

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

August 13, 2025

Chairman William Spellman called the August 13, 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, 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 July 9, 2025. The trustees have reviewed the minutes prior to this meeting. **MOTION 2025-79:** Trustee Toman made a motion to accept the minutes from the last regular meeting held on July 9, 2025. Trustee Houston seconded the motion. The roll call was all in favor.

FISCAL REPORT: Fiscal Officer Jim DeCenso reported the July revenue was \$86,171 which included the bank interest of \$3,379 @ 4.50%, second half property tax advances of \$51,000, and second quarter Armstrong cable franchise fee of \$6,414. The expenses were \$88,743 which included \$19,231 to Phoenix Safety Gear for previously approved fire gear. Expenses totaled more than the revenue by \$2,571 for the month. The total revenue through July 31, 2025 is \$726,501, and expenditures totaled \$665,033 giving the township a \$61,468 surplus through the first seven months of 2025.

The gross fund balances through 7/31/2025 totaled \$922,608. This total is from the following: General Fund (includes zoning and cemetery) \$58,870, Fire/EMS Operations of \$271,052, Fire Apparatus Fund from the 1994 Levy of \$211,130, Road Fund primarily from gasoline taxes of \$291,373. Four restricted funds: Recycle/Lighting of \$13,926, ARPA funds which are committed to the school resource officer for 2025 and 2026, a VFW donation escrow Fund of \$11,500 from state and local VFWs to purchase gas detectors for township residents, and the Kocanyar fund of \$43,540 in escrow set aside for the cleanup of the Huxley Road site, which is in progress. The Township General Fund has uncommitted funds of \$3,337.61 which has not changed since the July 9, 2025, meeting. The Fiscal Officer will review the gas and electrical budget to make sure there are enough funds appropriated for the remaining months.

Several invoices needed approval: a new lamented map of the Township is in the zoning office for \$224.00, there were two requests for zoning refunds – Sandstrom Properties for \$450.00 stemming from a ZBA request for the Dave Altier property on Akron-Canfield Road in August 2024, which was later withdrawn and the Sandstrom Properties for \$425.00 from November 2024 zone change request which was withdrawn. The total of invoices being \$1,099.00.

MOTION 2025-80: Trustee Toman made a motion to approve the \$1,099.00 for expenses and zoning refund requests. The motion was seconded by Trustee Houston. The roll call was all in favor.

The Mahoning County Auditor’s office sent out an estimated rate resolution for 2026 property tax distribution which needs the approval of the trustees. The General Fund would receive \$175,896, the Mahoning County Health Department would receive \$25,651, the fire district would receive \$116,550 and the EMS fund \$425,083.

MOTION 2025-81: Trustee Houston made a motion to approve the estimated rate resolution as received from the auditor’s office for 2026. The motion was seconded by Trustee Toman. The roll call was all in favor.

Chairman Spellman asked the fiscal officer about the Homestead Reduction Tax refunded by the State of Ohio. Mr. DeCenso stated that in and about September, the state reimburses the Township for the amounts of Homestead Reduction, Owner Occupancy Reduction and Non-Business use of Home reductions from personal property taxes.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

BEAR GRAPHICS 800-325-8094 FORM NO 10148

Held

20

Regular Trustee Meeting of August 13, 2025, Continued

ROAD AND MAINTENANCE REPORT: Supervisor Joe Serensky reported that there were several new foundations poured at the cemetery, and a new door was installed on the barn located on the new property located next to the cemetery. A large tree fell on the old school property which was cut up and removed. Assistance was given at the Community Day Celebration held on August 9th. The Township roads were inspected as usual.

ZONING REPORT: Since the last meeting, Mr. Sarna has written 4 zoning permits. On July 17, 2025, a permit for a storage building at 6829 S. Salem-Warren Road. The estimated cost was \$8,700.00. The fee collected was \$52.00 based upon \$6.00 per \$1,000 valuation of the cost. On July 28, 2025, a permit for a single-family dwelling at 11130 N. Kiwatani Trail, Diehl Lake was issued for a fee of \$2,200.00 based upon the \$370,000.00 cost. On July 29, 2025, a permit was issued for a deck at 11160 Berlin Station Road for \$72.00. On August 12, 2025, a permit for a 20' x 24' garage at 7210 E. Diehl Lake Drive in Diehl Lake was issued for \$120.00 based on cost of \$20,000.00.

