

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

February 14, 2024

Chairman Robert Toman called the February 14, 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 were Road and Maintenance Supervisor Tom Hoffman, Fire Chief Edward Smith, and Zoning Inspector Wayne Sarna. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

MINUTES: Chairman Robert Toman presented the minutes from the annual Organizational meeting and the last Regular meeting, which were held January 6, 2024 and the minutes from a Special meeting, to elect a Mahoning County township trustee to a new 911 committee, that was held January 30, 2024. No one in attendance requested that the minutes be read. **Motion 2024-15:** Trustee Houston made a motion to accept the (3) minutes from the Organizational meeting, the last regular meeting, and the special meeting. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

FISCAL REPORT: Chairman Toman read the Fiscal Officer's report in his absence. Fiscal Officer James DeCenso reported that January's receipts were \$32,811 and expenditures were \$96,580. Receipts included \$4,246 (5.65%) in bank interest. The total gross fund balances as of January 31, 2024, was \$841,040 including \$37,548 in unspent ARPA funds; \$381,659 in Fire/EMS Operations and Equipment funds and \$352,611 in Road funds. The General Fund balance is \$54,613 (including Cemetery and Zoning funds). The Fiscal Officer reported that the Township has once again been awarded a \$1,000 Community Event Sponsorship Program. **Motion 2024-16:** Trustee Houston then made the motion to accept the \$1,000 NOPEC grant and to appoint the Fiscal Officer as the contact person. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. Mr. DeCenso's report then requested the need to identify the Township fund to pay out the annual School Resource Officer's fee. **Motion 2024-17:** Trustee Houston then made the motion to pay the previously approved (Motion 2024-8) \$10,003.83 from the ARPA Fund. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

The Trustees then discussed Chapter 3780 of the Ohio Revised Code which legalizes adult use of marijuana usage, cultivation, processing, and sales in Ohio as approved by the Ohio voters as State Issue 2 on November 7, 2023. **Motion 2024-18:** Trustee Spellman then made a motion, pursuant to ORC 3780.25 to prohibit adult use cannabis operators within Ellsworth Township. Trustee Houston seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

Returning to the Fiscal Officer's report, the Trustees discussed the budget workshops conducted over the last two months. **Motion 2024-19:** Trustee Spellman then made a motion to approve the 2024 permanent appropriations and budget of \$1,791,272.75. Trustee Houston seconded the motion. The Fiscal Officer's report also requested that the Board approve the repayment of a 2023 advance from the Fire Fund to the EMS Fund. The \$23,650 advance was originally approved to satisfy EMS payroll while proceeds from the November 2022 levy were being collected. **Motion 2024-20:** Trustee Spellman then made a motion to approve the transfer of \$23,650 from the EMS Fund to the Fire Fund as an advance repayment. Trustee Houston seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. Mr. DeCenso's report concluded by requesting that someone else take over Fire Hall rental responsibilities. Chief Edward Smith indicated that the Department would take that task back from the Fiscal Officer.

ROAD and MAINTENANCE: Mr. Tom Hoffman reported on various maintenance projects completed last month, including a tree removal from Geeburg Cemetery He reported that the routine maintenance on the Fire Station generator was completed and that a fuel filter needed replaced. He had arranged for the Heat Pump in the Fire Station to be repaired. EMS Plumbing inspected the backflow valves and five zone valves. They found four of the five are seeping. Those cannot be replaced until the boiler can be shut down. He repaired the concrete around the drains in the Fire Station and changed the door lock on the Road/Maintenance building. The stop signpost at the corner of Elk and West Hill was replaced. The "ABS" issue with the dump truck was repaired at Ellsworth Auto and he had the brakes inspected and the tires rotated. The trustees then discussed the issue of hiring summer seasonal help for the Township. Due to the unavailability of workers bids were obtained to cut

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

Meeting

BEAR GRAPHICS 800-325-8094 FORM NO 10148

Held _____

20 _____

Regular Trustee Meeting February 14, 2024, Continued

and trim the grass at Ellsworth Cemetery. The Board discussed a quote to cut the Ellsworth Cemetery weekly at a cost of \$400.00 per cut and trim. **Motion 2024-21:** Trustee Houston made the motion to approve an Agreement with Dreiling Landscape Plus to furnish grass cutting and trimming of the Ellsworth Cemetery at a cost of \$400.00 per cut. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The Trustees then reviewed a discussion that Mr. Hoffman had with Berlin township to have them excavate graves for Ellsworth. The Township currently pays \$425.00 per grave excavation. **Motion 2024-22:** Trustee Houston made the motion to negotiate an Agreement with Berlin township for them to excavate graves in Ellsworth at a cost of \$350.00 each Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. Chairman Toman then advised the Board that the residents of Elk Rd that are affected by the flooding have been sent written permission for planning.

