

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

Meeting

BEAR GRAPHICS 800-325-8094 FORM NO. 10148

Held _____ 20____

MINUTES OF ELLSWORTH TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

REGULAR MEETING

May 14, 2025

Chairman William Spellman called the May 14, 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 was Fiscal Officer James DeCenso, Fire Chief Edward Smith, Assistant Fire Chief Jillian Smith, Assistant Chief Zack Williams, Zoning Inspector Wayne Sarna, and Maintenance Supervisor Joe Serensky. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

MINUTES: The Fiscal officer presented the minutes from the last regular meeting held on April 9, 2025. The trustees have reviewed the minutes prior to this meeting. **MOTION 2025-45:** Trustee Toman made a motion to accept the minutes from the last regular meeting held on April 9, 2025. Trustee Houston seconded the motion. The roll call was all in favor.

FISCAL REPORT: Fiscal Officer Jim DeCenso reported the April revenue was \$80,129.17 which included the final settlement from Mahoning County property tax of \$3,101.56, the State of Ohio Rollbacks credits of \$23,397.53, and the bank interest of \$3,839 (4.52%). The expenses for the month were \$78,774.62 which included the semiannual fee to the Mahoning County Board of Health in the amount of \$14,182.00 and a fee of \$6,584.76 to the Mahoning County Auditor for tax collection fees. There was a positive inflow of \$1,354.55 for the month which gave the township a surplus revenue over expenses of \$221,986.78 YTD. The Fiscal Officer indicated that the 1st half collections should suffice all budgeted expenses until the 2nd half collections begin.

The gross fund balances through 4/30/2025 totaled \$1,096,530.00. This total is from the following: general fund (includes Zoning and cemetery) \$119,295.00, Fire/EMS operations of \$388,603.00, Fire Apparatus fund from 1994 of \$210,130.00, Road fund primarily from gasoline taxes of \$288,320.00, \$13,926 in the recycle/lighting district and \$21,216.00 from ARPA funds which by law are committed to the school resource officer. There are two restricted funds: the Kocanyar escrow from Progressive Insurance for the cleanup of the Huxley Road property in the amount of \$43,540.00 and the VFW Ohio Charities donation of \$11,500.00 for the purchases multi gas detectors for the township residents. General Fund uncommitted funds total \$4,813.61.

Invoices needing approval were as follows:

- 1. Warren Fire serviced twenty-six fire extinguishers \$886.54,
- 2. Western Reserve Baseball – 7 months of handicap portable restroom for the 2025 season \$1,295.00,
- 3. Zoning Inspector mileage for first quarter 2025 \$87.50,
- 4. Buckeye Technologies for Follow-up of UAN system install \$220.00, Dena Crissman for transcription for ZBA meeting 4/01/2025 \$90.00, Ohio Township Association memberships (4 active and five affiliate)\$475.00.

Invoices totaled \$3,054.04. **MOTION 2025-46:** Motion made by Trustee Toman to approve the payment of the above total expenses in the amount of \$3,054.04 seconded by Trustee Houston. The roll call was all in favor.

Each year NOPEC gives funds for a Community Sponsorship Event Grant. This year’s grant was \$500.00. Trustees needed to approve the distribution of these funds to the following areas: \$200.00 to VFW Post 9571 for Memorial Day activities, \$200.00 for Wreaths Across America in December, and \$100.00 for Trick or Trunk in October.

MOTION 2025-47: Trustee Houston made a motion to accept the NOPEC grant of \$500.00 and to distribute \$200.00 to the VFW, \$200.00 to Wreaths Across America, and \$100.00 to Trick or Trunk. Seconded by Trustee Toman. The roll call was all in favor. **Motion 2025-48:** Trustee Houston made a motion to add an additional \$100.00 to the \$200.00 for VFW Memorial Day activities from the General Fund, seconded by Trustee Toman. The roll call was all in favor.

