

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

January 6, 2024

Chairman Robert Toman called the January 6, 2024 regular meeting of the Ellsworth Trustees to order at 10:10 am. 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 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 December 13, 2023. No one in attendance requested that the minutes be read. **Motion 2024-7:** Trustee Houston 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 December's receipts were \$40,255 and expenditures were \$89,817. Receipts included \$4,006 (5.65%) in bank interest. The Fiscal Officer reported that 2023 receipts were \$1,206,492 and expenditures were \$1,105,898, however the numbers are not final as he has not yet completed the December bank reconciliation, nor completed the year-end review. He then reviewed the Fund balances. The total gross fund balances as of December 31, 2023, was \$904,809 including \$37,548 in unspent ARPA funds; \$436,166 in Fire/EMS Operations and Equipment funds and \$353,244 in Road funds. The General Fund balance is \$63,093 (including Cemetery and Zoning funds). The Fiscal Officer then presented invoices for approval, including \$20,784.16 to Ohio BWC for the 2023 True-Up; \$3,750 to Western Reserve Landscape for the 3rd of 3 contracted payments for the 2023-2024 season, due February 15th; \$1,296.82 also to Western Reserve Landscape for Road Salt usage; \$10,003.83 to the Mahoning County Sheriff as the Township's ¼ share of the School Resource Officer and the authority to transfer, as needed, up to \$2,000 from the General Fund's temporary appropriations to the Zoning Fund. **Motion 2024-8:** Trustee Houston then made the motion to approve the \$37,834.81, including the \$2,000.00 transfer, as requested by the Fiscal Officer. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. Mr. DeCenso then reported that he is working on the OTARMA Risk Assessment report and should have all responses completed for the next meeting. He then reminded the Board that a 2024 Budget Workshop is scheduled for January 17th at 6:00 at the town hall. He distributed some historical revenue figures for the Trustees to review. The Fiscal Officer reported that the close on 10774 W Akron Canfield Rd is waiting for the Health Department to complete their water and septic inspections. He completed his report by reminding everyone that the Ohio Primary is March 19. There will also be a special election on June 11th for the unexpired congressional term of Bill Johnson due to his resignation.

ROAD and MAINTENANCE: Mr. Tom Hoffman reported that last month, there was one burial in Ellsworth with assistance from Berlin. He reported that he had obtained three quotes to remove the Maple tree to stump level in Geeburg Cemetery. The quotes were \$875, \$1,200, and \$1,500. After discussion regarding quality and expectations, **Motion 2024-9:** Trustee Houston made the motion to approve an \$875 contract to Pilolli Land & Tree Maintenance LLC to remove a Maple tree to stump ground level. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. He then discussed the need to remove an Ash Tree in the Ellsworth Cemetery. Mr. Hoffman indicated that he could remove the tree and no outside vendor is needed. The Board discussed and approved him to remove the tree. Mr. Hoffman and the Board then discussed the replacement of the glass front doors at the Fire Hall. He has obtained two quotes of \$7,639 and \$6,950. A third vendor did not provide an updated price. The Fiscal Officer reminded the Board that the project has qualified for the 2023 NOPEC energy grant of \$3,653. After discussion and review of the quotes, **Motion 2024-10:** Trustee Spellman made the motion to utilize the 2023 NOPEC grant and to award the front door replacement contract to Smaldino Construction Services for \$6,950 with 50% down. Trustee Houston seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. Mr. Hoffman then discussed some other routine repair work performed, including that the replacement spring on the Fire Bay door was received and replaced by JW Murdoch. He did request that the blacktop at the Fire Station and the Town Hall be reviewed and repaired this summer. The Board will review during the budget workshop. He then indicated the ABS light is on in the Dump Truck and was advised by the Board to take it to Ellsworth Auto for repairs. If the amount exceeds his spending authority, he is to advise the Fiscal Officer who could provide emergency approval if appropriate.

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Regular Trustee Meeting January 6, 2024, Continued

ZONING REPORT: Zoning Inspector Wayne Sarna reported that there were no Zoning permits issued since the last meeting. Mr. Sarna then discussed the resolution to remove the structure at 10610 Akron Canfield Rd. He discussed the option to approve a maximum amount to demolish the structure. The Board discussed setting a maximum amount for demolition but determined it more prudent to wait for the requested quotes. **Motion 2024-11:** Trustee Houston made a motion in accordance with ORC 505.86 to proceed with gathering suitable quotes to demolish the structure(s) at 10610 Akron Canfield Rd and to have the structure(s) removed. 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. Mr. Sarna has been in contact with ODOT regarding the State's right of way. ODOT has indicated that the structures are not in their easement but are inside Zoning's 50 ft setback requirement. The matter has been turned over to the Prosecutor's office. He has also had discussions with the Trustees regarding the collapsed retaining wall at Country Pantry. The Prosecutor has suggested that a case be filed with the Common Pleas Court for a civil injunction to clean up the property. The alternative is to file a Zoning violation in Sebring Court which requires three hearings and then attempt to collect fines. He will review these again at the next Board meeting. Mr. Sarna also reported that he will discuss with the Prosecutor's office the debris and abandoned vehicles at 12036 N Palmyra Rd. He then reported on two other properties that he has contacted regarding violations.

