

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 13, 2023

Chairman Fredrick Houston called the December 13, 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, Road and Maintenance Supervisor Tom Hoffman, and Fire Chief Edward Smith. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

MINUTES: Fiscal Officer DeCenso presented the minutes from the last Regular meeting which was held November 8, 2023. No one in attendance requested that the minutes be read. **Motion 2023-121:** Trustee Toman made a motion to accept the minutes from the last meeting. 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 \$32,582 and expenditures were \$69,543. Receipts included \$6,238 in Cable Franchise Fees and \$4,269 (5.65%) in bank interest. The Fiscal Officer then reviewed the Fund balances. The total gross fund balances as of November 30, 2023, was \$954,372 including \$37,548 in unspent ARPA funds; \$476,605 in Fire/EMS Operations and Equipment funds and \$352,164 in Road funds. The General Fund balance is \$73,097 (including Cemetery and Zoning funds). The Fiscal Officer then presented invoices for approval, including \$9,645 to Ohio BWC for the 2024 Estimate; \$1,000 to Western Reserve Baseball to reimburse for the use of a handicap Porta John in 2022 and another \$320 (in addition to the \$1,080 approved for 2023 in March, Motion 2023-38); \$762 for UAN fees for the first quarter of 2024 and \$8,750.00 to Western Reserve Landscape, per contract. **Motion 2023-122:** Trustee Spellman then made a motion to approve the \$21,557.00 requested by the Fiscal Officer. Trustee Toman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. The Fiscal Officer then reviewed the process for 2024 Temporary Appropriations and requested approval for \$585,000. He provided a handout and explained that some of the requested temporary appropriations are only for three months, while others should suffice for all of 2024. **Motion 2023-123:** After review and discussion, Trustee Spellman made a motion to approve 2024 Temporary Appropriations of \$585,00 as requested. Trustee Toman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. The Fiscal Officer then reviewed the budget process. He asked that all capital items requested for 2024 be submitted prior to the first budget workshop. The Board scheduled a public workshop for January 17, 2024, at 6:00 pm, at the Town Hall. Mr. DeCenso then reviewed the purchase of the property at 10774 Akron Canfield Rd. He has been advised that the closing should take place on December 22nd. He requested formal approval of the purchase price of \$85,000 plus an estimate of \$1,500 for closing fees. **Motion 2023-124:** Trustee Spellman made a motion to approve the \$85,000 purchase of 10774 W. Akron Canfield Rd for future Road Dept storage and use, and up to \$1,500 for closing costs. Trustee Toman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. The Fiscal Officer then explained to the Board that the 2024 Health Insurance Agreement with Medical Mutual contained a new feature that does not distinguish monthly premiums by employee age. It also no longer provides a reduction in premiums for a Medicare supplement policy, should the employee choose Medicare as their primary coverage. This is a significant change from previous years and can be extremely costly as all four of the elected officials are Medicare eligible. He advised the Board that he and the agent will review other carriers and possibly recommend an immediate change.

ROAD and MAINTENANCE: Mr. Tom Hoffman reported that there was one Niche inurnment last month and one burial that was assisted by Berlin and that he had assisted Berlin with a burial there. He requested that the big Maple Tree at Geeburg Cemetery be removed as it was hit by lightning years ago and should be removed as it may eventually fall and damage some headstones. The Board agreed and requested that he obtain some quotes, to have it removed. Mr. Hoffman reported that a Fire Bay overhead door spring broke and that he had JW Murdoch do emergency repairs and that a new spring was ordered and installed today. The cost was \$902.00. The Fiscal Officer had approved the emergency repairs. He reported that the septic tank will need to be pumped. Mr. Hoffman then reported that he had removed the flags from the roadway and that he will need to replace 30 flags and 27 poles. He explained that the flags continue to get caught and torn as the angle on the current brackets is too high which does not allow the flag to spin on the poles as designed. He had obtained a quote from Western Reserve Flag for \$2,053.00 for the new poles and flags, including three new 5' x 8' flags. The Board requested

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Regular Trustee Meeting December 13, 2023, Continued

that he obtain quotes to also replace the brackets and resubmit the entire cost of the project at the next meeting. He then reported that he has created a location near the Re-cycle bins for residents to discard their Christmas Trees. The Green Team will make arrangements to gather those for local waterway fish habitats. **Motion 2023-125:** Trustee Toman made a motion to approve the \$902.00 invoice from JW Murdoch for the Fire Bay door spring repairs and replacement. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

ZONING REPORT: Chairman Houston read Mr. Sarna's report in his absence. He reported that he wrote one Zoning permit since the last meeting for a storage shed on Western Reserve Rd. He reported that Atty Finamore has stated that there has not been any appeal received from the owner(s) of 10610 Akron Canfield Rd and that the Trustees would be in their rights to pass a resolution that begins the demolition of the structure on that property. **Motion 2023-126:** Trustee Toman made a motion pursuant to ORC 505.86 to proceed with hiring a contractor and to proceed with the demolition of the structure at 10610 W Akron Canfield Rd. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. His report then continued with the location of the shed structures located at 11722 W. Akron Canfield Rd. The Stay-at-Home Storage Company has refused to move the structures out of the right-of-way as they block the view of emergency vehicles as they enter the intersection of State Routes 224 and 45. Atty Gaglione from the Mahoning County Prosecutor's office suggested contacting ODOT as the buildings are located in the State's right-of-way. He has taken pictures of the area and has sent them to ODOT for their review. He then reported on three other properties in the Township that he has been in contact with. Mr. Sarna reported that he attended the Zoning Commission meeting held on December 12th, and that the commission recommended approval of certain modifications regarding solar and wind projects to the Ellsworth Zoning Resolution and will refer those to the Board of Trustees for a public Hearing and their review.