A call was received regarding the sale of two Lucansky lots of 28.8 acres. The potential buyer had a question regarding zoning on the parcels. The buyer subsequently cancelled the purchase because the two lots failed the perc test for a septic system. The auditor's website reflects the property of 28.8 acres has been divided into 5 parcels.

The property owner of 12082 Palmyra Road has not contacted the inspector regarding the removal of the abandoned house. The house should be inspected by the Fire Chief to determine its condition for potential demolition.

The cleanup at 5843 Gault Road is being monitored as well as the condition of the property at 11632 Ellsworth Road. The status of back taxes for 11830 Palmyra Road appears that there has been payment made on back-taxes. Mr. Sarna sent an email to the Prosecutor's office requesting the status of the foreclosure and condition of property. Also being monitored is 20 W. Hill for grass cutting.

The sale of 4223 S. Bailey Road from US Bank is still ongoing due to a required survey of the property. The garage needs to be demolished, and the existing house may need to come down also.

A zoning violation letter was resent to 4823 Palmyra Road, Warren, OH 44481 regarding the property at 10749 Palmyra Road for excessive debris and to unlicensed motor vehicles.

Upon inspection of 11283 Palmyra Road, the chickens seemed to have been removed although the coup is still there. There was no agricultural exemption signed for this property. A zoning permit application was sent to the owner of 10872 N. Palmyra Road for a fence installed to the back portion of the property. Awaiting a response. Another zoning permit application was emailed to the Ellsworth Sportsman Club for a metal structure being constructed on the property at 12081 N. Palmyra Road. Also awaiting a response from them.

A replat request for Lot 1 in B.J. McDonough Plat No. 1 (Sandstrom property) was sent to the Zoning Commission for review.

Mr. Sarna attended the zoning commission meeting on August 12, 2025. Discussed was the land use plan amendment which needs further review at the September 2025 meeting. The Centofanti replat, the Bowman property, the VFW replat, and the Sandstrom replat were also discussed. Additional information has been requested on the Centofanti, Sandstrom and Bowman properties. The VFW replat was approved.

A phone call was received inquiring if there is a demolition fee for 13177 Akron-Canfield Road. There is no demolition fee from Ellsworth Township. The property will be monitored as there was a prior violation of long grass, which was taken care of, but the property appears to be abandoned.

Permit applications which propose the installation of a stormwater basin as a component of the Ellsworth Ringbus Substation was forwarded to the zoning board. The coal-tipple property will be used for storing equipment and materials.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

Meeting

BEAR GRAPHICS 800-325-8094 FORM NO. 10148

Held _____ 20_____

Regular Trustee Meeting of August 13, 2025, Continued

FIRE /EMS: Chief Edward Smith reported there were 279 calls YTD. The monthly total calls were 28; mutual aid was given 6 times; mutual aid received 1 time. There were 9 fire calls and 19 EMS calls. Ellsworth transported 11 patients with 5 refusals, and no mutual aid transport was needed. Dispatching is going smoothly. The Chief requested approval for the 2025 Radio Maintenance fee from the COG in the amount of \$6,552.00. There will be a 911 Dispatch meeting on Thursday, August 14, 2025, at 10:00 am in Austintown to discuss how future dispatch costs will be distributed amongst the members. Chief Smith then reported that the fire station has a leak in the roof on west side of the building. Mr. Serensky will investigate. The Feasibility Study needs more information about our station.

Other invoices and requests needing approval are the following items: Under EMS Supplies/Equipment, the Chief would like to receive approval of up to \$5,000.00 for TEM’S gear, such as Kevlar vests. Approval is needed to purchase additional Uniform Tees for \$1,600.00. Also, EMS coats need to be purchased for our new members.

Additionally, Chief Smith would like to receive approval for Ice Water Rescue Suits up to \$3,000.00. The majority of Department members are qualified for water rescues, but the Department has no suits available. Annual pump testing performed by D & T Truck Repair for \$500.00. The total needing approval is \$16,652.00.

The department secured a State EMS Grant for \$3,227.90. Assistant Chief Zach Williams is working on multiple grants such as AEDs for the community.

Ellsworth Fire Department/ EMS will cover the Canfield Fair on Sunday, August 31, 2025. The township will be covered on Sunday as there are adequate personnel scheduled.

