

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

March 13, 2024

Chairman Robert Toman called the March 13, 2024 regular meeting of the Ellsworth Trustees to order at 7:00 pm. A roll call was taken to establish a quorum: Chairman Robert Toman - present, Vice Chairman William Spellman - present, Trustee Fredrick Houston – present. Also, present were Road and Maintenance Supervisor Tom Hoffman, Fire Chief Edward Smith, and Zoning Inspector Wayne Sarna. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

MINUTES: Fiscal Officer James DeCenso presented the minutes from the last Regular meeting, which were held February 14, 2024. No one in attendance requested that the minutes be read. **Motion 2024-31:** Trustee Houston made a motion to accept the minutes from the last regular meeting. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

FISCAL REPORT: Fiscal Officer James DeCenso reported that February's receipts were \$60,989 and expenditures were \$149,676. Receipts included the first 2023 Property Tax advance of \$39,000 and \$3,430 (5.57%) in bank interest. Expenditures included \$84,004 for the purchase of the structure and property at 10774 Akron Canfield Rd. The total gross fund balances as of February 29, 2024, was \$752,352 including \$37,548 in unspent ARPA funds; \$385,041 in Fire/EMS Operations and Equipment funds and \$267,951 in Road funds. The General Fund balance is \$46,405 (including Cemetery and Zoning funds). The Fiscal Officer reported the presented invoices of \$212.80 for the annual County Hazmat funding, \$525.00 to Arrow Heating and Cooling, \$1,558.18 to Western Reserve Landscape for road salt used, and \$518.40 to Ron Zielinski, LLC for cemetery foundations. **Motion 2024-32:** Trustee Houston then made the motion to approve payment of the \$2,814.38 in invoices presented. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. The Fiscal Officer then submitted for approval the 2024 Lease Agreement with the Mahoning County Solid Waste Management District for the public recycling center space at the Township complex. The annual lease amount is \$2,250.00, which is consistent with prior years. **Motion 2024-33:** Trustee Spellman then made a motion to approve the 2024 Lease Agreement with the County Solid Waste Management District. Trustee Houston seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. Mr. DeCenso then reported that he has completed and closed the 2023 books. The final unaudited reports and notes are available for review and will be posted to the website upon completion of the upcoming bi-annual state audit. He then reminded the Board that the uses of the 2024 NOPEC Community Event Sponsorship needs to be reported back by April 30, 2024. He then thanked Chief Smith and the Fire Department for taking over the Fire Hall rental responsibilities. Chief Smith advised the Board that his phone number is now posted on the website as contact person.

Chairman Toman then opened discussion on a resolution to request the Mahoning County Commissioners to prohibit large scale solar and wind "farms" within the Township. He indicated his support to proceed with such a resolution. Both Trustees Houston and Spellman also provided their support. Chairman Houston then discussed the complexity of this issue and the limited options that townships have been granted by the State. Chairman Toman explained that the State's definition of "large scale" solar refers to 50 Megawatts or more that typically requires 250 or more acres to achieve. Any facilities under 50 Megawatts would be regulated by a local township zoning resolution. After discussion, **Motion 2024-34:** Trustee Houston made a motion, pursuant to ORC 303.58(A)(1),(2) and (3) to approve a resolution requesting the Mahoning County Commissioners to adopt a resolution to prohibit construction of any economically significant wind or large-scale solar facility in the unincorporated areas of Ellsworth Township. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. Chairman then introduced Jason Loree, the administrator of Boardman Township who suggested that Boardman and Ellsworth townships join forces to meet with the county to support this resolution and a similar resolution recently approved by Boardman Township. He discussed certain issues that involve local Fire Departments. The Board thanked Mr. Loree for his input.

Chairman Toman the introduced Anthony Holben from the Western Reserve Baseball Organization, who advised the Board about the 2024 baseball activities. The Board reviewed with Mr. Holben the criteria for using the fields and instructed him to be sure to provide contact information for at least two organization members. WRBO will manage the concession building and all proceeds are the property of WRBO.