Chairman Houston then recognized Angela Javorsky, secretary of the Zoning Commission who discussed the Zoning Resolution Amendment that was passed by the Commission on December 12, 2023. The Amendment pertains to restrictions of Solar projects in the Township. The Amendment was sent to the Mahoning County Planning Commission for approval. The Amendment will then be sent to the Board of Trustees who would hold a public meeting prior to taking any action.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Chief Edward Smith reported that there were 43 emergency calls in the Township in November of which 23 were EMS related. There were 11 transports during the month that were provided by Ellsworth and one through mutual aid. The Chief discussed adding monthly stipend pays to senior officers in the 2024 budget. The Board suggested that he submit any proposals at the Budget workshop. Chief Smith then presented invoices of \$390.00 for an exhaust hose release cable in the Fire Bay, \$3,000.00 from Austintown 911 for 2nd half dispatch services, \$121.55 for a new blower motor for the gear dryer (reimbursed to him), an estimated \$600.00 for EMS supplies and \$1,501.98 for the Township's share of the FEMA grant to upgrade the area pager systems. The Township is responsible for 4.4% of the total cost of the new equipment. The original Grant was approved February 8, 2023 (Motion 2023-28 and amended 2023-92) when the Township match was estimated at 10%. The Chief discussed with the Board the renewal of the IamResponding contract. Various term scenarios were reviewed. Although a multi-year commitment is somewhat less expensive, the Board decided to renew the contract for a one-year term at a cost of \$810.00. **Motion 2023-127:** Trustee Toman then made a motion to approve the \$6,627.63, including the IamResponding renewal of \$810.00, as requested by the Fire Chief. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. Chief Smith then submitted applications from Brandon O'Hara EMT, FF2/Fire Instructor and from Aaron Barnes EMT-A and FF1. **Motion 2023-128:** Trustee Toman then made a motion to approve the applications of Brandon O'Hara and Aaron Barnes to the Township Fire Department. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Trustee Spellman reported that the State of Ohio was providing additional Brownfield Remediation funding to the local Land Bank, but that no projects are scheduled within the Township. He then indicated that he would also contact ODOT regarding the site clearance situation at 11722 W Akron Canfield Rd.

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Trustee Toman presented the crime reports for the past few months. Trustee Toman announced that the auction for the Fire Department's 1989 Brush Truck had concluded and netted \$13,350 for the Township. The Board thanked him for his efforts on this project. He then reported on the Elk Road drainage issue. Since the last meeting with the residents, the Mahoning County Engineer's office is working on some updates to their proposals. He then reported that Sean Giblin had resigned from the Zoning Commission at the last meeting. Mr. Giblin was the Chairperson of the Commission and the Board members all acknowledged Mr. Giblin for his service to the Township.

The Board discussed the appointment of a replacement on the Zoning Commission. **Motion 2023-129:** Trustee Spellman made a motion to appoint Jason Smaldino to the remaining two years of the unexpired term of Sean Giblin, ending in 2025. Trustee Toman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. Chairman Houston reminded the audience that the Zoning Commission is responsible for selecting their chairperson.

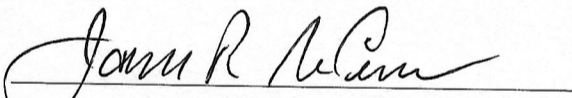
OLD BUSINESS:

No old Business

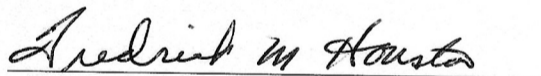
NEW BUSINESS:

The next regular meeting will be Saturday January 6, 2024, immediately following the 2024 Organizational Meeting which will begin at 9:00 am at the Town Hall.

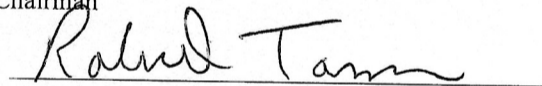
With no further business, at 8:30 pm, **Motion 2023-130:** Trustee Toman made a motion to adjourn. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.



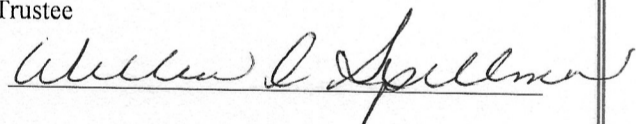
Fiscal Officer



Chairman



Trustee



Trustee