MOTION 2025-82: Trustee Houston motioned to approve \$16,652.00 for annual radio maintenance to the COG for \$6,552.00, \$500.00 for pump testing on two trucks, uniform tees in the amount of \$1,600.00, and from the Fire Apparatus Fund, the TEMS gear for \$5000.00 and Ice Water Rescue Suits for \$3,000.00. Trustee Toman seconded the motion. The roll call was all in favor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Trustee Toman stated that the Elk Road project needs an easement to continue. **MOTION 2025-83** Trustee Toman made a motion to approve the easement Agreement with Mr. and Mrs. Frame and to authorize the \$1.00 fee and the \$70.00 filing fee with the County Recorder. Trustee Houston seconded the motion. The roll call was all in favor.

Trustee Houston said the man-door on the building at new property next to the cemetery has been installed and is secure. The driveway construction to the barn has started.

ODOT invited the three Trustees to their project meeting held on August 12, 2025, regarding a proposed roundabout at Palmyra Road and Ohio Route 45. This intersection is rated 30th on a priority list of 400 dangerous intersections in the state for rural areas. As a state highway, ODOT has the authority to proceed as they deem necessary. Trustee Houston read a proposed Resolution of Appreciation and Support from the Township Trustees for the proposed project. The Resolution thanked the Ohio Department of Transportation and supports continued investigation into safety improvements. The study of this proposed roundabout was very intensive. If the state approves, work will begin in 2029.

MOTION 2025-84: Trustee Toman moved to approve the Resolution of Appreciation and Support to the Ohio Department of Transportation regarding the proposed roundabout at State Route 45 and Palmyra Road. Trustee Houston seconded the motion. The roll call was all in favor.

Trustee Houston explained the proposed Agreement from the Mahoning County Sheriff for the Resource Officer at Western Reserve Schools. The amounts for the following years were given: 2025-26 year \$10,941.57, 2026-27 year \$11,571.17, and 2027-28 year \$11,964.35.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

Meeting

BEAR GRAPHICS 800-325-8094 FORM NO 10148

Held _____ 20 _____

Regular Trustee Meeting of August 13, 2025, Continued

MOTION 2025-85: Trustee Houston made a motion to approve the 3-year contract for the Township's share of the cost of a School Resource Officer with the Mahoning County Sheriff's office. Trustee Toman seconded the motion. The roll call was all in favor.

Chairman Spellman announced that First Energy is trying to establish an easement for the property where the new gravity sewer line has been installed in the Township property.

The Chairman spoke with First Energy regarding tree limbs on Berlin Station Road that are too low for delivery trucks such as Amazon to go under. First Energy is stepping up the timeline to remedy the issue.

A note to the Township on the loss of former fiscal officer Nip West.

A signup sheet was in the back of room for residents of Ellsworth who have gas heating to enter their names. The VFW donated \$11,500.00 to the township to purchase gas detectors for residents following the Kocanyar property explosion. Approximately 200 will be available.

A quote for sealing the parking lots at the Town Hall and Fire Station including restriping of lines for \$6,135.00 was received from Pantalone Paving. **MOTION 2025-86:** Trustee Houston made the motion to approve the contract with Pantalone Seal Coating to provide seal coating and restriping at the Administrative/Fire/Road complex and the Town Hall. Trustee Toman seconded the motion. The roll call was all in favor.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 10, 2025, at 7:00 pm in the Town Hall.

At 8:45 pm, pursuant to ORC 122(g)(2), Motion **2025-87:** Trustee Toman made a motion to go into Executive Session for personnel matters. Trustee Houston seconded the motion. The roll call was all in favor.

At 9:00 pm, **MOTION 2025-88:** Trustee Toman made a motion to return to Regular Session. Trustee Houston seconded the motion. The roll call was all in favor.

MOTION 2025-89: Trustee Houston made a motion to appoint the following persons to the Zoning Commission: Sarah Hendricks to replace Jim Mayberry's term, Joan Maeaj to replace Angela Javorsky's term, and Trevor Calhoun to be the Alternate Member. Trustee Toman seconded the motion. The roll call was all in favor.

At 9:05 pm, with no further business, **MOTION 2025-90:** Trustee Houston made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Toman seconded the motion. The roll call was all in favor.


Fiscal Officer


Chairman


Trustee


Trustee