

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

Meeting

BEAR GRAPHICS 800-325-8094 FORM NO. 10148

Held MINUTES OF ELLSWORTH TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES 20

REGULAR MEETING

February 12, 2025

Chairman William Spellman called the February 12, 2025, 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, Fire Chief Edward Smith, Assistant Fire Chief Jillian Smith, Maintenance and Road Supervisor Joseph Serensky III, Zoning Inspector Wayne Sarna, and several zoning commission members. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

MINUTES: Minutes from December 11, 2024, regular meeting and the January 11, 2025, reorganization meeting, were available but not the January 11, 2025, regular meeting was not available. **Motion 2025-13:** Trustee Toman moved that the minutes from the regular meeting of December 11, 2024, and the reorganizational meeting of January 11, 2025, be accepted, Trustee Houston seconded the motion. The roll call was all in favor.

FISCAL REPORT: Fiscal Officer James DeCenso stated that copies of the minutes are available and also on the township website. A matrix summary of township fees and wages were also available at the conclusion of the meeting. Revenue for January 2024 was \$65,739 which included bank interest of \$3,253 at the rate of 4.65%. Extraordinary revenue included a check from Progressive Insurance in the amount of \$43,540 regarding the property on Huxley Road. Pursuant to ORC 3929.86 code – 13% of the insurance proceeds were sent to the Township and are to be held in escrow for future cleanup of the property. Since there may be legal actions involved, Mr. DeCenso has requested guidance from the Mahoning County Prosecutors office. Expenses for the month totaled \$66,998. Extraordinary items paid in January were \$2,000 for a set of turn out gear from Canfield Joint Fire District and \$6,973 to MS Consulting for the Elk Road drainage issue. The current balance of all funds as of January 31, 2025, was \$859,880. A final appropriations budget needs to be completed by the end of March 2025. A budget workshop meeting date of February 25, 2025, was set. Mr. DeCenso requested approval for several items: Bureau of Worker’s Compensation has a True Up Report every year where the balance, if any, from the previous year’s estimated payment is due by February 15. The township paid \$9,645 in 2024 leaving a balance of \$17,567 due to complete 2024. This payment amount was included in the temporary appropriations for 2025. The Township’s premium rating is very good as there have not been any claims in 8 or 9 years. An unpaid invoice from March of 2022 for \$659.51 to Roof Rite was brought to fiscal officer’s attention and needs to be paid (for fire station roof repairs). An invoice from Arms Trucking for 21.5 tons of road salt in the amount of \$1,783.26 is outstanding. Mr. DeCenso contacted Jeff Williams from Western Reserve Landscaping to determine if more salt needs to be approved with this invoice. However, he has not heard back. And finally, the annual fee of \$150 to the Ohio Volunteer Firefighter Dependency Fund is required. The total request is \$20,160.65. **Motion 2025-14:** Trustee Toman made a motion to approve the \$20,160.65 as requested. Trustee Houston seconded the motion. The roll call was all in favor. The audit from summer of 2024 still continues. Quiet for months, but several questions on payroll and policy manuals were received lately. The Ohio Auditor’s Local Government Conference in Columbus is scheduled for March 27 – 28. Mr. DeCenso may attend but will not require funds for overnight lodging. He ended by advising the Board that he is working on the 2024 Financial Close. Trustee Houston then suggested that when the 2025-2027 SRO invoice is received from the Sheriff’s office, the Township considers paying for the first two years of coverage in 2025. Since that encumbrance was approved last year using ARPA funds, it will remove the remaining fund balance from the Township’s responsibility. The Board agreed to review when the invoice is received.

ROAD and MAINTENANCE: All the cemetery wooden pallets from the Wreaths Across America program were removed and the garage was cleaned up. The pavilion behind the maintenance building is enclosed and electricity service and natural gas are in place. The Board and Mr. Serensky discussed sealing the Township parking lot in 2025.

ZONING REPORT: Since his last report Mr. Sarna has issued two (2) zoning permits. On January 30th a permit for a 2,500 sq. ft. single family home with 2 car garage was issued to 7610 Knauf Road for \$1.350. On February 7th a zoning permit was issued for a modular structure (no garage) of 1,387 sq. ft. at 4289 Bailey Road was issued for \$721. Mr. Sarna reported that the Zoning Commission had reviewed and approved the proposed zoning change request of the 28.88 acres on Knauf Rd. from Agriculture to Residential at their public hearing on February 11, 2025. He reported that the Commission is also reviewing the Zoning Fees that he had proposed at the last Trustee meeting. He then reported on a zoning violation at 12082 Palmyra Road for an abandoned house pending as there has been no response from the property owners (Proverbs Brothers, 8447 Tod Ave., Warren, OH 44481. A letter was sent to the property owner setting a deadline to respond. He also set a deadline of March 1st for a re-cleanup at 5843 Gault Road for accumulated debris at the front of the home and neighboring garage. Mr. Sarna reported that the back taxes for 11830 Palmyra Road are still in arrears in the amount of \$4,651.48. The Township Zoning

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Regular Trustee Meeting February 12, 2025, Continued

