

CALL MEETING TO ORDER BY: Diehl 7:30 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Diehl: Chair, present, Vice chair:, Pfile present Trustee Bixler: present, Bill McCluskey, Fiscal officer, present, Jesse Baughman, fire chief, present. Rhonda Lippy, zoning, present. Emily Dumas. Present.

Guests : Residents Mr. Joe Dillon and Judy French.

I. MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA FOR 4/24/25

Moved By: Pfile Second: Bixler

Mr. Pfile: Yes Mr. Diehl: yes Mr. Bixler: yes

II. MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES:

A. FOR 4/10/2025

Moved By: Bixler Second: Pfile

Mr. Pfile: yes Mr. Diehl: yes Mr. Bixler: yes

Mr. Dillon thanks trustees for adjusting sign (?) at his location. Mr. Dillon asked that he would like some summary of past and present talks regarding the fire station in Edinburg Frie station. He reviewed some rumors he had heard, and also mentioned interest in what the fire committee rules are formats are. Chris interjected. He stated these were a lot of questions, and tried to summarize present status.

He mentioned there have been looking at forming a fire district and there has been a meeting with local townships Mr. Dillon asked if these were public meetings, Chris said yes they were advertised. He said as far as our fire station goes it is on hold for now until we work through this process. He mentioned the part of the problem is we do not have as many fires as in past and most of calls are EMS. A new fire engine will cost about one million dollars. A new fire station will be between 3 and 4 million dollars. General discussion about options without a fire district would demand a new station, If with Fire district, there is still no discussion presently about forming or if a new fire station would be in play. Chris said it was tried in the past and the citizens rejected it, Mr. Dillon asked what, Chris said it (fire District) was on the ballot.

Jeffrey then asked to interject. He summarized meeting history and reps from Palmyra, Deerfield, Charleston, Paris and Edinburg.at meeting. He discussed they will continue the last Wednesday of each month at 6:00 pm at the town hall here. Reviewed some of the processes and discussion from past meeting likelihood formation seems positive. He said if the fire district levy were to fail, we would be going through bonds and levies or what we could to get a new fire station and fire engine. He gave examples of how stations are trying to work together (as a district would) now with staffing and calls. He reviewed his understanding of the process for building stations, this is what will continue down the road at these meeting; the amount of money would have to be approximated and then a levy put on the ballot through out all the townships that would be involved, and if the majority rules, then all the townships involved in that process would be part of the Fire District. He said at that point there will be an administrative team organized, that will be paid, that will manage over the Fire District, which is paid, to manage over the Fire District, for all activities for the fire district. There will also be a trustee from each township who will be on a board to oversee that administrative committee. Then the administrative committee along with whoever is hired on as fire personnel and EMS personnel will report to the Chief (fire) to that district committee and the trustees, basically us, whoever is there, but one trustee from each township on that part of the Board. Administrative will be something that will be put out there as apply just as if you were applying for a job somewhere. Application process that will be reviewed by the trustees that are on the board then moving forward, The Portage County Prosecutor is still currently supporting us. Once this board is completed and put into play, and monies are be channeled by that board, they have to have their own legal system. The townships will be able to determine whether they want to donate or sale their equipment to the fire district, equipment, fire stations, so forth. Once that process is put into play and the

townships no longer have the stations or equipment, it all falls under the district administrative committee, to determine if new stations need to be made, for geographics, they will do that to identify best location, so all townships would be covered equally. Reviewed that meeting are open to the public, but they may not get to say a lot.

Mr. Dillon and Jeffrey continued to discuss plans to meet with Trustee board and agreed with Mr. Dillon that it does seem positive. Atwater was not interested. Randolph is just attending to participate and learn and share.

Mr. Dillon asked if he could make a public request for the fire department run rates numbers and breakdowns. (He asked regarding all potential district participants) Jeffrey said that they are working on this right now in a survey. Jesse asked if he wanted the report for Edinburg and he said yes, Jeffrey said Jesse could generate that. (This is not located in the Fiscal Officer records storage-only at Fire Department). Jesse said he could get that to him. Tim mentioned it is also in the minutes a lot. Mr. Dillon continued to discuss concerns around the expenses. Tim said, the township fire levies will go away and be up to the fire district levy over time.

