

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

January 11, 2025

Chairman William Spellman called the January 11, 2025, regular meeting of the Ellsworth Trustees to order at 10:50 am. 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, Maintenance and Road Supervisor Joseph Serensky III, and Zoning Inspector Wayne Sarna. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

MINUTES: There were no minutes from the previous meeting available for the trustees to approve, so this will be handled at the next meeting

ROAD and MAINTENANCE: Mr. Joseph Serensky reported that Mahoning Valley Water was out and replaced a hose on the chlorine pump at the Road building. They will send a quote for other repairs, but the pump is presently working. The trailer and tractor are now locked and secured in the new property barn. The maintenance truck broke down and a new alternator was replaced by Ashley Motors. for \$429.45. The emergency expenditure will be approved with the Fiscal Officer’s report. The Christmas tree recycling is under way. Joe assists Jeff Williams (Western Reserve Landscape) when requested for snow plowing. The snow markers have been put up. He will be responsible to set up the tables and chairs for zoning commission meetings on 2nd Tuesday of each month. The black POW flag at the Post Office will be replaced.

Chairman Spellman then excused Mr. Serensky from the meeting to continue snow plowing.

ZONING REPORT: Zoning Inspector Wayne Sarna reported that he had issued one Zoning permit and received one zone change request. The permit was for an 1,870 sq. ft. pavilion at 10334 W. Akron-Canfield Road on the MetroParks property. The fee collected was \$374.00. The zone change request was received on January 7, 2025, for a 28.88-acre tract located on Knauf Road from agricultural to all residential, the purpose being re-parceling the entire tract into some four-acre parcels. The fee collected was \$425.00. The amended Ellsworth Township zoning resolution for solar power was forwarded to the Mahoning County Prosecutor’s office for their review, input and opinion. The amendment was also recorded with the Mahoning County Recorder’s office on November 19, 2024. The zoning violation at 12082 Palmyra Road is pending and to date there has been no response from the owner, Proverb Brothers, located at 8447 Tod Avenue SW, Warren, OH 44481. The trailer and accessory structure have been removed, but the vacant house is still there. AT 5843 Gault Rd, there is accumulated debris at the front of the home and neighboring garage. A letter is being sent to the property owner this week setting a deadline to clean up the property as this is an ongoing problem. Mr. Sarna sent an email to the prosecutor’s office regarding filing a foreclosure for back taxes owed on 11830 Palmyra Road. A discussion with the zoning commission regarding filing a zone change request from business to agricultural for the six (6) parcels owned by George Kostaglou to construct a business has been abandoned. He is also monitoring the work at 9753 Palmyra Road where a new deck or porch is planned for construction in the spring of 2025, to make sure a zoning application is requested. He is also monitoring 11632 Ellsworth Road to correct the abandoned structures. Another property at 4145 Bailey Road is being monitored for a prior violation letter which was sent regarding a number of RV’s and trailers being parked on the property. A letter was sent to the property owner of 11106 Akron-Canfield Road due to a trailer on the property which needs to be tarped since it cannot be used as a residence. Wayne reviewed the zoning permit fees of the outlying townships and has recommended the following permit fee increases: residential construction from 52 cents to 57 cents a sq. ft.; business from 40 cents to 54 cents sq. ft.; accessory structures from 18 cents to 30 cents sq. ft.; porches, decks from 50 cents to \$1.00 sq. ft.; and fences from \$15.00 to \$50.00. He will review these proposed fees with the Commission and Trustees and submit a proposal in the near future. A copy of the legislative update on HB 315 was received and Wayne will contact the Ohio Township Association to ask how to proceed to obtain a grant for a zoning consultant.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Fire Chief Edward Smith reported that there were 33 total calls for December 2024: Mutual aid was given nine (9) times and received (4) times. EMS was used fifteen (15) times with Ellsworth transporting eight (8) patients, mutual aid transported 0 patients, 5 patients refused transport, one (1) DOA and one (1) was cleared. Dispatching has been going smoothly. EMS members Lillian May and Sloane Myers have started Anatomy and Physiology classes as part of the UH Paramedic Program. The Chief presented invoices for

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Regular Trustee Meeting January 11, 2025, Continued

Active 911 software, which is \$362.25 and was previously approved. The COG quarterly radio maintenance is \$1,419.60 a quarter and the full amounts (8 quarters) are due from 2023 and 2024. The amounts may change for 2025. He is requesting approval to order five (5) sets of Fire Gear from Phoenix before their 5% price increase takes effect. The price will be \$24,055.00 prior to the increase; 30 EMS coats at \$300.00 each for \$9,000.00; repairs to vehicles by D & T to the tanker were \$1,247.19, the engine repair was \$1,829.02 and the ladder total was \$227.50 for a total of \$3,303.70 (which all was also previously approved); and finally \$709.00 to Medicare for a Revalidation fee. The Department is currently working on many different grants. The junior firefighters start an EMT class on January 22nd. The billing is going smoothly. The Chief and the Fiscal Officer recognized the extraordinary work that Lori at Quest Advantage Billing did to assist in the Medicare Revalidation. This was a major project accomplished by Lori. The Board agreed to motion the approval of monies and requests with the Fiscal report.