ROAD and MAINTENANCE: Joe Serensky reported that trees were cut down on the west side of cemetery property. The following were completed for the maintenance department/fire hall: cleaned and pressure washed the pavilion, trimmed all ball field fence lines, painted blue doors on the concession stands, dug for a concrete pad for gazebo with Berlin’s assistance, and sprayed for weeds along entire facility. The roads were cleaned of all snow markers and potholes were filled on Elias Lloyd Road. The annual inspection of the boiler is scheduled.

The Fiscal Officer reported that an invoice in the amount of \$283.97 for a truck battery was finally received from Denny’s Auto from November 1, 2024. **MOTION 2025-49:** Trustee Houston made a motion to approve the

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Regular Trustee Meeting of May 14, 2025, continued

payment to Denny's Auto for \$283.97 for township truck battery, seconded by Trustee Toman. The roll call was all in favor.

ZONING REPORT: Since the last trustee meeting on April 9, 2025, there have been four (4) zoning permits issued: (1) an inground swimming pool at 4146 S. Bailey Road, the fee collected was \$100.00 which included a \$50.00 penalty for being installed without a permit; (2) 8811 Duck Creek Road, a 252 sq. ft. addition to an existing home based on cost for \$240.00; (3) a storage building, 16' x 56', at 12581 Akron-Canfield Road collected \$100.00 cash fee; (4) a single family dwelling permit at 11200 S. Kiwatani Trail in Diehl Lake was collected in the amount of \$1,440.00 based on cost (\$240.00.00).

Mr. Sarna is continuing to monitor previous violations. He is contacting the Mahoning County Prosecutor's office in regard to the vacant home at 12082 Palmyra Road. Property is in bad shape and needs to be demolished. The status of the foreclosure of property located at 11830 Palmyra Road for back taxes is pending. The owner, at 3925 S Newton Falls Road, Diamond, has refused the foreclosure papers from the court. The eight acres at 4223 S. Bailey Road was in foreclosure, then sold. The garage needs to come down and the house needs to be checked to see if it can be salvaged. The new owner would incur the costs involved with removal. There have been numerous calls regarding properties with long grass, Mr. Sarna is attempting to find out what to do about these.

As of the meeting, no permit has been requested for the manufactured home to be placed on 9352 Akron-Canfield Road, A complaint from a neighbor who shares the driveway was received – concerned about weight of home cracking the concrete drive.

An onsite visit was made to the Encino Energy gas/oil well on State Route 45 and Leffingwell Road. The company is to supply the township with the registration application as noted in Chapter 10 of the Ellsworth Resolution. This includes the property owners' name and address, the company conducting the drilling, a site plan including boundary lines, all buildings, the location of the well buildings and structure and copies of all federal and state permits for our records. There are no permits needed from the Township. At this time, all the work is finished.

Fire Chief Edward Smith made a comment on Diehl Lake. There should be a pond and fire hydrant on each cul-de-sac. Access to Diehl Lake is on a one-way drive and there is no way for fire trucks to access homes if there is a fire.

Angela Javorsky stated that work will continue at all zoning meetings on the land use project. Dee Tripp requested the Township consider a newsletter or some means to communicate with citizens. Trustees stated the township is planning a Face Book page and a second marque sign in front of the town hall.

FIRE/EMS: Chief Smith reported a total of 196 calls for the year to date. The monthly total number of calls were 52 with mutual aid given 19 times and mutual aid received 3 times. There were 41 fire calls and 11 EMS calls. Ellsworth transported 10 patients, and 8 patients refused – mutual aid did not transport any patients. The dispatching has been going smoothly.

The Chief announced that EMT Abby Blair has passed her National Registry Exam. The other three junior firefighters will take an exam soon. Assistant Fire Chief William would like to attend the 1403 fire class at MCCTC costing \$395.00. The ISO rating revalidation will take place Monday, May 19, 2025. Chief Smith and Assistant Chief will be present at this. The annual truck PM and pump were done last Thursday and Friday.