Mr. Dillon asked if this means no additional big levies. Jeffrey said he is not going to say it will be cheaper than what you are paying now. Trustees and Mr. Dillon continued to discuss activities of other townships, i.e., Charlestown (Ravenna Squad Transportation/coverage) and overall discussion focused on mutual aid, billing practices, potential increased costs, present levies for Edinburg, equipment non-duplication leading to decreased cost, age of equipment, use of equipment, increased efficiency and quality of care. Jeffrey pointed out everything continues to cost more over time. Mr. Dillon asked about equipment paying for itself within this discussion. Mr. Dillon mentioned he believed he could keep some of his older equipment running better than some of his new equipment (suggestion appears to mean new is not always better). Some debate regarding cost (ability to actually afford) versus lifesaving. Trustees point to this as a central reason to look into district formation with cost sharing and manning station for residents' coverage. Mr. Dillon mentioned he was aware of personal choice and the ability of communities to supply services to residents based on where people chose to live.

Mr. Dillon asked about posting of meeting minutes. Said they are not posted any more. Bill said this would be taken care of next week, (at meeting only 2 approved minutes were not posted on website as multiple were awaiting signatures) Tim said Mr. Dillon could request a copy at any time. Mr. Dillon mentioned he is only trying to know what is going on and how it might be affecting resident financially in the future.

Again, Chris and other trustees mentioned this is just a study now to assess feasibility and how this may benefit the community. Mr. Dillon mentioned some of his beliefs about present levels of operations of emergency management in general, where he might make his own personal decisions about how to respond to personal emergencies.

Chris moved on with the meeting.

III. Correspondence:

Chris asked about a T-Mobile notice. Bill mentioned it was announcing an increased rate coming up .50 per line

County Engineer hosting next PCOTA meeting May 17th, need to RSVP.

IV. Old BUSINESS. Tim mentioned road bids are coming in for next meeting.

V. Trustee Report: Jeffrey reviewed some discussion regarding fire district meetings. He mentioned he would be in favor of using a professional company to do the Fire District analysis. He thinks they would take the process of "my township" unbiased decisions. The cost would be about \$6600.00 per participating townships (4), Some discussion about the operational procedures of this process.

Jeffrey discussed procedures for future Fire District meetings, and mentioned need to talking with prosecutor about his services as well requirements for public health. Bill

mentioned he was told it needed to public, but it was a work session, so no minutes. Bill said if prosecutor says yes, then public meeting minutes will need to be created. Jeffrey to follow up. In that he would still like a documentation of written communications at the meeting. Bill Said notes Jeffrey takes during the meeting for his personal memory would not be considered public records.

VI. Department Reports.

1. **Roads:** Roads: road signs are 99% done. We need to install reflector strips on posts. We have submitted a site plan and building plans to be reviewed. We have not heard back yet. Patched roads we'd also like to look into getting the parking lots seal coated and painted again. Also, we wanted to get prices to remove three (3) trees and grind stumps at the cemetery, and possibly replant 2 ornamental trees in their place. (tree by the chapel and tree by the small cemetery shed)

Park: park has been mowed.

Cemetery: we have mowed and picked up grass. We are 2/3 done weed eating.

Bill asked if Tim can review the water flow in the parking lot in front of administrative building due to pooling of water and all the mud. Emily and Rhonda agreed. Bill also said water setting in back storage area in office with heavy rain.

Bill mentioned potential for cemetery grant to perhaps support tree removal.

Jeffrey asked Kevin to look into sample of water at fire station. Complaints of water smell and color almost black at times until run. Tim suggested a well guy. Some more discussion about history and solutions. Chris agreed to well guy first. Harper is suggested by majority

2. **Fire:** Monthly Run Summery

EMS: EMS training for April was Pediatric Cardiac emergencies.

Fire: Fire training for April is on advancing hose line operations and water supply.

