

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 9, 2024

Chairman Robert Toman called the October 9, 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 Fiscal Officer James DeCenso, 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 September 11, 2024, and the minutes from the Special meeting also held on September 11, 2024, regarding the proposed Solar Amendment to the Ellsworth Zoning Resolution. No one in attendance requested that either of the minutes be read. **Motion 2024-114:** Trustee Houston made a motion to accept the minutes from the last Regular meeting and the Special meeting. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

Chairman Toman then recognized Lynn Maro who is a candidate for the Mahoning County Prosecutor. Ms. Maro presented her qualifications and took questions from the audience. She then thanked the Board for the opportunity to present herself.

FISCAL REPORT: Fiscal Officer James DeCenso reported that September's receipts were \$51,171 and expenditures were \$76,681. Receipts included the final 2nd half property tax collections of \$16,984 and \$4,659 (5.4%) in bank interest. Expenditures included \$12,742 to the Mahoning County Health Dept from the 2nd half property tax collections and \$4,272 in County Auditor fees for the 2nd half collections. The total gross fund balances as of September 30, 2024, was \$1,025,760 including \$21,217 in unspent ARPA funds; \$607,357 in Fire/EMS Operations and Equipment funds and \$299,266 in Road funds. The General Fund (including Cemetery and Zoning funds) balance is \$83,394 and there is \$13,768 currently unencumbered in the General Fund. The Fiscal Officer then presented an invoice for \$28.90 from the Mahoning County Auditor for an overpayment of Property Taxes. **Motion 2024-115:** Trustee Houston then made the motion to approve payment to the Mahoning County Auditor for an overpayment of property taxes in the amount of \$28.90. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. The Fiscal Officer then continued by presenting the 2025 Rate Resolution as prepared by the County Auditor. The rate resolution projects that in 2025, the Township will collect \$174,753 in General fund, \$25,485 in Health Dept tax and \$536,960 from the three existing Fire/EMS levies. **Motion 2024-116:** Trustee Houston then made the motion to accept the 2025 Rate Resolution as prepared by the Mahoning County Auditor. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. Mr. DeCenso reminded the Board that the remaining ARPA funds must be encumbered by December 31st or lost. He informed the Board that the Township simply needs to identify a project or contractual obligation to encumber the funds. The Fiscal Officer then continued his report by advising the Board that the bi-annual state audit is still in process but has been again delayed at the request of the auditors. He also advised the Board that he has reviewed the Cemetery record keeping software that is available through the Ohio Auditor's office and that it is already included in the quarterly UAN fee. He has requested a download and will participate in the on-line training while compiling and editing the current paper records to install into this electronic version. He concluded by reminding the Board that the 2025 Budget process will begin soon and we should be thinking about any capital projects to include.

ROAD and MAINTENANCE: No report was given.

At 7:35 pm, **Motion 2024-117:** Trustee Houston made a motion pursuant to ORC 121.22(g)(1) to enter into Executive Session to consider the employment of a public employee. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. The Board requested the Fiscal Officer to join the Executive Session.

At 7:45 pm, **Motion 2024-118:** Trustee Houston made a motion pursuant to return to Regular Session. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

Motion 2024-119: Trustee Houston then made a motion to offer employment to Joseph Serensky III as the Road and Maintenance Supervisor/Cemetery Sexton at a rate of \$21.00 per hour, plus the current Health Care and

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benefit package as had been in place with the prior Supervisor. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. Mr. Serensky was in attendance and accepted the position as offered. He indicated that he may be available to start as early as Monday, September 16th but would co-ordinate that with the Board Chairman.

