

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 12, 2022

Chairman William Spellman called the October 12, 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, and Road and Maintenance Supervisor Tom Hoffman. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

MINUTES: Fiscal Officer DeCenso presented the minutes from the last regular meeting which was held September 14, 2022. No one in attendance requested that the minutes be read. **Motion 2022-92:** Trustee Toman made a motion to accept the meeting minutes. Trustee Houston seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

FISCAL REPORT: Fiscal Officer James DeCenso reported that September's receipts were \$49,208 and expenditures were \$55,249. Receipts include \$16,665 in 2nd half Ohio property tax rollbacks. Expenditures included the 2nd half payment to the County Health Department and Tax Collection fees of \$12,118 and the initial payment of \$4,500 to Cantor and Associates for the 2020-2021 audit. The total gross fund balances as of September 30, 2022, was \$894,716, including \$222,012 in the ARPA fund; \$294,256 in Fire/EMS Ops and Equipment funds and \$285,619 in Road funds. He reported that the unencumbered General Fund amount is now at \$8,728 which accounts for the \$8,500 originally appropriated for the Sheriff's SRO being paid from ARPA funds in October. The Fiscal Officer then presented invoices in detail for approval of \$1,020.96, including \$50.00 for ZBA expenses, \$210.96 for EMS supplies and \$760.00 for electrical repairs in the Road Dept. building. **Motion 2022-93:** Trustee Houston made a motion to approve the \$1,020.96 in expenditures presented. Trustee Toman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. Mr. DeCenso then reported that total 2022 property tax collections were \$279,175 vs. the budget of \$267,132. He then provided the overall revenue collections for 2022 and suggested the Township request an Amended Certificate of Resources from the County Auditor from the previous approved \$1,389,793 to \$1,404,214 and to increase the authorized appropriations by \$114,521 to \$1,272,220. The increases are the result of favorable revenue increases and the 2nd tranche of ARPA funds collected in 2022. **Motion 2022-94:** Trustee Houston made a motion to request an Amended Certificate of Resources in the amount of \$,404,214 and to increase 2022 appropriations to \$1,272,220. Trustee Toman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. Mr. DeCenso then presented the 2023 Tax Levy rates and estimated collections of \$270,979 as received from the County Auditor. **Motion 2022-95:** Trustee Toman made a motion to authorize the 2023 Tax Levy Collections and to accept the rates as determined by the Mahoning County Auditor. Trustee Houston seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. The Fiscal Officer then described for the Board the 2023 Budget process and requested department heads to begin compiling information for tentative equipment and major program requests for 2023. The board will need to consider the use of ARPA funds in 2023. He then distributed a EMS / Fire operations analysis through the first 9 months of 2022. There was no discussion. He completed his report by advising the Board that the 2021-2022 audit was still in review by the Ohio Auditor's office, due to the questions regarding the reimbursement of Medicare part B and supplement insurances to him during 2021.

At that time Chairman Spellman introduced Carol Check representing the VFW Post 9571. The Board read a proclamation honoring the VFW on its 75th anniversary and their continuous efforts to support numerous Veteran programs in NE Ohio and the honor guard provided to over 200 veteran funerals each year.

ROAD and MAINTENANCE: Mr. Tom Hoffman reported that there was one burial in September. He also reported that that his department had repaired and straightened 18 headstones at Geeburg cemetery. The dump truck has been fluid filmed by the Ohio Rust Doctor and the boiler gas valve in the Road Dept. building has been repaired by BMC Electrical and Mechanical. He reported that the Fire Station roof has been sealed. Mr. Hoffman also reported on other road and maintenance projects in the Township, including the completion of crack sealing of all Township roads and parking lots. He thanked Berlin Township Road Dept. for their assistance with the crack sealing, as he had assisted them with their roads. The board discussed the effectiveness of mutual aid support between the townships. Mr. Hoffman then discussed the need to grade the property on Elf Rd where the mobile home was condemned and demolished by the Township. This will be necessary to eventually plant grass

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Regular Trustee Meeting October 12, 2022 Continued

to avoid erosion. A neighbor has indicated that they will maintain the property by cutting grass, etc. The Township does not have the appropriate equipment to do the task. The Board discussed the need to hire someone or rent the equipment to accomplish this. **Motion 2022-96:** Trustee Houston made a motion to authorize up to \$600.00 to grade and seed the property on Elk Rd. The seeding may occur in 2023. Trustee Toman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. After discussion with the Board, **Motion 2022-97:** Trustee Houston made a motion to authorize a raise for Mr. Hoffman of \$0.50 per hour to begin pursuant to the next pay period, which will begin October 24th. Trustee Toman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. The Board then discussed the purchase and delivery of the chairs for the fire hall and town hall.

ZONING REPORT: There was no Zoning report.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: There was no Fire report.

Chairman Spellman then recognized Dee Tripp from the Zoning Commission. Mrs. Tripp requested that the Township review the internet connection in the Zoning office as it appears to be running extremely slow. She also reminded the Board that both she and Sean Giblin, the Zoning Commission Chairman, have tendered their resignations effective December 31, 2022. The Board indicated their regrets on the resignations.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Trustee Toman reported on the Crimewatch. He discussed with the Board the electric aggregation program and that NOPEC has dropped all residents from their program and returned them to First Energy. The Board questioned the Township's authority to review new providers or will the process be performed again by the County. Also, does NOPEC have the right to automatically restore residents back to the aggregation when the their rates again become competitive.

Trustee Houston thanked Rita Baun for finding the chairs that the Township purchased. Also, he reminded the audience of the Trick or Trunk event that will be held in the Fire Station parking lot on Sunday, October 30th from 2 pm to 4 pm.

Chairman Spellman discussed his conversation with the County Engineer's office regarding the posting of weight limits on Township roads. The County representative will gather more information and report back to him.

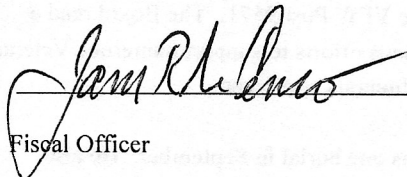
OLD BUSINESS:

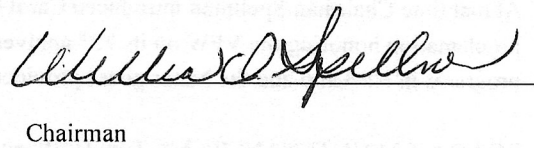
No old business was discussed.

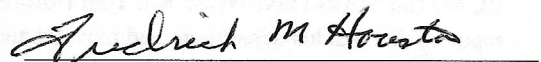
NEW BUSINESS:

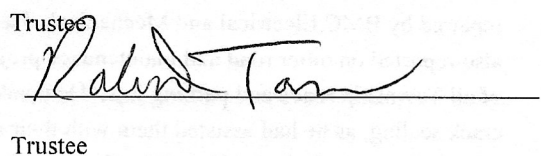
The next regular meeting will be Wednesday, November 9, 2022.

With no further business, at 9:22 pm, **Motion 2022-98:** 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