

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

September 11, 2024

Chairman Robert Toman called the September 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, and Zoning Inspector Wayne Sarna. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Ellsworth Fire Department Chaplin Fred Schrock gave a 9/11 Remembrance.

MINUTES: Fiscal Officer James DeCenso presented the minutes from the last Regular meeting, which was held August 14, 2024. No one in attendance requested that the minutes be read. **Motion 2024-102:** Trustee Houston made a motion to accept the minutes from the last regular meeting. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

FISCAL REPORT: Fiscal Officer James DeCenso reported that August's receipts were \$213,688 and expenditures were \$91,766. Receipts included \$164,000 in Property Tax collections, \$19,696 from Fire House Subs for an equipment grant and \$4,455 (5.5%) in bank interest. Expenditures included \$29,715 to Phoenix Safety Supply for fire gear. The total gross fund balances as of August 31, 2024, was \$1,051,979 including \$21,217 in unspent ARPA funds; \$635,231 in Fire/EMS Operations and Equipment funds and \$290,484 in Road funds. The General Fund balance is \$90,955 (including Cemetery and Zoning funds) and there is \$13,768 unencumbered in the General Fund. The Fiscal Officer then presented invoices for \$950.00 to Grace Exterminating for the annual pest control contract, \$261.33 to the Youngstown Vindicator for the ZBA Hearing to be held October 2nd, \$842.40 to Ron Zielinski for two cemetery foundations, and \$175.00 to the Mahoning County Treasure for a replat application. **Motion 2024-103:** Trustee Houston then made the motion to approve \$2,238.72 for the invoices presented. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. The Fiscal Officer then continued by presenting a proposed three-year Agreement with Austintown Township for dispatch services. The Agreement calls for annual fees of \$6,500 in 2025, \$6,700 in 2026 and \$7,000 in 2027. The current 2024 Agreement annual fee is \$6,000. Chief Smith commented on the superior service that the Township receives from the 911 center. **Motion 2024-104:** Trustee Spellman then made the motion to approve the three-year Agreement for 911 services from Austintown Township. Trustee Houston seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. Mr. DeCenso reminded the Board that the remaining ARPA funds must be encumbered by December 31st or lost. Trustee Houston asked if the funds could be used for the School Resource Officer payment in 2025. Mr. DeCenso will investigate that question. The Fiscal Officer then continued his report by advising the Board that the bi-annual state audit is still in process but has been delayed at the request of the auditors. He concluded by reminding the Board that the 2025 Budget process will begin soon and we should be thinking about any capital projects to include.

ROAD and MAINTENANCE: Chairman Toman announced that the Road and Maintenance Supervisor Tom Hoffman resigned without any notice period on August 30th. Also, that the part-time employee Michael Broderick resigned without any notice. The Fiscal Officer accepted the resignation of Mr. Hoffman. The Township will accept applications for the Supervisor position until the end of September. No maintenance report was given.

ZONING REPORT: Zoning Inspector Wayne Sarna reported that he had issued four Zoning permits since the last meeting. One for a commercial sign at 8711 S Warren Rd; one for a storage shed on S Kivatani Tr.; a detached garage on Diehl Lake Dr.; and a fence on Akron Canfield Rd. The lawsuit filed against Canfield Corner LLC, seeking injunctive relief to repair the collapsed wall on the northern property line of the Country Pantry store property along St Rt 45 is pending. A telephone status conference is scheduled for October 2nd at 11:00 a.m. Mr. Sarna received a conditional use permit application from David Altieri for a small solar system on W Akron Canfield Rd. The ZBA will schedule the Hearing. The zoning violations at 12036 Palmyra Rd are still pending and he is working with the property owner for the cleanup of the property. Mr. Sarna reported that the property appears to be better with vehicles having been removed. The Zoning violations at 8740 Palmyra Rd are pending. He has sent a letter to the property owner that "signs" must be removed from the property by September 18th. He reported that he is monitoring the zoning violations at 12082 Palmyra Road which was sold to Proverb Brothers of Warren, Ohio. Mr. Sarna then reported on the downed tree debris located at 10653 Berlin Station Rd. He

