

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

August 9, 2022

Chairman William Spellman called the August 9, 2022, regular meeting of the Ellsworth Trustees to order at 7:00 pm. 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 Tom Hoffman, Fire Chief Edward Smith, and Zoning Inspector Wayne Sarna. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

MINUTES: Fiscal Officer DeCenso presented the minutes from the last regular meeting which was held July 13, 2022, and the minutes from the special meeting held August 1, 2022. No one in attendance requested that the minutes be read. **Motion 2022-71:** Trustee Houston made a motion to accept both meeting minutes. Trustee Toman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

FISCAL REPORT: Fiscal Officer James DeCenso reported that July's receipts were \$32,587 and expenditures were \$48,297. Receipts include \$14,000 in 2nd half property tax advances but does not include the 2nd ARPA distribution of \$111,006 received in July. Expenditures include the \$6,500 demolition fee on the Elk Rd condemned property and there were three payrolls in August. The total gross fund balances as of July 31, 2022, was \$834,314, including the \$222,012 ARPA fund balance. He reported that the unencumbered General Fund amount is currently \$328. The Fiscal Officer then presented invoices in detail for approval of \$4,884.79, including \$4,500.00 approved by the Ohio Auditor to pay Canter and Associates for the 2020-2021 audit. **Motion 2022-72:** Trustee Houston made a motion to approve the \$4,884.79 in expenditures presented. Trustee Toman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. Mr. DeCenso then presented a proposed 2022 Lease Agreement received from the Mahoning County Solid Waste Management Dept. The Agreement covers the lease of land for the recycling bins and related maintenance. The amount proposed is \$2,250.00 which has remained constant for the last few years. **Motion 2022-73:** Trustee Toman made a motion to approve the 2022 Lease Agreement with the Mahoning County Solid Waste Mgmt. at the proposed amount of \$2,250.00. Trustee Houston seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. The Fiscal Officer then reported on the ongoing 2020-2021 audit and that he thought that it should be concluded by month end.

ROAD and MAINTENANCE: Mr. Tom Hoffman reported that there were two burials in the Township last month and that he also assisted in one burial in Berlin. He reported that the repairs to the parking area at Geeburg cemetery have been completed. He also completed some landscaping and edging at the Fire Hall in preparation of the special primary elections which were held August 2nd. Mr. Hoffman requested approval to replace the buoys and rescue ropes at the pond behind the Fire Station. The cost would be \$649.00. He reported on the recent water problems in the Road department building and the Fire Station and the repairs that he made. He discussed that he will be driving the Berlin township plow truck to Canton on August 25th so that the Berlin driver can take his Ohio CDL driving test. He then proposed purchasing a 5 ft brush hog that attaches to the backhoe, to do heavier mowing. He will obtain pricing to review at the next meeting. Mr. Hoffman would also like to have the dump truck sprayed with a rust preventative (Fluid Film) before winter. The cost to have the truck sprayed and six cans of spray would be \$300.00. He also discussed with the Board and Fred Shrock from the VFW the Canfield Fair display and the desire to feature VFW Post 9571 for their 75th anniversary. **Motion 2022-74:** Trustee Houston made a motion to approve the \$949.00 requested for the buoys/ropes and the truck spraying. Trustee Toman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

ZONING REPORT: Mr. Sarna reported that there were two permits issued since the last meeting. Permits were issued for a garage on Campfire Circle and a garage addition on Lower Lake Dr in Diehl Drive. He reported that he has had some discussions with Atty. Mathews regarding the Lewis site plan and that a response to the plan application will be generated soon. He reported that the mobile home on Elk Rd that had previously been condemned has been demolished and removed. Also, that the home on State Rt 45 that was condemned has been removed by the new owner. Mr. Sarna then reported that he has had discussions with the realtor who represents the property at 10610 Akron Canfield Rd regarding the removal of the structure. The realtor indicated that it would be removed in six weeks. He reported that the Mahoning County Prosecutor's office will be contacting the

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Regular Trustee Meeting August 9, 2022, Continued

attorney representing the Carol Miller estate on Palmyra Rd for an update on the probated case. He then went on to report on nine other zoning complaints that he is in the process of handling. Trustee Houston suggested that Mr. Sarna send some type of acknowledgement to the property owners that receive a zoning citation and then do clean up or mitigate the issue. His last report was on a BZA hearing held on August 8th that he attended and that granted a local variance to the property at 12798 Akron Canfield Rd.

