

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

Meeting

BEAR GRAPHICS 800-325-8094 MINUTES OF ELLSWORTH TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Held _____ REGULAR MEETING _____ 20 _____

November 12, 2025

Chairman William Spellman called the November 12, 2025, regular meeting of the Ellsworth Trustees to order at 7:00 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited followed by a moment of silence in memory of our veterans.

MOTION 2025 -115: A quorum was established by roll call: Chairman William Spellman – present, Vice Chairman Fredrick Houston – present, Trustee Robert Toman – present. Also present were Fiscal Officer James DeCenso, Fire Chief Edward Smith, Assistant Chiefs Jullian Smith and Zack Williams. Zoning Inspector Wayne Sarna, and Maintenance Supervisor Joe Serensky.

MINUTES: The Fiscal officer presented the minutes from the last regular meeting held on October 18, 2025. **MOTION 2025-116:** Trustee Toman made a motion to accept the minutes from the last regular meeting held on October 18, 2025. Trustee Houston seconded the motion. The roll call was all in favor.

Chairman Spellman welcomed Wendy Zele from First Energy and Nate Belluardo the contact agent for the real estate work. Ms. Zele made a brief statement as did Nate. A few details remain before the expansion of Ellsworth substation can proceed.

FISCAL REPORT: Fiscal Officer Jim DeCenso reported the October revenue was \$27,187.91 which included the bank interest of \$3,425.00 at 4.32%. The revenue thru October 31st is \$1,072,153.54.

Expenses for October totaled \$90,324.19 which were higher than normal due to three (3) Fire/EMS pays; previously approved Pantalone Paving \$5,435.00 and Mahoning County Auditor reimbursement of \$3,235.00. The total expenses thru 10/31/2025 are \$994,715.64.00. The gross balance change for October was (\$63,136.28), however there is an increase of total funds by \$77,437.90 for the ten months ending October 31, 2025.

Invoices for approval were the 2026 BWC premium estimate of \$26,136.00 based on estimated 2026 wages to be paid which is due December 22, 2025; In May, the board approved the payment of 7 months for handicap portable restrooms for the baseball fields. There was an additional month at \$185.00. The total requested is \$26,321.00 for both invoices.

Chairman Spellman made **MOTION-2025-117** to approve the above two invoices totaling \$26,321.00. Trustee Toman seconded the motion. The roll call was all in favor.

Fiscal Officer DeCenso mentioned the matter of the 911 dispatching costs through Austintown police department. In 2025 the Township paid \$6,500, the 2026 cost will be \$16,366, 2027 \$18,800, and 2028 will be \$19,500. **MOTION 2025-118** was made by Trustee Houston to accept the 3 year dispatching contract between Austintown and Ellsworth. Trustee Toman seconded the motion. The roll call was all in favor.

In April, the Township accepted the VFW Charities donation of \$11,500 to purchase Gas Detectors for the residents of the Township. **MOTION 2025-119** was made by Trustee Toman to accept the grant of \$11,500 for gas detectors from the VFW Charities retroactive to April 1, 2025. Trustee Houston seconded the motion. The roll call was all in favor. Another date to pass out the remaining detectors is to be set.

Mr. DeCenso asked the trustees to increase the 2025 General Fund available resources by \$11,500.00 and the Zoning available resources by \$5,000.00. **MOTION 2025-120** was made by Trustee Houston to increase the General Fund Available Resources by \$11,500 and the Zoning Fund Available Resources by \$5,000 and at same time amend the 2025 Appropriations by the same amounts. Trustee Toman seconded the motion. The roll call was all in favor.

Western Reserve Landscape contract from 2022 needed to be amended for the 2025-2026 snow removal season to reflect a 10% increase from the vendor, to \$13,750.00 not including cost of salt. Trustee Toman made **MOTION 2025-121** to accept the 2025-2026 snow removal contract with Western Reserve Landscape in the amount of \$13,750.00 not including salt cost. The motion was seconded by Trustee Houston. The roll call was all in favor.

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Regular Trustee Meeting November 12, 2025 Continued

ROAD and MAINTENANCE REPORT: Supervisor Serensky reported that there were 3 burials in Ellsworth for the month. The grass was cut and leaves removed for the last time this season at the Township Hall and Fire Station complex. The emergency generator was serviced but no invoice has yet been received. Security cameras were installed at the complex. The road flags in the Township will be removed next week. The crack-sealing will be concluded this week with the assistance of Scott. There is a burial on this Saturday also.

Chairman Spellman noted that a thank you card was received from a family thanking the Township for the burial of mother being done with dignity and respect.

ZONING REPORT: Zoning Inspector Wayne Sarna reported the since October 16, 2025, one zoning permit was issued. On November 6, 2025, a permit for a breezeway adjoining house and garage was issued at 11140 Diehl Lake Drive. The fee collected was \$300.00.