General:

- ☐ Parts are ordered and waiting for delivery for repairs on 1518 and 1513.
- ☐ UH Occupational Health, I was finally given a contact name of Trista White about receiving reports back and have left a message waiting for return call.
- ☐ I have 2 applications to bring to the board for approval for hire.
 - o Richard Albright (emt-B-No Fire) Taking Basic Class, then needs to take test. Bill asked if they are trying to hire him but he is not licensed or certified, so there would need to be some other job classification. Bill said trustees removed this lower this classification by annual resolution. Bill said in his short review of this rule, he might be brought on as a volunteer, but then he can't be scheduled as a staff member, because of labor laws. Jeffrey questioned how it is done then.
 - o Zackary Kegg (emt -b no fire)

Bill asked Jesse again for the link to the application for training as he needs to review it (financial obligation)

Trustees discussed applicants and hiring procedures.

Chris said to move ahead with hire of EMT. Bill said by resolution, trustees said all EMT's must be fire Fighters. Bill said they would have to create a new resolution. Chris said need to establish a scale for just EMT at same as base FF. And hold off on the other until passes EMT.

Emily asked if they could go independently, to see if the cost is less. Background check discussed, components. Jesse asked if BCI goes into sexual predators. He just wanted to make sure, Chris said yes. Jese asked if they do finger prints. Trustees yes.

Motion: Resolution: 2025:002

Whereas there is presently a shortage of staff, Chris made a motion to move forward with hiring of Zackary Kegg as EMT basic only although not also ff after completing and passing post offer testing passing. Seconded by Jeffrey,
Mr. Pfile: Yes Mr. Diehl: yes Mr. Bixler: yes

☐ Would propose that the Board of trustees agree to pay ½ of medic tuition fee for Edgar Paulino for the cost of \$3,300.00 with a 2-year commitment agreement. This will split the cost with Palmyra Township which is also where he is employed with.

Trustees discussed grant availability. Jeffrey mentioned only one department could use the grant. Jesse discussed past experiences and unsure about paramedic program. Jeffrey says he had no problem with this. Jeffrey shared reimbursement policy Bill prepared and presented for trustee to review and still needs to go to Prosecutor.

Motion: Resolution: 2025:003

Chris made a motion to approve Edinburg township paying ½ of course cost for Edgar Paulino with signed 2 year commitment (using township paid amount \$3300.00 only), Seconded by Jeffrey.

Mr. Pfile: Yes Mr. Diehl: yes Mr. Bixler: yes

☐ 1526 went in for the 30- minute time out feature had to reschedule they needed a letter approving the work to be completed by owner on department letter head. They sent a credit application to complete if the township so wishes. Discussion of removing the safety shut off, without voiding warranty. Jesse to complete

3. Zoning: Rhonda reviewed talking with Prosecutor who said he is unfamiliar with the present cases in out zoning violations. She will review with him. Sent text to Mr. Keener notifying him of Trash days. Permit for new shed for road shed. @ Agriculture permits, in process. More general discussion regarding Prosecutor discussions.

Motion: Resolution: 2025:004

Jeffrey made a motion to waive township zoning fees for a Road department shed at the road garage. Seconded by Tim

Mr. Pfile: Yes Mr. Diehl: yes Mr. Bixler: yes

Bill presented the invoice for the Portage County Permit.

VII. Fiscal Officer: Shared financial reports, invoices, payments, warrants, ACH EFT payments. Will send reimbursement policy off to prosecutor. Bill discussed a communication he had received from the IRS, regarding forms they said were not sent. Bill had copies of those records, however, Bire Williams from the IRS failed to respond to the mandatory meeting she scheduled. He has witness of his call and presence at the office at the scheduled time. He left after 30 minutes and has never received a return call.

Tim made a **motion** to pay the bills, eft and warrants shared; 43841-43856 motion seconded Jeffrey,

Mr. Pfile: yes Mr. Diehl: yes Mr. Bixler: yes

Mr. Pfile made a **motion** to Adjourn the meeting 8:53 pm seconded by Jeffrey.
Mr. Pfile: yes Mr. Diehl: yes Mr. Bixler: yes

Chris Diehl, Chairman

Tim Pfile, Vice Chairman

Jeffrey Bixler, Trustee

William McCluskey, Fiscal Officer