

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

October 8, 2019

Chairman William Spellman called the October 8th regular meeting of the Ellsworth Trustees to order at 7:00 pm. A roll call was taken to establish a quorum: Trustee Robert Toman - present, Vice Chairman Fred Houston - present, Chairman William Spellman – present. Also present were Fiscal Officer James DeCenso, Zoning Inspector Wayne Sarna, and Fire Chief Ted Smith. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

MINUTES: Fiscal Officer DeCenso presented the minutes from the last regular meeting held September 11, 2019. No one in attendance requested that the minutes be read. Trustee Houston made a motion to accept the meeting minutes. Trustee Toman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

FISCAL REPORT: Fiscal Officer James DeCenso reported that September's receipts were \$33,753.46 and expenditures were \$58,411.35. Receipts in September included the final settlement of \$11,345.54 from 2nd Half 2019 Property Tax collections. He reported that the State of Ohio still owes the Township \$15,721.00, which are the property tax credits that are reimbursed by the state. Extraordinary expenses included the semi-annual payment to the Mahoning County Health Dept. of \$8,381.00 and \$4,500.00 to Pantalone Paving, for sealing and re-stripping the parking lot. For the nine-month period ending 9/30/2019, receipts were \$399,006.83 and expenditures were \$412,483.28. Mr. DeCenso's report included a total fund balance decrease of \$24,657.89 in September and an overall decrease in funds of \$13,476.45 through 9/30/19. The total fund balance as of 9/30/19 was \$595,642.80 minus the encumbrances as of September 30th of \$91,940.53, for a net balance of \$503,702.27. The current unencumbered balance; less the SIB ODOT Loan balance of \$100,107.63 was \$403,594.64. Mr. DeCenso then presented invoices for approval of \$2,428.00 to Emergency Reporting to renew the Fire/EMS computer software license for one year, \$1,460.00 to JW Murdoch to replace the motor on the center Fire Bay overhead door, \$236.40 to renew the Active911 phone app for one year, and \$100.00 to the Ohio Fire Chiefs Association for an annual membership. Trustee Toman made a motion to authorize payments of all \$4,224.40 presented. Trustee Houston seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. Mr. DeCenso then presented to the Board his review of Property Taxes collected in 2019. Actual collections were \$237,391 (including the \$15,721 due from Ohio) vs the County Estimate of \$232,524. He then presented to the Board, for approval the 2020 estimated property tax collections of \$239,276. The increase from 2019 is due to the increase of nearly one-half million dollars in Township property valuation due to new construction. Trustee Houston made a motion to approve the Mahoning County Rate Resolution of \$239.276 for 2020. Trustee Toman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. Mr. DeCenso reported to the Board that 2020 Health Insurance bids were beginning. He hoped that 2020 would continue to be rated on actual employee health versus ACA rating. The health rated plan of 2019 saved the Township approx \$25,000 this year. Mr. DeCenso then requested that the Board consider requesting a \$5,000 increase in Fire Fund Appropriations from the Mahoning County Budget Commission. Although there are no current demands for additional expenses, the added property tax collections afford the Township to increase available funds. It is easier to do this now, in the event of any unforeseen emergency repairs. Trustee Houston made the motion to approve an appropriation amendment to increase the 2019 Fire Fund appropriations by \$5,000.00. Trustee Toman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. The Fiscal Officer then notified the Board that the Township had just collected in October, a 2017 Ohio BWC rebate of \$10,756.20. The Ohio BWC is rebating 85% of premiums paid in 2017. Mr. DeCenso advised the Board that OTARMA would begin to offer Faithful Performance Insurance instead of bonding newly elected officials in 2020. He will gather more information for the November meeting. He then reported to the Board that the City of Canfield presented their 60-day Dispatch Contract termination notice to the Township on 9/15/2019. The new Agreement with Austintown for emergency dispatch services has already been approved for an 11/15/2019 start up.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Fire Chief Ted Smith reported that there were 23 calls in September, including 18 EMS calls with eleven transports of which the Township transported two. He explained that the Township EMS had responded to all calls, but two EMTs are required for each transport, and that outside assistance is sometime needed. Chief Smith reported to the Board that he has been working with the Austintown dispatch center and that everyone will be ready for the switchover on 11/15/2019. He reported that the new LED lighting has been installed on Engine-41. Chief Smith summarized for the Board the amount of vehicle maintenance that was

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done in 2019 and that these actions were taken to reduce any equipment replacement needs in the immediate future. He thanked Assistant Chief Jeremy Blosser for his attention to the vehicle maintenance. The Chief reported that firefighter Shannon Blosser's EMT training is progressing well. He also reported that the Township is waiting for the release of funding from the Ohio BWC grant, so that he could order the Power Cot for the ambulance. The grant is for \$36,000. He then requested two EMS coats at a cost of \$260.00 each. He also reported that he continues to work on getting equipment returned from firefighters that have quit and not returned Township property. Trustee Houston then made a motion to approve up to \$520.00 for two EMS coats. Trustee Toman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. The Board indicated that action would need to be taken against those that will not return equipment. Chief Smith reported that University Hospital would begin to provide free on-line CE to Township EMS personnel. Previously, the Township purchased these services from Cleveland State Univ. The Chief then advised the Board that he has begun discussions with Cardinal Fire district for mutual aid whereas both departments would "soft bill" when providing services by either Fire Department. The Chief and the Board then discussed how the Township could reward junior firefighters for their work in the department. The Chief indicated that he would do more research on the legalities of such.