Mr. Sarna was processing an appeal for 9801 Palmyra Road for construction of a pole barn to the front of the residence. An agricultural exemption was given. The property is over 5 acres.

A Fire Department inspection was done at 12052 Palmyra Road by Assistant Fire Chief Smith and the resolution passed by the board condemning the property was sent to Attorney Mark Fynamore to have a title search done. Once this is completed the property owner will be sent notice per O.R.C.505.86 providing for the opportunity of a hearing before the Trustees before deliberating the potential demolition.

He reported that Assistant Prosecutor Karen Gaglione made suggestions concerning the abandoned vehicles and boat at 11830 Palmyra Road. The property was in foreclosure, but the property owner entered a repayment agreement. Mr. Sarna is sending a letter to the owner setting a deadline of January 1, 2026, to remove the vehicles. If not removed the prosecutor's office will send a final letter and proceed under ORC 505.871 to have the vehicles removed. Mr. Sarna emphasized that there are certain steps that must be followed under ORC 505.871.

Letters were sent to the following: (1) the property owner at 4223 S. Bailey Road regarding the status of the collapsed garage and empty house. A response was received that both will be removed within the month. (2) a follow up letter to the owner of 13177 Akron-Canfield Road regarding the status of the demolition of abandoned home (3) follow up letter to 8597 S. Duck Creek Road regarding the violation of accumulated junk and debris. (4) a letter to 10460 N. Palmyra Road regarding four abandoned motor vehicles with no current license plates to either remove or garage them by 12/01/2025. The prosecutor's office will send a letter after that date. (5) a permit needs to be issued for a fence at 10872 N. Palmyra Road and a follow-up letter.

The Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWP3) at the Ellsworth substation of First Energy is being monitored. A meeting on site was attended by numerous Mahoning County officials, the Township trustees, zoning board members and neighboring property owners. The property was discussed and the issues of a 10-foot setback from neighboring property owners as well as a dry retention basin were addressed. It will not be fenced as it will be dry. The proposal was submitted to the zoning board for review and their recommendations.

Mr. Sarna is awaiting inspection of the manufactured home at 4289 Bailey Road by Central Electric Inspection Bureau to confirm the home is permanently affixed to the foundation. An email was sent to Central Electric asking when the home will be inspected. Awaiting a response.

A call was received about dirt being moved at old Diamond Back Golf Course. Mr. Sarna is monitoring this, but no structures are going up. Also monitoring 8740 Palmyra Road. The property had temporary yard sale signs and private property for sale in the front yard and side yards. These have been removed.

A complaint was made about the property at 9595 Leffingwell Road regarding the condition of the property as well as about abandoned vehicles and debris.

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Regular Trustee Meeting November 12, 2025 Continued

The Fiscal Officer stated that there are up to 15 land grants to demolish homes available. Mr. Smith at the Land Bank office will be contacted.

FIRE/EMS REPORT: Chief Edward Smith reported there have been 426 total calls for the year.

October had a total of 58 calls where mutual aid was given 26 times and received 6 times. A total of 36 fire calls were received and 22 EMS calls. Of these 22 calls, 16 patients were transported with 8 patient refusals. No mutual aid transports.

Dispatching was smooth as usual. An invoice of \$3,250.00 for the second half of 2025 for Austintown 911 needed approval.

Two new EMT basic firefighters were interviewed by Chief Smith and both assistant chiefs. The applications for Michael Higgins and Leslie Hafler need signed by trustees. Mr. Higgins is currently in FF1 class.

The purchase of two pairs of leather boots for Grace Ogden and Brandon Gilmore would eliminate the cost of recurring rental. Each pair is \$389.00 with a total of \$788.00 being requested.

Chief Smith reviewed the software used for all reports, scheduling, and duties. The annual renewal fee is \$6,488.73. The station also needs a new washing machine. The current one is not working and costs too much for repairs. This machine would not be for turnout gear, just towels, linens and clothing. Chief Smith requested up to \$800.00 to purchase a new machine.

Chief Smith requested approval to purchase 6 additional EMS coats (Originally approved 30 coats for \$9,000.00 in January 2025 and purchased 26). There is still \$1,186 available from the original approval (BC13-2025) and \$629 additional will be needed to add 2 more. The renewal of Active 911 is \$372.00. The Stryker power cots needed service and maintenance. Two batteries need replaced for \$300.00 ea. plus freight totaling \$650.00. Six sets of tactical medical safety gear which include helmets, vests, and bag for medical gear are requested with 2 sets for each ambulance and one for the station with a total cost of \$12,192.66. \$5,000.00 was previously approved in August 2025 but now need an additional \$7,192.66 to purchase all six sets.

Fire Gear is currently rented for two firefighters monthly. Three months or rental were approved in September 2025, and Chief Smith is requested an additional three months at \$320.00 per month or \$960.00.

