

# 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 14, 2023

Chairman Fredrick Houston called the June 14, 2023, regular meeting of the Ellsworth Trustees to order at 7:00 pm. A roll call was taken to establish a quorum: Chairman Fredrick Houston - present, Vice Chairman Robert Toman - present, Trustee William Spellman - present. Also present were Fiscal Officer James DeCenso, Zoning Inspector Wayne Sarna, Fire Chief Edward Smith, and Road/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 May 10, 2023. No one in attendance requested that the minutes be read. **Motion 2023-70:** Trustee Spellman made a motion to accept the minutes from the last meeting. Trustee Toman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was Toman - Yes, Spellman - Yes, Houston - abstained as he was absent from the May 10<sup>th</sup> meeting due to illness.

At this time, the Board recognized the James and Coralie Centofanti Families. Representing the families was David and Kelley Centofanti and their son Brent. Trustee Spellman read a proclamation describing the many contributions that the family has provided to the Township and to the Western Reserve Schools throughout the years. The Board and the audience thanked them for their community service. Some members of the audience also spoke and provided additional accolades about the families. The Board took a brief recess for refreshments.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Chief Smith reported that there were 21 emergency calls in the Township in May of which 7 were EMS related. There were 5 transports during the month that were all provided by Ellsworth. He advised the Board that all of the annual truck and pump maintenance has been completed by D&T Truck at a cost of \$2,359.81. Also, that the air leak on the ladder truck, that was reported last month, had been repaired at a cost of \$213.75. As part of the annual preventative maintenance program, D&T identified the need to replace tires on all three trucks. All tires are out of date per NFPA guidelines and would eventually affect the Township's ISO score. He estimated the tires are at least ten years old. The Chief had obtained a quote from Flynn Tire in the amount of \$11,444.42 which includes on-site installation and removal of the old tires. Another emergency authorized repair, namely a radio power connector repair, was performed on the older ambulance, by Bearcom at a cost of \$555.00. The Chief also reported a needed purchase of one case of IV solutions from Bound Tree at a cost of \$441.12. Chief Smith and the Board then discussed the replacement of the old couch with some recliner chairs, in the Fire Station radio room. Some prices have been obtained from various vendors at around \$500.00 per chair. The Fiscal Officer reminded the Board that an earlier resolution (2022-108), had approved \$1,000.00 for Fire Station furniture. The Board and the Chief determined that an additional \$800.00 should be sufficient to purchase the three recliners. He also submitted for approval, a department application from Brandon Finamore, an EMT/FF II. **Motion 2023-71:** Trustee Spellman then made a motion to approve the \$15,869.68 as requested and includes rounding the tire encumbrment to \$11,500.00. Trustee Toman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. Trustee Toman then presented a check of \$500.00 from Pidgeon Farms donated to the Ellsworth Fire Department as gratitude for their quick response to an alarm in Goshen Township. Also, a letter of gratitude received from the St. Paul Monastery was read, regarding a controlled burn that the Department had performed on June 8<sup>th</sup>.

ROAD and MAINTENANCE: Mr. Hoffman reported that there was one burial in the Township in May, with assistance from Berlin township. He also assisted Berlin with one of their burials. Mr. Hoffman also reported that he sold a niche at the Ellsworth Cemetery. This would be the 4<sup>th</sup> niche sold. He reported that all of the aluminum flag holders have been installed at the veteran's gravesites in both cemeteries, and that he has begun to clean some headstones with the new D-2 cleaner product recently purchased. Both boilers were inspected in May. There was a small gas leak in the Road Building boiler, which he immediately repaired. Mr. Hoffman then presented a quote to have the front of the Fire Station brick and concrete cleaned of the salt debris. The cost would be \$525.00 (including tax), which he thought was reasonable due to the time and cost of cleaners involved. The Ellsworth Historical Society thanked Mr. Hoffman and his staff for their efforts to assist Mr. Ford when he presented the headstone restoration program last month. He then discussed with the Board the need to add some help to his summer seasonal staff. He presented a resume from Joseph Serensky Jr. to the Board for review. The Board discussed adding him to the NESCO temporary staffing at the same rate of Mr. Wehr. **Motion 2023-72:**

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## Regular Trustee Meeting June 14, 2023, Continued

Trustee Spellman then made a motion to hire Joseph Serensky Jr., through NESCO Temp Agency at a rate of \$13.00 per hour plus NESCO's fees. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. **Motion 2023-73:** Trustee Toman then made a motion to approve spending up to \$500.00 to have the front brick and walkway cleaned. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

The Board then reviewed the Fire/EMS application submitted earlier by Chief Smith. **Motion 2023-74:** Trustee Spellman then made a motion to approve hiring Brandon Finamore, FF II/EMT to the Ellsworth Fire Department. Trustee Toman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

