

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

September 14, 2022

Chairman William Spellman called the September 14, 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 August 9, 2022. No one in attendance requested that the minutes be read. **Motion 2022-80:** 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 August's receipts were \$114,017 and expenditures were \$47,574. Receipts include \$82,000 in 2nd half property tax advances. Expenditures include the \$7,494 payment to AIM Construction for the installation of new windows in the Road Dept building. He reminded the Board that the Township had received a grant of \$3,327 towards the cost of the new windows. The total gross fund balances as of August 31, 2022, was \$900,657, 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 \$3,436.93, including an additional \$1,275.00 approved by the Ohio Auditor to pay Canter and Associates for the conclusion of the 2020-2021 audit, \$591.93 to Quality water for repairs, \$950.00 to Grace Exterminating, \$270.00 for Yo./Warren Chamber dues and \$350.00 to order new checks. The cost of new checks will be reimbursed by Farmer's Bank **Motion 2022-81:** Trustee Toman made a motion to approve the \$3,436.96 in expenditures presented. Trustee Houston seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. Mr. DeCenso then discussed with the Board the process to accept the ARPA funds for use in General Government Services. **Motion 2022-82:** Trustee Houston made a motion to pass a resolution authorizing expenditures from the American Rescue Plan Act Revenue Replacement Funds as authorized by the Treasury Department's final rules effective April 1, 2022, which provides for a "standard allowance" to fund "government services". Trustee Toman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. In light of this resolution **Motion 2022-83:** Trustee Houston made a motion to amend last month's approval (Motion 2022-76) to pay the Mahoning County Sheriff's Department for the Township's proportion of the School Resource Officer directly from ARPA revenue funds. Trustee Toman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. The Fiscal Officer then advised the Board that with the ARPA funding and the conclusion of the 2022 property tax collections, that he would be calculating an Amended Certificate of Resources request, to be presented to the Board for approval at the next meeting. He then gave a preliminary report on the ongoing 2020-2021 audit and that the auditors had questioned the Township's reimbursement to him for his spouse's Medicare Part B and supplemental insurance premiums. Mr. DeCenso explained that he had previously received email communication from both the previous public auditor and the Ohio State Auditor's office, that the reimbursement was lawful. The reimbursement began in January 2021 for approximately \$300 per month as opposed to the \$940 per month premium charged by the Township's group health carrier. The issue is currently under review again by the Ohio State Auditor's office.

ROAD and MAINTENANCE: Mr. Tom Hoffman reported that there were two cremation inurnments in the Township's columbarium last month. He reported that the dead tree near the ball field has been removed and that the water system repairs have been completed. The new buoys and rescue ropes approved at the last meeting have been installed at the pond. He also reported that Berlin Township assisted in brush hogging some areas at the cemetery. Mr. Huffman and the Board discussed the advantages of purchasing a brush hog for the Township's tractor so that these activities could occur on a more frequent basis. The Board agreed to review his request and to discuss again at the next meeting. He advised the Board that he will begin to assist Berlin township with their crack-sealing and that they will then work their way to Ellsworth to complete the crack-sealing in the Township. Mr. Huffman also reported that he has investigated a liquid type of cement epoxy material that could possibly be used to fix some of the cracks in the cement pads and walkways around the Fire Station and Road Bldg. He will continue to review this project. He then requested approval of \$588.00 for a variety of cordless tools that could be used in the cemetery and elsewhere where access to electricity is limited. **Motion 2022-84:** Trustee Houston made a motion to approve the \$588.00 requested for tools. Trustee Toman seconded the motion. The roll call

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Regular Trustee Meeting September 14, 2022, Continued

vote was all in favor. The Board then thanked him and Fred Schrock from the VFW Post #9571 for their work on the Canfield Fair display.

ZONING REPORT: Mr. Sarna reported that there were four permits issued since the last meeting. Permits were issued for an in-ground swimming pool on Bailey Rd, an enclosed porch on Salem Warren Rd, a single-family dwelling on Western Reserve Rd, and a detached garage on Elias Lloyd Rd. He reported that he has sent a letter to Atty Douglas Ross, who is representing David and Laura Lewis and Basista Holdings, LLC, advising them that he cannot consider their application for a final site plan as their application did not conform with Section 405 of the Ellsworth Zoning Resolution. An appeal has been filed by Atty Ross to this denial and the matter is now pending a hearing to be set by the Ellsworth Zoning Board of Appeals. Mr. Sarna then reported that he has continued discussions with the realtor who represents the property at 10610 Akron Canfield Rd regarding the removal of the structure. He then reported on five additional zoning complaints that he is monitoring.