ZONING REPORT: Zoning Inspector Wayne Sarna reported that he issued one Zoning permit for a single-family residence on Salem Warren Rd. since the last meeting. Mr. Sarna then advised the Board that he has received two bids to remove the structure at 10610 Akron Canfield Rd. One for \$18,300 and another for \$14,000. **Motion 2024-23:** Trustee Houston made the motion to accept the bid of \$14,000 from Custom Blended Soils, Inc (CBS) and to approve an additional \$1,000 for any incidental costs associated with the demolition. His motion also included the approval for the Fiscal Officer to submit the costs of demolition and any other related expenses to the County Auditor for an assessment on the owner's property. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. Mr. Sarna then continued his report by advising the Board that the structures located at 11722 W Akron Canfield Rd have finally been moved back out of the right-of-way, after repeated letters from him and the Mahoning County Prosecutor. He then reported on four other properties in the Township that he has sent Zoning violations letters. He then reported that he has been contacted by a representative of Distributed Clean Energy Development RWE Clean Energy who informed him that they have an option to purchase 37.665 acres of property located on W Akron Canfield Rd with the intention of placing solar panels on the rear of the property. He has invited this company to attend the next Zoning and Trustee meetings to discuss their plans. Mr. Sarna finalized his report by indicating that he will be attending the public hearing of the Mahoning County Commissioners regarding the solar and wind prohibition resolution on February 15th.

The Board then discussed various vacancies on the Zoning Commission and the ZBA. **Motion 2024-24:** Trustee Houston made the motion to move Andrew Baltes from the Zoning Board of Appeals to the Alternate position on the Zoning Commission effective immediately. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. **Motion 2024-25:** Trustee Houston then made the motion to appoint Dan Morgan to the Zoning Board of Appeals as an Alternate as Pete Rich will be moving from the Alternate to a full member position effective immediately. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Chief Edward Smith reported that there were 45 emergency calls in the Township in January of which 28 were EMS related. There were 13 transports during the month that were all provided by Ellsworth. He then reported that dispatching is running smoothly and that the state of Ohio has provided a quote to the County to switch to the MARCS radio system. This would give County members better communications between departments. Chief Smith then requested approval of \$995.00 to send Assistant Chief Zachary Williams to Fire Inspector Classes, \$1,036.00 to Bound Tree for EMS Supplies, \$60.00 to reprogram three of the new pagers for new Department members, and \$14,229.65 to install radio headsets in the Ladder and Fire Engines. The Chief indicated that background noise in the trucks often makes it difficult to hear and respond to radio communications while in the vehicles. **Motion 2024-26:** Trustee Spellman then made a motion to approve \$16,320.65 for the Inspector classes, the reprogramming, the EMS supplies and the headsets. Trustee Houston seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Trustees Toman, Spellman and Houston all reported on classes attended at the 2024 Ohio Township Association Conference in Columbus.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

Meeting

BEAR GRAPHICS 800-325-8094 FORM NO. 10148

Held _____

20_____

Regular Trustee Meeting February 14, 2024, Continued

OLD BUSINESS:

No old Business


NEW BUSINESS:

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

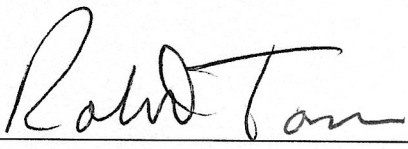
Motion 2024-27: At 8:50 pm, Trustee Spellman made a motion pursuant to ORC 121.22(g)(1) to enter into Executive Session to discuss the compensation of a public employee. Trustee Houston seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

Motion 2024-28: At 9:10 pm, Trustee Spellman made a motion pursuant to ORC 121.22 to return to Regular Session. Trustee Houston seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

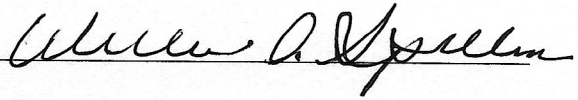
With no further business, at 9:10 pm, **Motion 2024-29:** Trustee Spellman made a motion to adjourn. Trustee Houston seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.



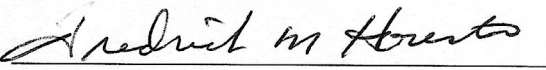
Fiscal Officer



Chairman



Trustee



Trustee