Motion 2024-120: Trustee Houston then made a motion to approve the hiring or contracting for a Township Facilitator that, due to the unexpected termination of the previous Supervisor, would assist with the transition of a new Road and Maintenance Supervisor/Cemetery Sexton. The hiring or contracting would be at the discretion of the Board Chairman. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

ZONING REPORT: Zoning Inspector Wayne Sarna reported that he had issued one Zoning permit since the last meeting, for an addition to a residence on Croy Rd. The lawsuit filed against Canfield Corner LLC, seeking injunctive relief to repair the collapsed wall on the northern property line of the Country Pantry store property along St Rt 45 has been resolved. The lawsuit has been settled and dismissed. The zoning violation at 8740 Palmyra has also been resolved. Mr. Sarna has sent a follow up violation letter to 12082 Palmyra Rd, regarding the debris and demolition of the house and trailer. He has requested that the Fire Chief inspect the abandoned residence for violations. He continues to review with the prosecutor's office the violation letter sent to 11830 Palmyra Rd for debris and abandoned vehicles. Mr. Sarna continued by reporting on the numerous tree debris at 10653 Berlin Station Rd. He had previously received a quote of \$5,000.00 from Dave Altieri (CBS) to clean up the property and is requesting a resolution to approve the abatement costs and place an appropriate lien on this property. Mr. Sarna reported that he attended the Trustee Special Meeting on September 30th where a Zoning Amendment regarding Solar projects was approved. The Zoning Inspector then listed proposed zoning fees for solar projects. Residential projects at \$5 per \$1,000 project cost on existing structures and \$10 per \$1,000 project cost on new structures with a \$30 minimum on either. For commercial projects, he recommended \$15 per \$1,000 project cost up to \$1 million in costs, then \$11 per 1,000 in project costs for existing buildings and \$12 per \$1,000 project cost up to \$1 million in costs, then \$7 per \$1,000 in costs for new structures and new ground mounted installations with a \$150 minimum on either. The Board discussed the fees and Mr. Sarna indicated that they were in-line with other local townships. He also attended the ZBA hearing on October 2nd that reviewed and denied a variance request for a solar project on Akron Canfield Rd. He then reported a violation for an RV trailer and a tent that has been erected at 13029 Palmyra Rd. The property is split between Ellsworth and Jackson Townships and he is working with the Jackson Township Zoning Inspector to resolve the issue. The Zoning violation was mailed to the two owners of the property who do not live in the Township. Mr. Sarna and the Mahoning County Sheriff delivered a copy of the violation letter to the individual who is living on the property. He is the son of one of the property owners. **Motion 2024-121:** Trustee Spellman made a motion to accept and immediately implement the solar project fees as proposed by the Zoning inspector. Trustee Houston seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. Trustee Houston then discussed the demolition of the old house located on the new Township property next to the cemetery. He had previously received a quote from CBS (David Altieri) to demolish the house. The Board discussed the deterioration of the structure and that it would be unsafe to leave it standing. **Motion 2024-122:** Trustee Houston made a motion to approve the demolition of the structure by CBS (David Altieri), located on the Township property at 10774 Akron Canfield Rd. for a cost of \$8,200.00. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. Trustee Houston then submitted the invoice from Alan Ewing to survey the property at 10774 Akron Canfield Rd and the Cemetery. The invoice amount was \$2,950.00. **Motion 2024-123:** Trustee Houston made a motion to approve a payment to Alan Ewing of \$2,950.00 from the amounts approved on August 10th (Motion 2094-94). Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. Trustee Houston then submitted for reimbursement, payments of \$25.00 to Mahoning County for a demolition permit and \$80.00 for a permit to abandon the Septic system at 10774 Akron Canfield Rd. **Motion 2024-124:** Trustee Spellman made a motion to approve reimbursing Fred Houston \$105.00 for permit expenses that he personally paid regarding the Township property at 10774 Akron Canfield Rd. Trustee Toman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was Toman-yes, Spellman-yes, Houston-abstained. The Board then discussed the zoning violation as reported by Mr. Sarna at 10653 Berlin Station Rd. At the August 10th meeting, \$5,000.00 had been encumbered for that clean-up. **Motion 2024-125:** Trustee Spellman made a motion in accordance with ORC 505.86 (b) to approve a resolution to order the removal of debris at 10653 Berlin Station Rd and to approve the expenditure of \$5,000 as originally encumbered (Motion 2024-88) to CBS (David Altieri) to remove said debris. The Fiscal Officer then read the resolution. Trustee Houston seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

