

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

May 2, 2020

Chairman Fredrick Houston called the May 2nd regular meeting of the Ellsworth Trustees to order at 8:05 am. A roll call was taken to establish a quorum: Chairman Fredrick Houston - present, Vice Chairman Robert Toman - present, Trustee William Spellman - present. Also present were Fiscal Officer James DeCenso, Zoning Inspector Wayne Sarna, Road and Maintenance Supervisor Matt Stroney, Fire Chief Ted Smith, Dee Tripp from the Zoning Commission and Jim Tripp from the Zoning Board of Appeals. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

MINUTES: Fiscal Officer DeCenso presented the minutes from the last regular meetings held March 11, 2020. There was no meeting held in April. No one in attendance requested that the minutes be read. Trustee Spellman made a motion to accept the meeting minutes. Trustee Toman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

Chairman Houston recognized Mrs. Dee Tripp who asked the Board for their advice regarding the need for the Commission to hold a regular meeting in May due to the Covid-19 pandemic. She advised the Board that neither the Commission nor Mr. Sarna had any urgent matters. The Board concurred that the Commission could cancel their May meeting at their discretion.

Chairman Houston then recognized Commander Tom Check from VFW post 9571, who advised the Board that this year's Memorial Day activities would be quite curtailed from previous years due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Chairman Houston then recognized Jim Tripp from the Zoning Board of Appeals. He advised the Board that they had scheduled a meeting on May 14th to approve the minutes from the last meeting and to introduce Robin Whitehair as the new alternate to the Board members. He also reported to the Board that no member of the ZBA has accepted an invitation to take over the Secretary's position after the retirement of Rita Baun. The Board and Mr. Tripp indicated that hopefully a member would accept the position at the next scheduled meeting. It was noted that the ZBA has the authority to hire someone per ORC 519.13.

Chairman Houston then recognized Fred Schrock from VFW post 9571 who discussed the proposed abbreviated 2020 Memorial Day service at the Ellsworth cemetery. He explained that the VFW would like to set up a memorial display near the entrance of the cemetery from Rte 224 that can be viewed by vehicles passing by. The VFW may do a small ceremony at the gate, which would include playing taps. This may occur either on Sunday the 30th or on the 31st. Trustee Spellman made a motion, pursuant to ORC 307.66, to contribute \$300.00 to VFW post 9571 for Memorial Day activities. Trustee Toman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

Trustee Spellman then discussed the recent wind damage to the Town Hall and Township Cemetery. The Board discussed with the audience the feasibility of repairing the slate on the Town Hall vs. a metal roof replacement. Trustee Houston indicated that he preferred slate repair. Trustee Toman advised the audience that the replacement sign at the cemetery will include that the cemetery was established in 1802.

FISCAL REPORT: Fiscal Officer James DeCenso reported that March and April's combined receipts were \$144,044 and expenditures were \$61,304. Receipts included \$93,000 in advance payments from the 2020 first half property tax collections, \$7,161 in two separate Ohio BWC rebates and \$500 rebated from OTARMA for Covid-19 relief. Expenses included a \$4,004 payment to TSI Western Star for ___ and \$4,650 to AIM Construction for the installation of a metal roof on the Road Storage Bldg. Total receipts through the first four months of 2020 were \$197,625 and total normal-operational expenditures were \$142,804. The total gross fund balance as of April 30, 2020 was \$587,111. Accounting for the increased principle payment on the ODOT loan in February, the outstanding loan balance has been reduced to \$50,805. A net gross fund balance is \$536,307 and the General fund contingency balance is \$2,873. Mr. DeCenso then discussed his concerns that the Township may begin to see a reduction in revenues due to the pandemic. He expressed his concern that gasoline tax revenues will decline and that perhaps 2nd half property tax collections may decline. He then presented for approval invoices of \$50.00 from Turner, May & Shepherd for legal work and \$309.98 from Warren Fire for fire extinguisher inspection. Trustee Toman made a motion to approve \$359.98 in expenses. Trustee Spellman seconded the

