Trail at Diehl Lake. He also received an application and the \$450 fee for a conditional use permit/appeal for three parcels on Akron Canfield Rd for a small solar facility. The application has been submitted to the ZBA for review. The lawsuit filed against Canfield Corner LLC, regarding a collapsed wall, has been scheduled for a telephone hearing on June 17<sup>th</sup>. He did recognize that the property owner placed some concrete slabs against the hill where the wall had collapsed. He then reported on five other properties that have been notified of zoning violations. Mr. Sarna reported that he will be meeting with the Prosecutor's office to review the violation at 8740 Palmyra Rd and that the Prosecutor is attempting to follow up with the mortgage company that foreclosed on the home at 12082 Palmyra Rd. Mr. Sarna also reported that he plans to attend the Mahoning County Planning Committee meeting on June 25<sup>th</sup> when the latest Zoning Amendment proposal regarding solar projects will be submitted for review. The Board discussed the possibility to add some type of penalty fees to the Township Zoning Amendment. That may create an incentive for property owners to abate their zoning violations when first notified.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** Fire Chief Edward Smith reported that there were 50 emergency calls in the Township in May of which 36 were EMS related. There were 18 transports during the month that were all provided by Ellsworth. Chief Smith then introduced the four junior firefighters of the Department. Each introduced themselves and gave a brief reason for their interest in becoming a firefighter and/or EMT. Three of the members will be attending the junior firefighter camp in Columbus next month. All plan to attend EMT school next spring which should be paid for through County funding. Chief Smith provided Department applications from Jeff Morgan Medic w/FF II and Greg Hutton EMT-B w/FF I. He then advised that Board that six Department members will be removed from duty, due to lack of attendance for calls, shifts and required training. They will receive letters, signed by the Trustees, notifying them of the Department's actions. The Chief then presented invoices of \$72.50 to Myers Equipment for an O2 leak on the ambulance, \$62.80 to Fairway Ford for routine oil change service on the ambulance, and \$59.08 to Stericycle for (2) medical waste disposals. Also presented was an invoice of \$2,241.00 to Waterway for the annual hose testing and \$1,250.50 to The Aerial Guy LLC, for the annual ladder testing. **Motion 2024-68:** Trustee Houston then made the motion to approve the \$3,687.88 for the invoices presented and to approve the applications of Jeff Morgan and Greg Hutton. 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. His statistics indicate that Ellsworth has been providing considerable emergency calls to other jurisdictions while requiring limited responses in return. While the Department will never ignore a life-threatening call, the Board agreed to review some billing policies that other emergency departments use when responding to their neighboring communities. It may become necessary to begin charging those communities for responding to their calls.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Trustee Spellman reported on a drainage issue on West Hill. It appears that it was caused by a septic backup. He then began discussion about purchasing an eight-foot vinyl gazebo for Ellsworth Park and then also use it for the Canfield Fair display. Prices vary from \$6,000 to \$15,000. He suggested that electronic screens could be attached to display pictures. The Board and the audience discussed the advantages and disadvantages of a gazebo. It was determined to try it for the Fair and if unsuccessful at least have it as a permanent structure in the park. **Motion 2024-69:** Trustee Spellman made a motion to approve up to \$6,600 from the ARPA Fund for an 8 ft Park Gazebo from Pine Acres, LLC. Trustee Houston seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

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## Regular Trustee Meeting June 12, 2024, Continued

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 indicated that the Township may need to hire its own engineer to draw up the project. He is reviewing the ability to use the sales tax funds to retain an engineer. **Motion 2024-70:** Trustee Houston made a motion to interview MS Consultants and obtain an engineering quote from them to correct the Elk Rd drainage issue. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

### OLD BUSINESS:

Chairman Toman thanked Trustee Houston for brush hogging the new property at 10774 Akron Canfield Rd.


### NEW BUSINESS:

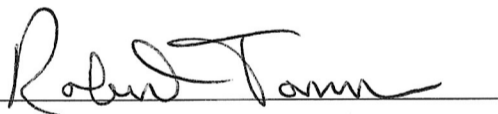
Chairman Toman recognized Angela Javorsky, secretary of the Zoning Commission, who requested authority to attend an APA workshop on June 28<sup>th</sup> in Willoughby Hills, Ohio. The cost is \$70.00 per attendee. **Motion 2024-71:** Trustee Houston made a motion to approve up to \$70.00 plus mileage for each for up to three members of the Zoning Commission to attend the APA workshop. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

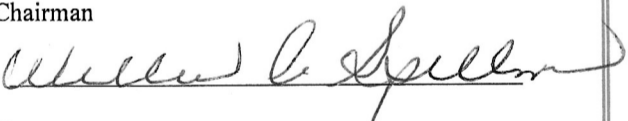
The Board thanked Jim Tripp for his many years as the Chairman of the Zoning Board of Appeals. Mr. Tripp will remain on the Board, as Dr. Gerald Mattiucci has accepted the Chairman's position.

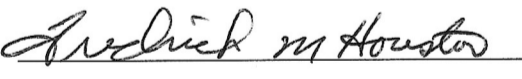
The next regular meeting will be Wednesday July 10, 2024, at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall.

With no further business, at 8:47 pm, **Motion 2024-72:** 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