Amendment for solar projects was recorded with the Mahoning County Records office on November 19, 2024. The work at 9753 Palmyra Road is being monitored as the property owner needs to obtain a zoning application to construct a new deck or porch this spring. The work at 11632 Ellsworth is also being monitored regarding issues with the home that are being corrected. Also being monitored is the property at 4145 Bailey Road as to a prior violation letter that was sent due to a number of RV's and trailers parked on the residence. The Mahoning County Sheriff's Department sent an email to the Township announcing that Captain D'Angelo is taking over the 911 coordinator's duties for the approval of street addresses. A trailer that was located at 11106 Akron-Canfield Road where Christmas trees were sold has been relocated to the driveway at 8740 Palmyra Road at the inspector's request. A call from the Ohio Department of Transportation was received regarding whether we issued a solar permit to property on Route 224. They were advised that no permit was issued for the small solar facility. The present Zoning resolution needs to be updated so that all the zoning amendments are in one (1) document for easier reading. Mr. Sarna attended the MCPC meeting on the zone change that was held on January 28, 2025.

Chairman Spellman set a hearing date of March 12, 2025, at 6:00 pm in at the Fire Station to take public comment on the approval of the aforementioned zoning change on Knauf Rd. The Board would then vote on the request.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Chief Smith reported that (60) sixty calls have been received for the year. The monthly total was forty-two (42) calls with mutual aid given fifteen (15) times and received six (6) times. Fifteen (15) fire calls were received. The EMS calls totaled twenty-seven (27) calls with Ellsworth transporting eleven (11) patients, refusals from twelve (12) patients, and four (4) were cleared. The dispatching has been going smoothly. Chief Smith attended a COG meeting in Austintown and one in Boardman. The present dispatch rate will remain the same for 2025. Significant increases are expected after this year. It is suggested that the Board discuss with the Mahoning County Commissioners the need for additional county support of the 911 dispatch centers. There is a leak in the NW corner of the Fire Station by the bay door on top which needs repaired. The Chief is requesting approval for EMS supplies from Boundtree which were purchased totaling \$1,439.44. There is also a fee of \$440.00 for the renewal of Ohio drug license. Dr. Hill from University Hospitals signs the application, along with Chief Smith. The total requested for approval is \$1,879.44. We are currently working on multiple grants. Our junior firefighters' EMS classes are going well. They are to take first tests this evening. Assistant Fire Chief Jullian Smith will monitor their progress. Billing is going smoothly – Lori and her staff are amazing. Any requests for MVA reports should be directed to Chief Smith. **Motion 2025-14:** Trustee Houston made a motion to approve the \$1,879.44 as requested. Trustee Toman seconded the motion. The roll call was all in favor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Trustee Toman reported that the Crime Watch reports are available. The Elk Road planning project is going forward. Trustee Toman and Trustee Houston met with MS Consultants on site to review. Trustee Toman has been helping with work on the pavilion remodel. He also attended the OTA convention in Columbus where he learned more about solar projects.

Trustee Houston had some questions on how to proceed with the sale of 10774 Akron Salem Rd. property by the cemetery. He discussed the willingness of the Board to sell the front parcel. He consulted with the county prosecutor's office and would like the trustees to agree on one of two ways to handle the sale: (1) place an ad in the newspaper to accept sealed bids by a certain date (2) using an auctioneer. He prefers sealed bids with the right of refusal. The water well is closed as is the septic system (there is a sewer line). No building can be done on property until one final inspection from the Board of Health. Once that is done a replat of the cemetery can be done. This is approximately 1.5 acres. The Board suggested accepting sealed bids and post a sale notice on the property, as well as a notice in the newspaper and website.

Chairman Spellman stated that the presentation with First Energy on the upgrades to electric lines and the substation has been changed to March 12, 2025, at the fire station.

A discussion was held on the pavilion construction project. Overhead doors need to be purchased, with or without windows. **Motion 2025-15:** Trustee Toman made a motion to approve up to \$5,000.00 for three (3) overhead doors including installation, with or without windows for the pavilion construction project and to approve Chairman Spellman to oversee and make the final decision on appropriate doors and company. Trustee Houston seconded the motion. The roll call was all in favor.

Chairman Spellman stated that he attended the conference in Columbus and attended several zoning classes. He suggested that additional education be made available for Zoning Commission and ZBA members.

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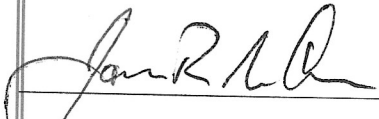
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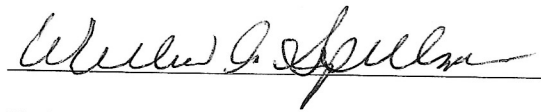
Held _____
Regular Trustee Meeting February 12, 2025, Continued _____20_____

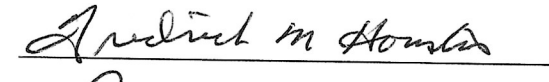
Chairman Spellman reported that the gas line expansion on Duck Creek Road is in process with a distribution manifold in place.


Our next meeting will be at the fire station on Wednesday March 12. The zone change hearing will be 6:00 pm with the regular meeting at 7:00 pm including the First Energy presentation.

With no further business, at 8:00 pm, ^{v1}**Motion 2025-16:** 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