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motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. The Fiscal Officer then discussed the expenses that have been occurred due to the wind damage incurred on April the 8th. He requested approval to pay Blue Line Tree Service the \$1,500.00 fee for their work at the cemetery to cut up and remove the fallen trees. This will eventually be reimbursed to the Township by our insurance. Trustee Toman made a motion to approve the \$1,500.00 invoice from Blue Line Tree Service. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. The Board discussed the need to approve similar general expenditures from the wind damage that may need to be encumbered and paid prior to the next meeting. Trustee Toman made a motion to approve up to \$10,000.00 for cemetery area repairs and \$20,000.00 for building roof repairs from the damages incurred from the April 8, 2020 wind damages. Mr. DeCenso then reported that the Mahoning County Health Dept did a site visit at the Hilltop Landfill located in the Township and that the collection lines and tanks were found intact with no signs of leakage. He ended his report by advising the Board that the bi-annual State audit of the Township has begun.

ROAD and MAINTENANCE: Mr. Matt Stroney reported that there was one burial in Berlin township where he assisted. He informed the Board that he sold five cemetery lots since the last meeting. He reported that all of the trees that had fallen from the wind damage have been removed and that he will begin to upright headstones upon approval from the insurance company. He informed the Board that an adjacent property owner is upset that the Township removed a fallen tree that he alleges was his tree. The Board will address the matter. He then reported that the Dump Trump repair had been completed at a cost of \$1,875.00 vs. the approved estimate of \$2000.00. Mr. Stroney then advised the Board that he had to arrange for service on the backhoe at Phil's tractor at a cost of \$478.38. He advised the Board that he had made flag and flag pole purchases from the VFW post 9571, Western Reserve Flag Company and the Quality Flag Company at a total cost of \$1,368.16. He also presented to the Board the renewal of the pest control contract from Grace Services at the renewal fee of \$950.00. Trustee Spellman made a motion to approve \$2,796.54 for all of the requested expenditures including the contract renewal with Grace Services. Trustee Toman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. Mr. Stroney then advised the Board that he would be looking at sealing the Road and Fire/Admin buildings this year. This was last done in 2013 for approximately \$1,000.00, using in-house labor. Mr. Stroney also advised the Board that he had contacted the paving company responsible for paving Rte. 45, requesting any available grindings to be used to create the new parking area on Elias Lloyd Rd for the ball fields. The Board discussed how much grindings are needed and how they could be acquired and delivered. Trustee Toman made a motion to approve up to \$5,000.00 for the construction of a parking area for the ball fields off of Elias Lloyd Rd. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. The Trustees discussed when the flags could be set out on the poles in the Township.

ZONING REPORT: Mr. Wayne Sarna reported that three permits were issued since the last meeting. He had issued permits for a single family dwelling on Palmyra Rd; an above ground pool and deck also on Palmyra Rd; and a garage with a breezeway on Rosemont Dr. He inspected the property at 20 West Hill and that he had observed a large dumpster on the property for the removal of the debris complaint. He then reported on other property complaints in the Township that have been abated. He reported that he again met with the property owner at the corner of Duck Creek Rd and Western Reserve Rd and has obtained a resolution of that complaint. Mr. Sarna reported that he has continued to attempt to gather legal review of the site plan submitted by the coal tipple property owner. His calls to Atty Finnermore have had limited response due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The Board discussed the need to continue to pursue legal review on the plan submitted. The Board then discussed a need to create a general policy that would cover available actions for abating vacant property, debris, high grass and other nuisances in the Township.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Fire Chief Ted Smith thanked the members of the department who assisted with all of the damage calls caused by the high winds on April 8th. He reported that he made several attempts to contact the county EMA director that evening. Mr. O'Hara did not respond until the next morning. Mr. O'Hara indicated that he contacted the weather bureau and that there was no evidence of a tornado and that it was possibly a downburst. Chief Smith felt that the county response from the county Emergency Management was minimal. The Chief then reported on statistics from March & April combined. There were 31 calls including EMS calls with 12 transports of which the Township transported 9. Chief Smith then reported that the Medic 400 needs new