Chairman Spellman then recognized Dee Tripp, the Zoning Commission secretary, who advised the Board that the commission has reviewed the earlier proposed permit fees and will get their recommendations to them soon.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Chief Smith reported that there were 30 calls in August including 22 EMS calls with 13 transports of which the Township transported 7. The other 6 transports were provided by mutual aid departments as no EFD members were available. Chief Smith advised the Board that the batteries have been replaced on Engine 400 and Medic 401. The total cost was \$815.63. The Fiscal Officer interjected that \$480.00 had previously been approved (2022-46) for the Engine 400 batteries. The Chief also purchased \$438.86 in EMS supplies. He advised the Board that Bearcom has completed the programming of the new radios and the total cost was \$2,662.50. Chief Smith then requested that six fire hoods be replaced at a cost of \$110.00 each. **Motion 2022-85:** Trustee Houston made a motion to approve the \$4,096.99 in expenditures presented. Trustee Toman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. Chief Smith reported that EFD member Michael Gensamer has turned 18 and can now respond as a FF II and EMT-B. He reported that ambulance crews are still being delayed at the hospital, waiting for personnel to take their patients, sometimes two to three hours. He advised the Board that the order for new turn-out gear had been lost by the vendor but is now back in process. A recent price increase will be credited. Chief Smith and the Board discussed the annual Trick-or-Trunk event. The Board reminded the Chief that NOPEC had made an earlier donation of \$750.00 towards this Township event. The Board discussed holding the event on Sunday, October 30th from 2 pm to 5 pm at the Fire Station. Also, that the Township's observance of Halloween should then be Monday, October 31st from 5 pm to 7 pm. Trustee Houston started discussion with the Board and the Chief about the continuation of EMS daytime shift coverage. He suggested using ARPA funds to maintain the program. **Motion 2022-86:** Trustee Houston made a motion to continue daytime EMS shift coverage for the pay periods 9/19/22 through 11/27/22 utilizing ARPA funds for payroll. Trustee Toman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. Chief Smith then discussed the actions that the Citizens for the Fire/EMS Committee is planning. They are printing signs and plan to do a mailing. The Committee rented the Fire Hall to hold an open forum on Wednesday, September 28th at 7 pm.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Trustee Toman reported on the Crimewatch. There have been numerous car thefts recently in Canfield. He also reported that the county will be holding another Fire/EMS meeting on Friday the 16th that he will attend.

Trustee Houston reported on a discussion with an ODOT representative about the intersection of Palmyra Rd and Rt 45 regarding the rash of accidents and a request to have a flashing stop sign erected on Palmyra. ODOT reported that the intersection is not currently a priority. She indicated that the accidents are caused by drivers (on Palmyra) pulling out in front of cross traffic on Rt 45. A flashing stop sign would not have any effect on those accidents. The intersection is the responsibility of ODOT and neither the County nor the Township has any jurisdiction.

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.

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Regular Trustee Meeting September 14, 2022, Continued

OLD BUSINESS:

No old business was discussed.

NEW BUSINESS:

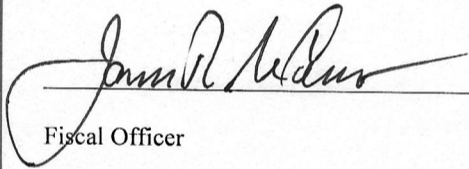
Motion 2022-87: Trustee Houston made a motion to have the Fire Department's Trick or Trunk event on Sunday October 30th from 2pm to 5pm and to have the Township Trick or Treat on Monday, October 31st from 5 pm to 7 pm. Trustee Toman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

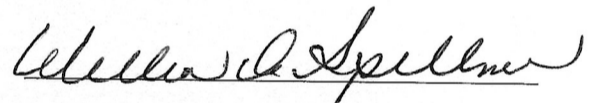
The next meeting will be held October 12, at 7:00 pm.

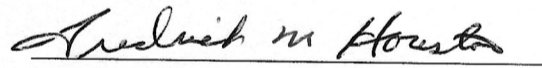
At 8:45 pm **Motion 2022-88:** Chairman Spellman made a motion, pursuant to ORC 122 (g)(1), to enter into executive session to discuss review the performance appraisal of a Township employee. Trustee Houston seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

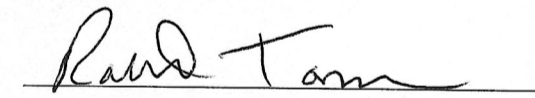
At 9:20 pm **Motion 2022-89:** Trustee Toman made a motion to return to regular session. Trustee Houston seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

With no further business, at 9:22 pm, **Motion 2022-90:** 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