The following invoices totaling \$5,748.32 were presented for approval:

- 1) EMS supplies/equipment to Boundtree - \$877.97 on PO # EFD0425 and \$278.70 under PO 56-2015
- 2) Murdoch Door for door repair in the amount of \$479.00
- 3) Phoenix Safety Outfitters for 100 fire department patches at \$257.00
- 4) State Chemical for cleaning supplies in the amount of \$661.78
- 5) \$395.00 for Assistant Williams to attend 1403 fire class at MCCTC
- 6) \$2,530.00 to Waterway for upcoming hose & ladder testing
- 7) \$268.87 for pizza, snacks, and pop for hosting the Mahoning County Fire Chiefs meeting this month (Stone Age Pizza)

MOTION 2025-50 was made to approve the payment of the above invoices for the fire department totaling \$5,748.12 was made by Trustee Houston, seconded by Trustee Toman. Roll call was in all in favor.

Chief Smith and Assistant Chief Williams presented a quote for purchasing and installing exterior building security cameras for both buildings. A discussion was held on purchasing the cameras. **MOTION 2025-51:** Trustee Houston made a motion to approve the quote for twelve outdoor cameras with installation in the amount of \$3,227.00. Second made by Trustee Toman. Roll call was all in favor.

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Regular Trustee Meeting May 14, 2025, continued

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Trustee Toman spoke on the Elk Road project and requested hiring Alan Ewing to survey the affected properties **MOTION 2025-52:** Trustee Toman made a motion to hire Alan Ewing for up to \$3,000.00 to survey and mark easements on the affected properties on Elk Road project. Motion seconded by Trustee Houston. Roll call in favor. There was another water issue on Rolling Hills Drive. This will be looked into soon.

Trustee Houston stated that the new cemetery property had trees cut down. Berlin Center came to help remove the stumps but was unable to do so. Trustee Houston has requested a quote from Dave Altieri to remove said stumps. Fiscal Officer Jim DeCenso explained that the property was purchased through FHA who gave the township a credit for the back taxes owed. Once paperwork from state is complete the property will be non-taxable.

Chairman Spellman stated that the concrete pad for gazebo will be poured tomorrow. He had a call from Utility Pipeline who is installing the gas lines for residents living on Leffingwell and Berlin Station Road between Route 45 and those living between Western Reserve and Route 224. They would like to hold an informative meeting for these residents. The date of Tuesday, June 17, 2025, was chosen.

The Memorial Day Parade will be Sunday, May 25, 2025. Line up is from 9:45 -10:30. Program inside at 10:30 am, flag raising will be outside and start of parade at 11:30 am. The parade will continue to the cemetery for a brief ceremony.

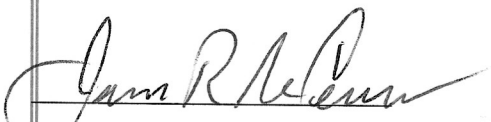
The Historical Society brought fifty booklets to pass out with information on our flag. The Secretary of State sent free of charge – anyone may order these booklets. The society will hold a picnic at the fire hall (pavilion) on June 9, 2025.


The next meeting will be Wednesday, June 11, 2025, at the township hall at 7:00 pm.

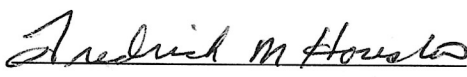
At 9:02 pm, per ORC 121.22 (G)(1), Chairman Spellman made **MOTION 2025-53** to go into executive session for personnel matters. Motion seconded by Trustee Toman. Roll call – Trustee Toman- yes, Trustee Houston- yes, Chairman Spellman – yes. Motion carried.


MOTION 2025-54: At 9:30 pm, Chairman Spellman made a motion to return to regular session. Trustee Toman- yes, Trustee Houston - yes. Motion carried.

With no further business, at 9:32 pm, **MOTION 2025-55:** 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