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FIRE DEPARTMENT: Fire Chief Edward Smith started his report by thanking his Assistant Chiefs and the 911 Dispatch center for their diligence on the morning of the fatal explosion in the Township. It has been a difficult time for the Department. He then reported that there were 30 emergency calls in the Township in September of which 12 were EMS related. There were 7 transports during the month that were all provided by Ellsworth. Chief Smith then described a new emergency/medical software program known as ESO. ESO is a newer company that purchased the Emergency Reporting system that the Department had previously used. ESO would replace the Aladtec system and Health EMS for medical reporting, payroll, inventory and checklists. The Chief's inquiries to other departments that use ESO found that it includes a better and more user-friendly payroll system. The Fiscal Officer confirmed that the current system does make the biweekly payroll complicated and does not merge the shift times with call outs or training. That all needs to be done manually. Both Assistant Chiefs' Smith and Williams provided their support to change software systems. Chief Smith continued by explaining that ESO would cost approximately \$5,900 per year vs. the \$5,400 for Aladtec. There would be a one-time cost of \$600 to have the existing data converted to ESO. He also wanted to revert back to the Active 911 app for dispatch use instead of the current IamResponding. That would save the Department approximately \$400 per year. Chief Smith then requested approvals for \$65.48 for service work on an Air Cylinder, \$1,375.21 for repairs on the Medic 45-1, Maintenance on the Engine, Ladder and Tanker that was identified during the PM's done earlier in the year for \$3,852.94, EMS supplies for \$275.22, Oxygen tank refill estimated at \$150.00, Class A uniforms for Assistant Chief's Smith and Williams at a cost of \$2,048.00, and two additional iPads for \$398. The Fiscal Officer added the need for \$2,817.00 to complete the new fire gear order from this spring. Including the \$6,499.70 for the ESO software and \$362.25 for one year of Active911, the total requested is \$17,843.80. **Motion 2024-126:** Trustee Houston made the motion to approve the \$17,843.80 as requested. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. Chief Smith finished his report by advising the Board that Assistant Chief Williams has submitted a grant request offered through the State of Ohio for new MARCs' radios. The Department had previously received grants for the 800 MHz radios; however the County is moving forward to have all departments on the same system.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Trustee Houston started his report by thanking the Fire and EMS personnel for their quick actions and work on the fatal home explosion that occurred earlier in the Township. He then continued his report on the new property and the process to get the septic system capped. He reported that there has been some interest from a resident to purchase the front parcel. The Board discussed that possibility and how it should be done. He and the Board then discussed the annual trick-or-trunk and that a resident, Sara Hernan Thompson had volunteered to co-ordinate this year's event.

Trustee Spellman discussed the need to assist some of the neighbors in the vicinity of the house explosion. He received some information from the Fire Department regarding the individual who has worked with them. He announced that there are two upcoming zoning workshops in Canfield that is available for both zoning commission members and Board of Appeal members. The Township has made reservations for all members.

A letter from the Fire Chaplin, Fred Schrock was read. In that, he commended all of the personnel that responded to the recent tragedy and thanked all members for their constant preparations for such disasters.

Chairman Toman reported on the Crime Watch, the Canfield Fair display, the Elk Rd drainage issue and the sewer project on Rt 45.

OLD BUSINESS:

No old business

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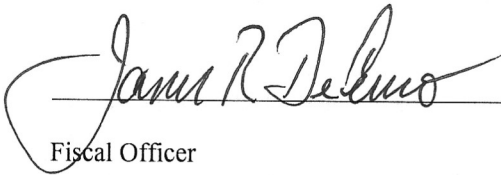
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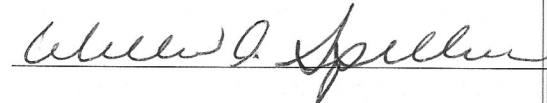
NEW BUSINESS:

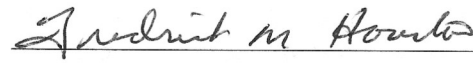
The next regular meeting will be Wednesday November 13, 2024, at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall.

With no further business, at 9:02 pm, **Motion 2024-127:** 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