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Chairman Toman then introduced Fred Schrock, a member of the Men of Faith Organization who advised the audience that they have printed "God Bless America" signs, and they are available for a donation.

ROAD and MAINTENANCE: Mr. Tom Hoffman reported that there was one burial in Ellsworth cemetery last month. He reported that Berlin Township did the grave excavation. He reported that Warren Fire has completed their fire extinguisher inspection in all the buildings and that he added an extinguisher in the Baseball concession building. The new energy efficient front glass doors have been installed at the Fire Station. He reported that he has begun to paint all of the interior doors of the Fire/Admin building and that he replaced the flag at the Station. Grace Exterminating has sprayed all of the buildings as per their contract. He then reported that there is an issue with the dry hydrant at the pond behind the Road building. He and Chief Smith will review the situation and determine if there is an obstruction or a drafting issue. Chief Smith then requested a kick plate on a few doors in the Fire Station as members sometimes kick the doors open in their urgency to exit for an emergency. Mr. Hoffman then presented some quotes that he obtained for the asphalt repairs at the Old School parking lot, the Town Hall lot, and the Township Complex lot. Everbrite quoted \$13,000 and Iron Eagle quoted \$14,016. After some discussion to verify the comparisons, , **Motion 2024-35:** Trustee Houston made a motion to accept the quote from Everbrite , Inc for listed asphalt repairs at the quoted cost of \$13,000 plus to encumber an additional \$3,000 for some additional areas at the Town Hall as needed. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. Mr. Hoffman then reviewed a quote for pole flags. There were some questions regarding the procurement of Ellsworth flags. **Motion 2024-36:** Trustee Houston made a motion to encumber \$2,500 for road display flags, poles, and accessories. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. Mr. Hoffman and the Board then discussed the purchase of a brush hog that will be needed to clean up the new property. Trustee Houston volunteered his brush hog for that use.

ZONING REPORT: Zoning Inspector Wayne Sarna reported that he had issued two Zoning permits since the last meeting. One for a single-family residence on Akron Canfield Rd and one for a storage building on S. Bailey Rd. Mr. Sarna then advised the Board that the demolition of the structure at 10610 has been completed as ordered at the last meeting. There is still some cleanup to be completed by the contractor. He then advised the Board that he has requested the Mahoning County Prosecutor's office to begin the process to file a lawsuit for injunctive relief against Canfield Corner located at 10960 Akron Canfield Rd for their refusal to repair a collapsed wall on the property. He then reported on two other Township properties that the Prosecutor's Office will be corresponding with the owner(s) regarding violations. He also met with a representative of Distributed Clean Energy Development regarding a proposed small solar project on 37.665 acres of property located on W Akron Canfield Rd. He and some members of the Zoning Commission have walked the property where the proposed facility would be placed. Mr. Sarna reported on the property at 10872 Palmyra Rd where the home had burnt down. There was discussion as to whether the insurance proceeds would include any Zoning permit fees. In anticipation that the owner may request a permit prior to the next meeting. **Motion 2024-37:** Trustee Houston made the motion to allow the Zoning Inspector to waive a building permit fee at 10872 Palmyra Rd, if he is assured that any Zoning permit fees are not a part of the insurance proceeds from the destroyed home. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. Mr. Sarna reported on his attendance at the open meeting on February 15th, held by the Mahoning County Commissioners regarding large scale solar and wind projects. He then reported on three other zoning complaints in the Township, including one at Diehl Lake where he has forwarded the complaint to the Diehl Lake Commission prior to any Township involvement.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Chief Edward Smith reported that there were 33 emergency calls in the Township in February of which 21 were EMS related. There were 11 transports during the month that were all provided by Ellsworth. He then reported that dispatching is running smoothly as the center has taken on more clients. He reported that the additional portable radios and pagers will need to be reprogrammed once the County moves to the new Marcs radio system. This would give County members better communications between departments. He reported that the Department will begin the annual business fire inspections. Chief Smith then requested approval of \$1,000.00 for estimated annual truck servicing expenses. The pump tests are estimated to be another \$2,000.00. He then requested \$783.00 for EMS Supplies from Bound Tree, an estimated \$1,900 for the annual SCBA mask fit testing and a gas detector replacement sensor for \$285.00. Chief Smith then announced that Assistant Chiefs Zachary Williams and Jillian Smith had applied for an equipment grant from the state of Ohio and that he can report that the grant has been successfully awarded for up to \$10,000.00. He would like to use the