Chairman Spellman then recognized Jim Tripp, the BZA Chairperson, who reviewed the BZA hearing on August 8th that Mr. Sarna referred to. The variance will allow a second family to reside in the back structure, but only the parents of the current property owner can reside there. The variance does not extend to a new owner or to any new tenants in the back structure.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Chief Smith reported that there were 28 calls in July including 17 EMS calls with 11 transports of which the Township transported 8. The other 3 transports were provided by mutual aid departments due to no Department crews available. Chief Smith advised the Board that he has been working with University Hospital to possibly replenish some medical consumables in the ambulances. Otherwise, he will need to purchase items. He reported on the coverage shifts and some personnel are working the extra hours to complete a twelve-hour shift. He informed the Board that he is waiting for Bearcom to program the new radios. Chief Smith then reviewed the invoice of \$787.44 from B&C Communications to install radio chargers in the trucks and his request to renew his membership in the Ohio Fire Chief's Association for \$100.00. The Fiscal Officer then interjected that the previously approved amount of \$1,210.00 for repairs to the ambulance at Fairway Ford (Motion 2022-62) was short by \$125.01 and the additional amount would also need approved. **Motion 2022-75:** Trustee Toman made a motion to approve the \$1,012.45 in expenditures presented. Trustee Houston seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Trustee Toman discussed the numerous calls regarding the fee increases from NOPEC electric. Many residents have indicated that they will be converting back to First Energy or another electric supplier. The Board discussed the Agreement between Mahoning County and NOPEC and its history. Residents will see increases from all electric suppliers due to the increase of all energy costs.

Trustee Houston discussed a complaint that was filed on the Township with the Ohio ODNR regarding a Township employee allegedly spraying weed killer without a license. Trustee Houston arranged with Grace Exterminating to have the Township employees approved under their licensing.

Chairman Spellman discussed the need to have weight limits posted on Township roads. He will gather additional information for the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Trustee Houston presented the three-year Agreement renewal received from the Mahoning County Sheriff's Department for the Western Reserve Schools Resource Officer. During the summer months, the officer will remain in Ellsworth & Berlin for routine patrol. The renewal contains a total cost of \$50,019.16. Ellsworth Township's share is 20% or \$10,000.83. This is an increase of \$1,613 annually or 19% over the earlier Agreement covering 2019-2021. Berlin Township is responsible for a like 20% and the School District is responsible for the remaining 60%. The Board discussed the need to maintain security for the schools. Trustee Toman advised that the true cost of the officer is over \$100,000 annually and that the Sheriff's department is only charging 50% to the school and townships. **Motion 2022-76:** Trustee Houston made a motion to approve the School Resource Officer Memorandum of Understanding as presented. He included that any amounts that exceed the original 2022

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Budget Appropriations be made from the ARPA funds as allowed. Trustee Toman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

OLD BUSINESS:


Chairman Spellman reviewed the process for the proposed 5.77 mill Fire and EMS tax levy. The Fiscal Officer explained that he has received the Certificate of Estimated Property Tax Revenue from the Mahoning County Auditor certifying that the 5.77 mill tax levy would collect \$71,882.81 per mill or a total of \$414,764.00 annually. The Board now needs to pass a resolution accepting these numbers, resolve that the tax levy is necessary and to confirm the ballot language. **Motion 2022-77:** Trustee Toman made a motion to adopt a Resolution Declaring it Necessary to Levy a Tax in Excess of Mills Limitations. (The Fiscal Officer read the Resolution) and to accept the Mahoning County Auditor's Certification. The ballot language is as follows:

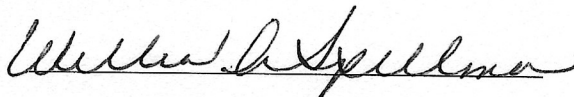
An additional tax for the benefit of the Ellsworth Township for the payment of full-time or part-time firefighter and emergency medical service personnel, including the payment of any employer contributions required for such personnel under Sections 145.48 or 724.34 of the Revised Code, for the purchase of ambulance or fire equipment, and for the provision of ambulance, paramedic or other emergency fire or medical services operated by a fire department, which amounts to Fifty-Seven and Seventeenths Cents (\$.577) for each one hundred dollars of valuation, for a continuing period of time, commencing in tax year 2022, first due in calendar year 2023.

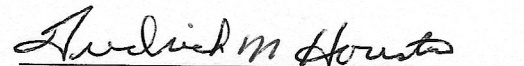
Trustee Houston seconded the motion. The roll call vote was Toman-yes; Houston-yes; and Spellman – yes. The Fiscal Officer will deliver this Resolution, along with the Auditor's Certification and the prior Resolution from August 1st (Motion 2022-67) to the Mahoning County Board of Elections on Wednesday, August 10th by 4:00 PM.

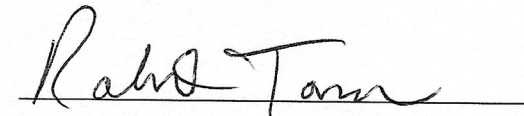
The next meeting will be held August 10, at 7:00 pm.

With no further business, at 8:37 pm, **Motion 2022-78:** Trustee Toman made a motion to adjourn. Trustee Houston seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.


Fiscal Officer


Chairman


Trustee


Trustee