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tires. Quotes were obtained with the lowest from B&R Tire at \$774.00. He also advised that all of the trucks need routine oil/filter changes and that annual pump tests are required. The Chief gave an update on Jacob Pyatt and Abigail Schors, who are doing well in their EMT classes. He advised the Board that department members are maintaining their CE on-line. He reported that the department would be receiving an iPad from University Hospitals. The Chief then requested reimbursement of \$418.29 for the renewal of the Active 911 system that he paid on his personal credit card. Trustee Spellman made a motion to reimburse Chief Smith \$418.29 for his payment of the Active 911 subscription fee. Trustee Toman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. Trustee Spellman made a motion to approve up to \$3,000.00 for the Fire/EMS truck service, including tires and the pump tests. Chief Smith and the Board then discussed the recent EMS staffing experiment that was tried between the County's western townships and Lane Transport. All agreed that having more availability of EMS personnel was beneficial, however the cost would be staggering without the inclusion of the adjoining townships. Chief Smith proposed a plan to staff on-call EMS/Fire personnel at the station from 8am to 4pm. Similar to the prior plans, however the on-call stipends would be increased to \$120.00 for a medic, \$105.00 for an EMT-A (Advanced) and \$90.00 for an EMT-B (Basic). He felt that he could recruit more personnel with better pay. The individual would need to be at the station at all times during their on-call shift. He also proposed to change the pay period from monthly to bi-weekly, which may also be an incentive to recruit more personnel. The Board discussed the need to maintain EMS/Fire coverage during the day, when many volunteers are not available. Also discussed would be the potential to charge other communities if it is determined that many EMS calls are dispatched to areas outside of the Township. After extensive discussion, Trustee Spellman made a motion to accept the program modifications in pay and on-call coverage times for a six-month trial from May 1' 2020 through October 31, 2020, including changing the pay period for stipends to bi-weekly. Trustee Toman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. The Fiscal Officer and Chief Smith then asked the Board to approve a new lease for the Lifepak 15 from Stryker. The lease amount will be \$31,188.34 plus \$6,120 service for three years. The monthly lease payment will be \$1,117.26. The total expenditure over the three-year lease will be \$40,221.36. Trustee Spellman made a motion to accept the lease as quoted by Stryker. Trustee Toman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.


COMMITTEE REPORTS:

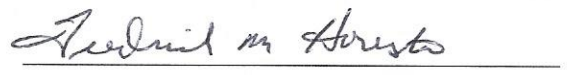
Trustee Toman wanted to recognize the recent passing of Patricia Wyant. Mrs. Wyant had provided extensive research on the Township cemetery and other activities of Ellsworth. The Board agreed that she will be missed and thanked her post humorously, for her dedication to the community.

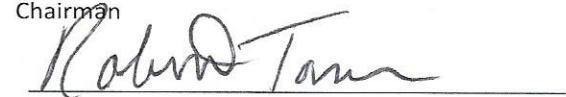
Trustee Spellman reviewed the parking lot construction off of Elias Lloyd Rd for the ball fields. He also suggested that the Township post a designated shared ride parking area somewhere in the Fire/Admin Complex parking lot for those who ride-share.

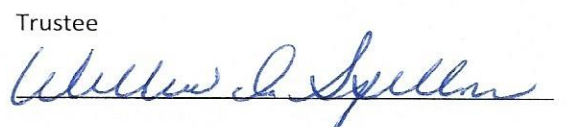
The next meeting will be held at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, June 10, 2020 at the Town Hall.

At 11:04am, Trustee Toman made a motion to adjourn. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.


Fiscal Officer


Chairman


Trustee


Trustee