

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

December 11, 2024

Chairman Robert Toman called the December 11, 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 was Fiscal Officer James DeCenso, Fire Chief Edward Smith, Maintenance and Road Supervisor Joseph Serensky III, and Zoning Inspector Wayne Sarna. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

MINUTES: Fiscal Officer James DeCenso presented the minutes from the last Regular meeting, which was held November 13, 2024. No one in attendance requested that either of the minutes be read. **Motion 2024-140:** Trustee Houston made a motion to accept the minutes from the last Regular meeting held November 13th. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

FISCAL REPORT: Fiscal Officer James DeCenso reported that November's receipts were \$29,347 and expenditures were \$66,292. Receipts included the 3rd quarter cable franchise fee in the amount of \$5,935 and \$3,667 (4.96%) in bank interest. Expenditures included three firefighter payrolls in November. The total gross fund balances as of November 30, 2024, was \$959,204 including \$21,217 in unspent ARPA funds; \$546,605 in Fire/EMS Operations and Equipment funds and \$300,821 in Road funds. The General Fund (including Cemetery and Zoning funds) balance is \$76,336 and there is \$13,768 currently unencumbered in the General Fund. The Fiscal Officer then presented invoices for approval including \$762.00 for the 1st quarter 2025 UAN fees; \$441.03 in miscellaneous invoices and proposed a blanket purchase order of \$3,285.00 to cover the 2025 OTA conference registrations and expenses. He also requested approval to purchase a 1-year Ohio GrantWatch subscription for \$200.00. **Motion 2024-141:** Trustee Houston then made the motion to approve the requests of \$4,688.03. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. The Fiscal Officer then continued by presenting his request of \$596,000 for temporary appropriations for 2025. The final appropriations for 2025 must be passed by the Board by March 31, 2025. Mr. DeCenso explained that his request includes appropriations required for the 1st three months of salaries and wages and a listing of full year vendor purchase orders and blanket certificate orders. He also requested approval of the 2025 revenue budget of \$1,055,098. The revenue budget is comprised of \$737,198 in property tax collections as calculated by the county auditor and \$317,900 in other revenue collections. The Revenue budget will be reviewed and can be amended at the upcoming budget workshop(s). **Motion 2024-142:** Trustee Houston then made the motion to approve the 2025 Temporary Appropriations of \$596,000 and the 2025 Revenue Budget of \$ 1,055,098. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. The Fiscal Officer and the Board then discussed the need to encumber the \$21,217 balance of the ARPA funds before yearend. Mr. DeCenso reported that some earlier ARPA funds were used to pay the Township's share to the Mahoning County Sheriff for the annual School Resource Officer (SRO) fee. He reported that the Sheriff's office has advised him the 2025-2027 Agreement will cost the Township \$10,941.57 annually. The Board agreed that the balance should be used for the SRO Agreement. **Motion 2024-143:** Trustee Houston then made the motion to encumber the remaining ARPA balance of \$21,217 towards the 2025-2027 School Resource Officer charges from the Mahoning County Sheriff. The funds are to be used specifically for the 2025 and 2026 charges. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. The Fiscal Officer then reported to the Board that he has filed the applications for the OTA's MORE Safety grant and the OTA's Fire Grant.

ROAD and MAINTENANCE: Mr. Joseph Serensky reported that he had trimmed some trees on the west end of the cemetery. He also sold two plots in Ellsworth Cemetery. He reported that he is still experiencing issues with the Road building boiler. The plug burnt on the pump cord, and he has since replaced it. He is not sure if the chlorine pump is working properly. He replaced the siphon hose on it and it now needs to be recycled a few times. Chairman Toman suggested to have someone come out and review the whole water system and determine if it can be updated or needs replaced. The system is very old and requires constant repairs. Mr. Serensky continued by reporting that the side-by-side will start but will not drive forward. He requested a replacement before spring. He also reported that he put up the Christmas tree at the church and that all of the flags on the veterans' graves at the cemeteries have been removed to make room for the wreaths that will be placed on the

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Regular Trustee Meeting December 11, 2024, Continued

14th. Trustee Spellman suggested securing the storage building at the cemetery so that a trailer or other equipment could be securely stored there.