At that time Chief Smith and Chairman Spellman recognized Lt. David Ashburn of the Ellsworth Fire Department. Lt. Ashburn was recently promoted to his rank of lieutenant. Dave's wife Kristen pinned his new officer badge on him in a swearing-in ceremony. Chairman Spellman recessed the meeting for a few moments for all to congratulate Lt. Ashburn.

ZONING REPORT: Wayne Sarna reported that there were four permits issued since the last meeting. Permits were issued for a porch addition to a residence on Gault road; an attached garage and porch to a residence on Western Reserve Rd; a deck and porch onto a residence on Diehl Rd and for two decks added to the rear of property located on Akron-Canfield Rd. He reported that he continues to pursue the removal of a mobile home on Elk Rd. Mr. Sarna also reported that the home at 9914 W. Hill had been demolished and the debris has been removed. He is also working with the Mahoning County Prosecutor to enforce the clean up of tree stumps and debris on property located at 1055 Leffingwell. Mr. Sarna concluded by advising the Board that he will do another follow up on the property on Knauf Rd where there had been a drainage issue to the neighboring property.

At 8:15pm, Chairman Spellman made a motion pursuant to ORC 122.22(G)(1) to go into executive session to discuss personnel matters. Trustee Toman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. The Board invited the Fiscal Officer, the Fire Chief and the Zoning Inspector to join them in session.

At 9:15pm, Trustee Houston made a motion to return to regular session. Trustee Toman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

ROAD and MAINTENANCE: At that time, Chairman Spellman read Mr. Stroney's report, as he is absent due to vacation. Mr. Stroney's report included that two burials were held in the Township in September. The crack-sealing project has been completed and that all Township roads and parking lots have been sealed. He reported on the emergency replacement of a new motor on the center Fire bay overhead door and that he had ordered the replacement man door as authorized at the last meeting. Mr. Stroney's report included that \$152.76 had been received from the scraping of the old fuel tanks from the Town Hall. The money was turned over to the Fiscal Officer who duly deposited it. The Mahoning County Sheriff has offered to donate an old Chevy Trail Blazer to the Township. The Board thanked the department, but is currently not interested in the vehicle. Mr. Stroney's report included a request for an additional \$1,700.00 for additional electrical components for the parking lot lighting project. Trustee Toman made a motion to add \$2,500.00 to the parking lot lighting project. Trustee Houston seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. The Fiscal Officer commented that the total authorized is now \$10,500.00 and that the Township expects to receive some grant monies in 2020 from NOPEC for this project.

NEW BUSINESS: The Board then discussed the issues surrounding the Ellsworth Fire Association. The Board gave its concern that the Association had its exemption revoked in 2018 and that it may not have had it

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reinstated. The Board questioned the liability surrounding such actions. At that time Trustee Toman made a motion to resolve that the Board of Trustees would like to thank the many Fire Associations that have benefited the Township since 1964, however at this time and effective immediately, until at least December 31, 2020, the Board of Trustees shall not recognize any Ellsworth Fire Associations, by any name. Trustee Houston seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

The Board then discussed the amount and value of emergency equipment that has not been returned by firefighters who have resigned from the department or who have not responded to a call in many months. Trustee Houston then made a motion to send registered letters to firefighters who have resigned and those that are inactive, instructing them to return the equipment that they still have, to the Chief or any Township Official. Up to \$100.00 is approved to spend on postage and fees for certified letters. Trustee Toman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

The Board then discussed the upcoming Trunk or Treat. Trustee Toman made a motion to hold the annual Trunk or Treat event on Sunday, October 27th from 3pm to 5pm and to be sponsored by the Township Administration. The motion also included to authorize the Township Trick or Treat on October 31st from 5pm to 7pm. Trustee Houston seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. After discussion of the need for any "seed" monies for the Trunk or Treat event, Trustee Houston made a motion to authorize reimbursement of up to \$400.00 for Trunk or Treat activities. Trustee Toman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

The Board discussed the process of the Town Hall painting project and that the painting vendor will re-install the lettering on the building. The Board thanked the Fire Department for their recent involvement in the Baird Bros. Red, White and True event and the WR-22 event at the High School.

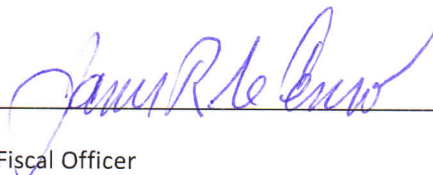
Chairman Spellman then advised the Board that ODOT has issued an order to Baird Brothers to remove their signage on Rt. 224, as it is more than 600 feet from their primary business. The Board discussed the matter and Chairman Spellman made a motion to create a resolution expressing the Board of Trustee's desire for ODOT to release Baird Brothers from this requirement and to send a copy of the resolution to ODOT. Trustee Toman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

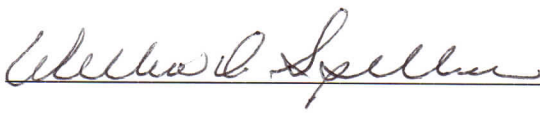
Trustee Toman reported that Knox has announced, that with enough paid customers, that they will expand the gas lines south along route 45 to Berlin Station Rd (both east and west) and to cover the Diehl Lake area.

Trustee Houston reported that a link was established on the Township website for senior living assistance. He indicated that other helpful information could be linked from the Township site.

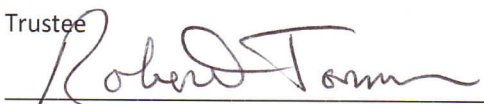
The next meeting will be held at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, November 6, 2019 at the Fire Hall.

At 10:00 PM, 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