Chief Smith Reported that a home inspection was done by the Department at a home on Palmyra Road used for fostering children. The crew went through the home and established that an evacuation plan is in effect along with current smoke detectors.

Currently repairs are being made to the building emergency generator which needs a carburetor. D & T is also looking into an exhaust leak on the engine.

Chief Smith reported that two BWC grants were submitted by Assistant Chief Williams for up to \$40,000.00. One for the gear washer under Firefighter Exposure to Environmental Elements Grant which had no match. The other was Safety Intervention Grant for rescue tools (ours are old and need replacement). If approved the township will need to match a total of \$12,246.25 with BWC paying \$36,738.75. Trustees need to keep this in mind if the grant is approved.

Billing is going smoothly as usual.

Assistant Fire Chief Jillian Smith has been working on classes for Western Reserve School, some of which are: CPR, Stop the Bleed, and Biomed classes. She has also worked on getting donations for the food pantry at the school which is in need. The security cameras at the station have been installed.

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Regular Trustee Meeting November 12, 2025 Continued

Trustee Toman made **MOTION 2025-122** to approve \$21,170.39 for the nine (9) items as requested by Chief Smith. The motion was seconded by Trustee Houston. The roll call was all in favor.

MOTION 2025-123 was made by Trustee Toman to accept the Safety Intervention grant from the BWC in the amount of \$48,000.00 with the Township responsible for \$12,246.25. The motion was seconded by Trustee Houston. The roll call was all in favor.

MOTION 225-124 was made by Trustee Houston to approve Michael Higgins EMT-B, and 36 Hr. Firefighter and Leslie Hafler EMT-B and Firefighter II as probationary members to the fire department. The motion was seconded by Trustee Toman. The roll call was all in favor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Trustee Toman made the crime report for the month available. He attended the pre-construction meeting for First Energy project in the Township. Over 200 gas detectors were given out to the residents on two separate days. The trustees along with members of the fire department enjoyed passing out candy on Trunk or Treat night at the school. Concerning the Elk Road project, Trustee Toman met with the residents. The water odor problem at the fire station needs resolved. Perhaps a new treatment system or a new well needs to be drilled. Approval was given to look into drilling a new well.

Trustee Houston reported on the new property at 10774 Akron Canfield Rd. The deeds are recorded, and everything seems to be in place to sell some of the property. The tax-exempt status still needs to be clarified. Trustee Houston has checked on the water system at the fire station; He reported everything is working but is not doing the job. The water has a major odor.

Chairman Spellman reported that repair work was done on the Kubota tractor. The trustees attended the meeting by the county engineer regarding the 5-year ¼% sales tax renewal proposed for vote in 2026. Trustee Houston has been working on finding out how much it will cost for the Fire Station to be tied to the newly installed sewer system on Salem Warren Rd. There are trees that need trimmed on Rolling Hills, Lonesome Dove, and Shadow Wood.

OLD BUSINESS: There are 28 double and 5 single lots in discussion to be sold to Millcreek Mennonite Church at Geeburg Cemetery. A preliminary sales contract has been sent to the prosecutor's office for review by Trustee Houston.

The Elk Road project had a pipe extended to the south by Ellis Construction at the cost of \$4,787.32.

MOTION 2025-125 was made by Trustee Toman to approve the \$4,787.32 expenditure to Ellis Construction to extend the culvert on Elk Road. The motion was seconded by Trustee Houston. The roll call was all in favor.

The Board discussed installing an LED marquee sign in front of the town hall. Trustee Toman estimated that the cost would be \$13,000 plus electrical additions. Trustee Toman made **MOTION 2025-126** to pursue for 2026 an LED sign for the town hall not to exceed \$16,000.00 and to be included in the 2026 budget. The motion was seconded by Trustee Houston. The roll call was all in favor.

Chairman Spellman reported that the roof at the fire station needs repaired. The estimate for a new roof is \$80,000.00.

The Board reminded the audience that the Tree Lighting will be held Monday December 1st at 6:00 pm at the Presbyterian Church and the Wreaths for Veterans program will be held at the Ellsworth Cemetery at 10:00 am on Saturday, December 6th.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, December 10, 2025, at 7:00 pm.

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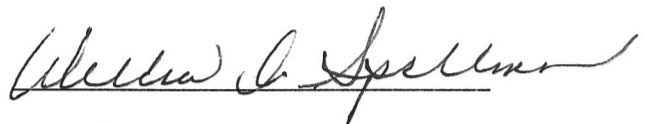
Meeting

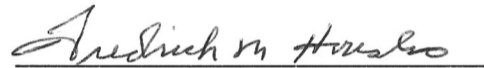
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At 8:55 pm **Motion 2025-127** was made by Trustee Houston to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Trustee Toman. The roll call was all in favor.


Fiscal Officer


Chairman


Trustee


Trustee