Chairman Spellman then recognized Jim Tripp from the Zoning Board of Appeals. Mr. Tripp reported that the ZBA will hold their reorganization meeting on January 16, 2025. He advised the Board that Robin Whitehair is up for reappointment and is interested in returning to the ZBA. **Motion 2025-7:** Trustee Houston made the motion to approve Robin Whitehair for another (5) year term on the ZBA effective January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2029. Trustee Toman seconded the motion. The roll call was all in favor.

Chairman then recognized Angela Javorsky of the Zoning Commission. Ms. Javorsky advised the Board that Mr. Jim Mayberry's term on the commission has expired, and he is interested in reappointment. She then asked the Board whether the Zoning Inspector should be requesting tax foreclosures on Township properties when not in compliance with the Zoning Resolution. She requested directions to proceed with any updates to the Land Use Plan for 2026. She indicated that the Commission will be working on some proposals for changes. Ms. Javorsky also indicated that many times Board members present their personal views on issues that do not represent the Zoning Resolution. The Trustees agreed that additional ethics training may be needed. The Trustees expressed that the roles of the Zoning Board members need to be enforced. Mr. Lee Sandstrom was recognized who expressed that he felt the ZBA hearing regarding his variance request may have had some procedural errors. He is concerned that some of the questions were out of order and that a non-seated alternate member of the ZBA was leading the questioning. **Motion 2025-8:** Trustee Houston made the motion to appoint Jim Mayberry for another (5) year term on the Zoning Commission effective January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2029. Trustee Toman seconded the motion. The roll call was all in favor.

FISCAL REPORT: Fiscal Officer James DeCenso reported that December's receipts were \$23,160 and expenditures were \$121,224. Receipts included 3,710 (4.8%) in bank interest. Expenditures included the fire gear for \$19,741 which was paid from the Firehouse Subs Grant; Bureau of Workers Comp 2025 premium estimate for 2025 of \$28,745 and the ESO software of \$6,499. Preliminary cash flow finals for 2024 indicate that the Township spent \$41,009 more than it took in, however that included the \$84,004 spent on the new property at 10774 Akron Canfield Rd. The total gross fund balances as of December 31, 2024, was \$861,140 including \$21,217 in unspent ARPA funds; \$454,449 in Fire/EMS Operations and Equipment funds and \$305,715 in Road funds. The General Fund (including Cemetery and Zoning funds) balance is \$65,734. The General Fund unencumbered amount at December 31st was \$5,5166.34. The Fiscal Officer then presented an invoice for 2025 COSE membership of \$493.00. He then added the invoice from Ashley Auto for \$429.45 and the Fire/EMS requests of \$45,120.80 for a grand total of \$46,043.25. **Motion 2025-9:** Trustee Toman then made the motion to approve the total requests of \$46,043.25. Trustee Houston seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. Mr. DeCenso then discussed the budget workshop held last week and proposed another workshop be scheduled. The Board agreed to set a date. The Fiscal Officer then discussed ORC 3929.86 regarding Fire Loss claims whereas a township can receive monies from an insurance company to hold for future clean up expenses. In regard to the Kocanyar tragedy at 8521 Huxley Rd., the amount payable to the Township will be \$43,450 as calculated by formula described in the Ohio Revised Code. The receipt will be held in an Escrow Account and made part of the total Funds reported by the Township. The Fiscal Officer then described that the 2021-2022 Audit is still in process but he has not had any recent contact from the auditors.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Trustee Toman reminded the Board that the annual ODOT mileage certification needs signed by the Trustees. He then reported that Atty Comstock, representing the Cardinal Fire District, is requesting a resolution to re-approve the purchase of (1) set of used fire gear from Cardinal Fire District, utilizing language that he has provided. The Fiscal Officer read the resolution. **Motion 2025-10:** Trustee Toman then made the motion to approve the resolution set forth by Cardinal Fire District regarding the Township's willingness to purchase used Fire Gear at the cost of \$2,000.00 and that the Township has the funds available for the purchase. Trustee Houston seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. Trustee Toman reported on the Elk Road water project. The crime watch reports are available.

Trustee Houston reported that the work on 10774 Akron Canfield Rd. is ongoing. The well on the property is being inspected by Dillon Well with a limit of \$2800.00 which was set in December 2024.

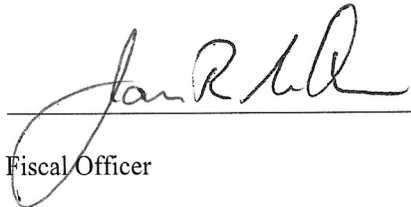
Chairman Spellman reported that the pavilion is being enclosed for future use. That process has begun will picking out colors and reviewing the electrical requirements. Also, the county sewer project is finished but needs a testing period. There have not been any tap in fees provided by the Engineer's office for the fire station, post office, maintenance building and sheriff's office.

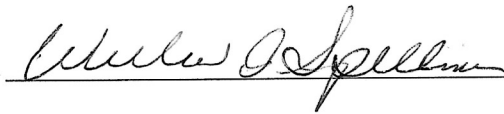
OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

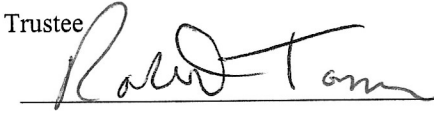
The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday February 12, 2025, at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall.

With no further business, at 8:05 pm, **Motion 2025-11:** 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