FISCAL REPORT: Fiscal Officer James DeCenso reported that May's receipts were \$56,765 and expenditures were \$90,021. Receipts included the Ohio Rollback of \$21,382. He explained that the State reimburses the Township for Personal Property Homestead, Non-Business and Owner-Occupied tax credits. However, for newer levies, such as the recently passed Fire/EMS levy in 2022, the state no longer reimburses to the Township the Non-Business and Owner-Occupied Personal Property Tax credits. The expenditures included \$6,580 for the new Fire/EMS software approved last month and \$4,625 final payment (From ARPA Funds) on the new LED sign in front of the Township Bldg. on Rt 45. The Fiscal Officer then reviewed the Fund balances. The total gross fund balance as of May 31, 2023, was \$912,863, including \$50,913 in unencumbered ARPA funds; \$461,069 in Fire/EMS Operation and Equipment funds and \$306,219 in Road funds. The General Fund balance is \$79,838 (including Cemetery and Zoning funds). The Fiscal Officer then presented \$5,367 in invoices for approval, including a \$1,432 to JW Murdoch for Fire Bay door repairs in April, \$3,000 to Austintown 911 for Jan-June 2023 911 dispatching, \$762 for 3rd Quarter UAB fees, and \$173 to the Tribune Chronicle for a June ZBA hearing notice. **Motion 2023-75:** Trustee Spellman made a motion to approve the \$5,367 in invoices as presented by the Fiscal Officer. Trustee Toman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. Mr. DeCenso then discussed the 2023 NOPEC Energy Savings Grant of \$3,656 and the Ohio Ambulance Transportation Program Grant. The Ambulance Grant would provide up to \$20,000 to the Township to use for premium pay to first responders during the COVID Emergency Period. The Township would need to calculate a formula to pay back Premiums to those responders. The NOPEC Grant projects can be named later, however the resolution and Agreement need to be filed by June 30<sup>th</sup>. He requested the Board to approve both grants. **Motion 2023-76:** Trustee Toman made a motion to accept the Grants available from NOPEC and the Ohio Ambulance Transportation Grant and to designate the Fiscal Officer to accept both Grants. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

ZONING REPORT: Mr. Wayne Sarna advised the Board that he wrote six Zoning permits since the last meeting, including a porch/patio on Palmyra Rd, a garage addition on Leffingwell Rd, a single-family dwelling and garage on Leffingwell Rd, a home addition on Elias Lloyd, an inground swimming pool on Kiwatani, and a privacy fence on Akron Canfield Rd. This privacy fence is near the goat farm. He reported that he is still waiting for the title search information from Atty Finamore on the property at 10610 Akron Canfield Rd before continuing with the approved demolition process. He can then schedule the necessary hearing for the property owner(s) before the Board of Trustees. Mr. Sarna then reported on six other properties that he is reviewing for recent violations.

Chairman Houston then recognized Jim Tripp from the Zoning Board of Appeals. He reported on a hearing for a variance on Akron Canfield Rd, where the property owner had asked for a 10 ft setback instead of the 20 ft zoning requirement, for a storage building on industrial zoned property. The variance was granted. The Board also took a question regarding solar farms. The Board indicated that Mahoning County is reviewing instituting a county-wide resolution. Also, the Township is waiting for continued guidance from their legal counsel.

The Board also reviewed the applications from Angela Javorsky as a Zoning Commission member Jason Smaldino as an alternate member. **Motion 2023-77:** Trustee Spellman made a motion to appoint Angela Javorsky to the Zoning Commission to the unexpired term of Ronnie Massullo and Jason Smaldino as an alternate. Both appointments are retroactive to June 1, 2023. Trustee Toman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. The Board then discussed the availability of a surplus used automobile from Boardman Township for the Township Fire Department. **Motion 2023-78:** Trustee Spellman made a motion to purchase a 2013 Ford

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## Regular Trustee Meeting June 14, 2023, Continued

Expedition from Boardman Township at a cost of \$2,500.00 and up to \$1,000.00 in repairs or renovations. Trustee Toman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Trustee Spellman reported on the State Brownfield Grants available through the Land Bank and that he had contacted the Guttman Oil Company to direct their interest to apply for such regarding their abandoned property in the Township.

Trustee Toman described the workup necessary to facilitate any repair work to the drainage issues on Elk Rd. The Board discussed the need to appoint one member of the Board to oversee any required engineering and proposed solutions. The Board recognized that discussions and decisions by the Board cannot be made outside of a public meeting. **Motion 2023-79:** Trustee Spellman made a motion to appoint Trustee Toman as the Lead Member of the Board to direct the data collection, engineering and to summarize a project to bring back to the Board a project to approve. Trustee Toman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. Trustee Toman also indicated that he will be requesting additional signage from ODOT at the intersection of Palmyra Rd and State Rt 45.

Trustee Houston discussed sponsoring an appreciation dinner for the many people who provide services and assistance to the Township. He will investigate reinstating such a dinner.

### OLD BUSINESS:

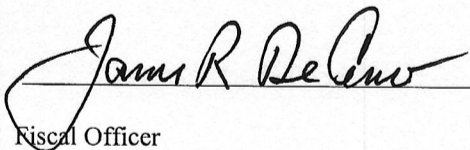
There was no old business to discuss.

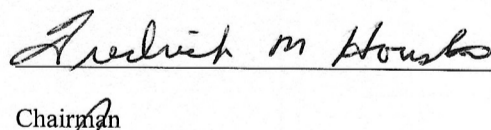
### NEW BUSINESS:


The Board recognized Fred Schrock who discussed America's Sesquicentennial celebration, which will be held in 2026 and the Historical Society's participation in the pre-planning process.

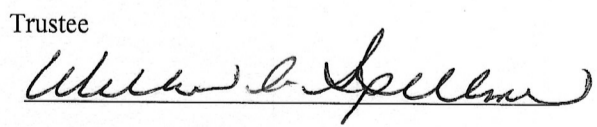
The next regular meeting will be Wednesday July 12, 2023, at 7:00 pm.

With no further business, at 9:20 pm, **Motion 2023-80:** Trustee Toman made a motion to adjourn. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

  
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Fiscal Officer

  
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Chairman

  
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Trustee

  
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Trustee