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grant towards the replacement of Fire Hose, which he has a quote for \$11,491.00. The Fiscal Officer then added invoices of \$235.00 to Spotted Horse Studios to change the unit numbers on the Ambulance and the Chief's car, \$182.50 to Red Diamond Uniform for additional uniform patches and \$1,146.85 to Ellsworth Auto for new brake pads, hoses, and other routine service. **Motion 2024-38:** Trustee Houston then made a motion to approve \$19,023.35 as requested. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. **Motion 2024-39:** Trustee Houston then made a motion to approve the acceptance of the \$10,000.00 equipment grant awarded from the Ohio Dept of Commerce. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. The Chief then reported to the Board the number of mutual aid events provided to other townships and the number of times similar aid was provided to Ellsworth. The Chief also reported on a CPR class that was provided to employees of Ben's restaurant. The only cost to the restaurant was the cost of the State issued cards. The Board then discussed some compensation changes within the Fire/EMS Department. **Motion 2024-40:** Trustee Houston made a motion to re-create a Department position of EMS Co-Ordinator at a wage of \$500.00 per month and to appoint Chief Ted Smith as that Co-Ordinator retroactive to February 1, 2024 and to begin a monthly wage of \$300.00 per month for each of the two Assistant Fire Chiefs, also retroactive to February 1, 2024. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Trustee Houston reported that Tracy Gross will continue to support the Website for the Township.

Trustee Spellman reminded the audience of the Boy Scout fish fry at the High School on March 29th. He also reported on a recent open meeting in the Township by the County Prosecutor. He reviewed the functions of her office and introduced some of her department heads. He also reported on a recent meeting with the County Engineer to review the County's plans to extend the sewer line from the Old School location, north to a point just past the Bison Farm. He hopes that the project will begin this summer. It will require reconstruction of the old pumping station. The entire engineering and construction costs, estimated to be \$700,000, will be paid entirely by the County. He also discussed some changes to the Township's Canfield Fair display.

Chairman Toman reported that some additional surveying at the Elk Rd drainage issue site will be provided by the County. He also reported that he will once again attempt to converse with the four other surrounding townships regarding a formation of a Fire/EMS district. He reported on the Mill Creek Park project at Vickers Nature Preserve in the Township. The park will be constructing a four-season 30 x 40 heated pavilion with a new septic system. Their anticipated cost is \$750,000.00. They are also building a public playground.

OLD BUSINESS:

No old Business

NEW BUSINESS:

The Board discussed the upcoming primary elections on March 19th and the importance of the 5-year Justice 0.75 percent sales tax renewal. The revenue from this existing sales tax is used to support the County Sheriff, which patrols the Township and also provides the majority of the funding for the Western Reserve School's Resource Officer. **Motion 2024-41:** Trustee Houston then made a motion to formally support the 5-year Justice 0.75% sales tax renewal. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

The next regular meeting will be Wednesday April 10, 2024, at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall.

With no further business, at 9:10 pm, **Motion 2024-42:** Trustee Spellman made a motion to adjourn. Trustee Houston seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

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James R. McQuinn
Fiscal Officer

Robert Tamm
Chairman

William D. Spellman
Trustee

Fredrick M. Hoosler
Trustee