ZONING REPORT: Zoning Inspector Wayne Sarna reported that he had issued two Zoning permits since the last meeting: the first for a shed on Ellsworth Rd and a single-family dwelling on Kiwatani Trail at Diehl Lake. He also received a zone change request for three parcels from agricultural to business. Mr. Sarna reported that the trailer and accessory structure at 12082 Palmyra Rd have been removed but the vacant house has yet to be removed. He will continue to monitor that property's zoning violation. He has requested the prosecutor's office proceed with foreclosure of the property at 11830 Palmyra Rd for back taxes. He continues to monitor the clean-up of 5843 Gault Rd. He reported that the Township Amendment for Solar projects was recorded with the Mahoning County Recorder's office on November 19, 2024. Also, on November 26, 2024, the Mahoning County Planning Commission recommended denying the Zone change requests on all three properties on Rt 224. The Commission's decision was that the change would be contrary to the approved land/use zoning map. The applicant has since withdrawn the application. Mr. Sarna discussed with the County Planning Commission the thirty-acre tract on Rt 224, where the Township demolished the structure, to change the zoning from business to agriculture as per the land/use map. The Commission stated that the Zone change must begin with the Township's Zoning Commission. Mr. Sarna then reported that he reviewed the work in process at the former Diamond Back Golf course on Leffingwell Rd. He determined that no new construction is being done. The only work performed was to improve drainage on the property and to replace some pathways and parking areas. He then reviewed a letter sent to the property owner at 11632 Ellsworth Rd regarding the status of abandoned structures. He will continue to monitor.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Fire Chief Edward Smith reported that there were 41 emergency calls in the Township in November of which 18 were EMS related. There were 9 transports during the month. Ellsworth provided 8 and 1 was by mutual aid while the EFD crew was on another transport. The Department provided mutual aid 14 times and received mutual aid 9 times. Chief Smith reported that the department was in the process of submitting a grant for new communication radios, which would be across the county. Chief Smith then reported that Lillian May and Sloane Myers have both been accepted into the UHC Paramedic program. Also, Kari May and Greg Hutton have resigned due to other jobs. Chief Smith then requested approval for installing safety keypads on the EMS and Fire Chief's office at a cost of \$311.74. The Fiscal Officer indicated that these should qualify for reimbursement from the OTA's safety grant. Chief Smith then presented requests for EMS supplies from Boundtree of \$860.54 and a set of Irons for Medic 45 from Phoenix at a cost of \$384.00. She reported that the two iPads previously approved for \$398.00 came in at \$118.73 over approval which included cases that were not in the original quote. Chief Smith then reported that there is fire gear available for purchase from Cardinal Fire District that was purchased by them for Firefighter Brandon Finamore who is no longer on their department. The cost is \$2,000, which is less than half the cost of new gear. The Fiscal Officer also suggested that the gear rental for S. Myers be increased. Assistant Chief Smith felt that 6 more months at \$160.00 per month would be sufficient. The total requested is \$4,635.01. **Motion 2024-144:** Trustee Houston made the motion to approve the \$4,635.01 as requested. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. Chief Smith then discussed the explosion on Huxley Rd. Pursuant to ORC 3926.86, the Township can request that a portion of the insurance proceeds be sent to the Township to be held in escrow for potential clean-up costs. The Fiscal Officer indicated that the ORC requires that 13.3% be sent to the Township if requested, under the Ohio Fire Withholding Program. The Board discussed potential liability in holding these monies. The Fiscal Officer stated that without the insurance proceeds, the Township may be required to clean up the property using Township money. The Board agreed to proceed with the Ohio Withholding Program and to advise Progressive Insurance of the decision.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Trustee Houston discussed the septic and water systems at the new property located next to the cemetery. He has received a quote of \$2,709.00 from Dillon Well Drilling to inspect the water well and to plug the well if necessary. **Motion 2024-145:** Trustee Houston made the motion to approve up to \$2,800.00 to have the well inspected and plugged if necessary. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. Trustee Houston then reported on the Wreaths for Veterans program held at Ellsworth Cemetery.

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Trustee Spellman advised the Board on the new sewer line for S. Salem Warren Rd and the work in progress on the new pumping station. He also discussed relocating the gazebo which is currently located in the Old School Park area. He also discussed the upcoming 250 anniversary of the country and will discuss this with the Ellsworth Historical Society.

Chairman Toman reported on the Crime Watch. He provided some information regarding a 1,500 square foot structure to be built at the Vickers preserve by the Mill Creek Metroparks System. The building will contain a kitchen and bathrooms and will be available for rental. The estimated cost is \$900,000, which brings a total of 2.2 million in improvements.

OLD BUSINESS:

Chairman Toman discussed the drainage issue on Elk Rd. He explained that the Township has approximately \$211,000 available from the County Road Sales Tax. He felt that some of that money could be used to rectify that drainage problem. MS Consultants had been hired by the Township to engineer a proposed correction and will soon begin to solicit construction bids.

NEW BUSINESS:

Trustee Houston discussed that Mr. Serensky is still under his six-month probation, which does not include any paid holidays. He felt that the Township should provide him with paid Christmas and New Years holidays. **Motion 2024-146:** Trustee Houston made the motion to pay Joe Serensky Jr holiday pay for both Christmas and New Year's Day. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

The Board then discussed any need to re-appoint any Zoning Commission or ZBA members. **Motion 2024-147:** Trustee Houston made the motion to re-appoint Jim Mayberry to another five-year term on the Zoning Commission effective January 1, 2025. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion.

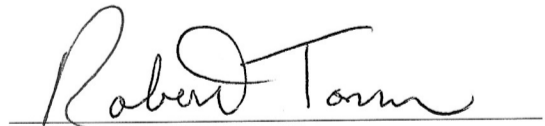
A budget Workshop will take place on January 8, 2025, at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall.

The 2025 Re-organizational meeting will be held on Saturday January 11, 2025, at 9:00am at the Town Hall. The monthly regular meeting will be held immediately thereafter.

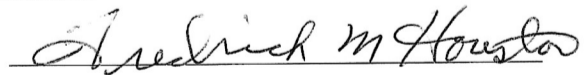
With no further business, at 8:05 pm, **Motion 2024-148:** Trustee Spellman made a motion to adjourn. Trustee Houston seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.



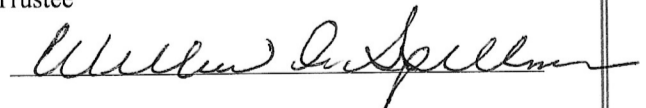
Fiscal Officer



Chairman



Trustee



Trustee