Chairman Toman 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 is on their agenda on January 23rd. The Amendment will then be sent to the Board of Trustees who would need to hold a public meeting prior to taking any action. Ms. Javorsky discussed the ability to cancel Zoning Commission meetings when there are no known items to discuss. The Board felt that meetings could be cancelled unless residents complain about cancelled meetings. She also reminded the Board that an alternate needs to be appointed to replace the alternate who moved to a full member. Lee Sandstrom then distributed some pamphlets to the Board regarding SB35 and the placement of solar panels within the Township. He indicated that he has been contacted by RWE Clean Energies to place solar panels on approx. 22 acres of his property in the Township. He indicated that they have completed both the permit process and environmental studies.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Chief Edward Smith reported that there were 53 emergency calls in the Township in December of which 32 were EMS related. There were 17 transports during the month that were provided by Ellsworth and two outside departments through mutual aid. He then reported that there were 509 total calls in 2023. There was discussion that the Department provided mutual aid 207 times with about half to Jackson Township. The Department received mutual aid 59 times with 36 from Berlin. The Board discussed the ability to begin some type of fee or charge to Townships that receive multiple assists from Ellsworth. Chief Smith requested that the Board consider a monthly stipend for the Assistant Chiefs. The Board responded that they would consider his request during the 2024 Appropriation Budget workshops. Chief Smith then discussed the recent interview process for the 2nd Assistant Chief. He announced that Zach Williams has been offered and he has accepted the position. Chairman Toman then swore in Zach Williams as a Township Assistant Chief. Assistant Chief Williams was then presented with an Assistant Chief's Helmit. During a short break for pictures, a citizen in the audience brought up a problem with water runoff from Rt 224 onto his property. The Board suggested that he contact the ODOT garage in Canfield. He seemed satisfied and thanked the Board. Chief Smith then continued by presenting invoices of \$395.00 for the Assistant Chief's helmet; the Fiscal Officer added the annual LifePak and Lucas maintenance invoice (Year 2 of a 3-year Agreement) from Stryker for \$3,175.60. The Chief then requested three new radio straps for three new members at a cost of \$300.00 and an approval to purchase new tee shirts for Department members at an estimated cost of \$200. The Fiscal Officer asked about an invoice received from the Austintown Boardman COG for 2023 radio maintenance of \$5,678.40. Chief Smith suggested a conference call with him and the 911 center to discuss this invoice dated September 2023. **Motion 2024-12:** Trustee Spellman then made a motion to approve \$4,070.60 for the maintenance, helmet, radio straps and tee shirts. Trustee Houston seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

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Regular Trustee Meeting January 6, 2024 Continued.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Trustee Spellman reported that he has retired from his job and will have more time to devote to the Township. He also noted Mr. Sarna's recent retirement.

Trustee Houston discussed that the 2024 OTA MORE Grant will increase from \$500.00 to \$1,000.00. These are designed for risk assessment. He will review the situation for potential use in the playground to replace the pee gravel as requested during the OTARMA risk assessment.

Trustee Toman presented the crime reports for the past few months. He reported that the title for the recently sold brush truck has been received and needs signed by a Trustee to send to the buyer.

OLD BUSINESS:

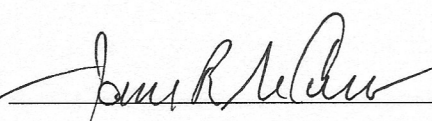
No old Business

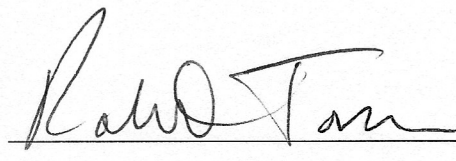
NEW BUSINESS:

The Annual County Engineer's meeting will be February 28th at 9:00 at McMahon Hall in Canfield.

The next regular meeting will be Wednesday February 14, 2024, at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall.

With no further business, at 11:45 mm, **Motion 2024-13:** 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