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indicated that the property owner has begun to clean up the property. The Board had previously declared the property a nuisance and that the property would be cleaned up by the Township and a lien placed for the expense or cleaning, if not completed promptly by the property owner. Mr. Sarna then finish by reporting on three other properties that he is monitoring for Zoning violations.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Fire Chief Edward Smith reported that there were 57 emergency calls in the Township in August of which 43 were EMS related. There were 16 transports during the month that were all provided by Ellsworth. The Chief discussed the new three-year 911 Agreement with Austintown Township. The Chief then presented an application received from Sloane Myers, an EMT and FF II. He reported that Lilly May and Aaron Barnes are currently attending Paramedic classes, which are paid for by the County. Michael Gensemer and Dustin Hellman are attending Advanced EMT classes, which are also paid for by the County. The Chief indicated that the Dry Hydrant at the pond needs repairs although he did not think it will be extensive. He then requested a battery powered chainsaw at a cost of \$299.00 and would need to rent gear for Sloane Myers until a suitable set would be received. He estimated the cost at \$500.00. **Motion 2024-105:** Trustee Spellman made the motion to approve the \$799.00 requested. Trustee Houston seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. **Motion 2024-106:** Trustee Spellman then made the motion to approve Sloane Myers as a probationary member of the Ellsworth Fire Department. Trustee Houston seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

Chairman Toman then recognized Karen Gritte who spoke about a spaghetti dinner to be held on September 22nd to raise funds for medical and related expenses for a freshman at Western Reserve Schools. Mrs. Grittie distributed event fliers to those in attendance.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Trustee Houston reported on the new property next to the cemetery. He has continued to work on cleaning up the property grounds. He reported that with the resignation of the maintenance crew, he has been cutting the grass at the Fire Station and addressing some other maintenance issues.

Trustee Spellman discussed the Canfield Fair display and thanked the Hendricks family and especially Bill Hendricks for their assistance in moving the Gazebo to the fair and back. The Gazebo is now located in the Old School Park. Trustees Houston and Toman thanked Trustee Spellman for his efforts. They both indicated their pleasure with the new Fair display. Trustee Spellman then recognized Zion Hensley, who won her sixth national boxing championship. He reported that the sewer expansion project will begin soon. Some construction equipment has already been placed. He then discussed with the Board the potential to do some road crack sealing this fall with the assistance of Berlin Township. Berlin has a crack sealing machine and Ellsworth could purchase a ½ skid of product for \$1,325.00. The product does not expire if not used this year. Ellsworth could purchase the product directly from the supplier or from Berlin Township. **Motion 2024-107:** Trustee Spellman made the motion to approve the \$1,325.00 to purchase crack sealing material, either from Berlin Township or directly from the supplier. Trustee Houston seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

Chairman Toman reported on the Crime Watch, the Canfield Fair display, the Elk Rd drainage issue and the sewer project.

OLD BUSINESS:

No old business

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NEW BUSINESS:

The Board discussed Trick-or-Trunk. Trustee Spellman indicated that a volunteer has stepped up to co-ordinate a Trick-or-Trunk event for the Township. There would be limited assistance from the Township. Another option is to join the Western Reserve School's program. Chief Smith discussed the previous year's programs and how large they became. It was no longer a local community event. The Board decided to contact the volunteer to confirm that she would co-ordinate any event. **Motion 2024-108:** Trustee Spellman made a motion to set Halloween Trick or Treat hours in the Township on October 31st from 5pm to 7pm and that a Trick-or-Trunk event could be held earlier. Trustee Houston seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

The Fiscal Officer asked the Board to consider an administrative assistant to the Board or an assistant Fiscal Officer for the 2025 Budget. He indicated that there is a considerable increase in workload to provide payroll and other related duties to the increase of the department's workforce. He indicated that the increase in related workload is not necessarily the responsibility of the Fiscal Office.

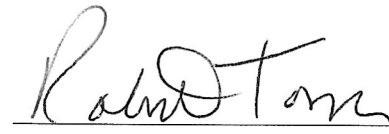
The next regular meeting will be Wednesday October 9, 2024, at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall.

Chairman Toman reminded the audience that a second Special Hearing will be held September 30th at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall to review and vote on the Solar Amendment proposal to the Zoning Resolution.

With no further business, at 9:19 pm, **Motion 2024-109:** Trustee Spellman made a motion to adjourn. Trustee Houston seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.



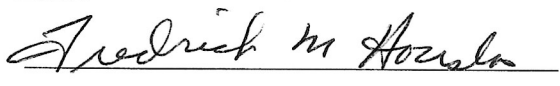
Fiscal Officer



Chairman



Trustee



Trustee