

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

April 9, 2025

Chairman William Spellman called the April 9, 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, Assistant Fire Chief Jillian Smith, Assistant Chief Zack Williams, 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 March 12, 2025. The trustees have reviewed the minutes prior to this meeting. **MOTION 2025-33:** Trustee Toman made a motion to accept the minutes from the last regular meeting held on March 12, 2025. Trustee Houston seconded the motion. The roll call was all in favor.

ROAD and MAINTENANCE: Joe Serensky reported that there was one inground burial in March. The pavilion is now finished and the picnic tables in the pavilion were painted. He was in contact with Seal Master for a quote on sealing the driveway, most likely in August. Other quotes will be taken. The side by side is finally running. With the assistance of the baseball organization, the fields were dragged, and leaves removed from the fence. There is a plan for a concrete pad at the old school for the gazebo. Someone dumped a tanning bed on Ellsworth Road, and it has been removed. **MOTION 2025-34:** Trustee Houston made a motion to approve the purchase of new flags in for the Township up to the amount of \$3,000. Trustee Toman seconded the motion. The roll call was all in favor.

FISCAL REPORT: Fiscal Officer Jim DeCenso reported that March revenue was \$304,151, which included \$280,000 from property tax collections. The remainder of property tax funds should arrive over the next several weeks. Interest earned was \$4,630 at the rate of 4.56% from Farmers National Bank. Revenue for YTD is \$491,908. Expenses for the month were \$95,569. Included was a refund of \$2,163.72 given to United Healthcare for an overpayment, and \$27,820.00 to AIM Construction for the pavilion construction, which was approved last month. YTD expenses total \$257,873. The balance of all funds as of March 31, 2025, is \$1,095,174. There is \$6,834.99 available in the General Fund as unencumbered.

Several invoices needed approval: All-Spec Heating invoice of \$3,500.00 for the gas heater in the pavilion. Only \$2,000.00 needs approved as \$1,500.00 remains available from the original resolution which was passed on 8/14/2024; UAN software utilized by the township, has a lease fee of \$762.00 for the 2nd quarter; and Buckeye Technology, who installed the new computer and printer in fiscal office in the amount of \$550.00. They set up the system so that multiple users may be on the system simultaneously and also remotely. **MOTION 2025-35:** Trustee Houston made a motion to approve the above listed expenditures totaling \$3,312.00. Trustee Toman seconded the motion. The roll call was all in favor. As announced at the last meeting, the biannual 2022-2023 audit is complete. Mr. DeCenso stated that one item they marked as incorrect was that the funds received from Norfolk & Sothern were posted to the correct fund, but to the wrong account. Mr. DeCenso indicated that he is challenging their conclusion because it was correctly entered. He would like this on record.

NOPEC is granting \$500.00 for the 2025 Community Event Sponsorship. In the past, these funds were used to support the VFW Memorial Day parade, Trunk or Treat, and Wreaths Across America. A motion was needed to accept the grant. **MOTION 2025-36:** Trustee Houston made a motion to accept the 2025 grant from NOPEC in the amount of \$500.00. Trustee Toman seconded the motion. The roll call was all in favor. Finally, a resolution was needed for seasonal contract labor with E & E Management. **MOTION 2025-37:** Trustee Toman made a motion to approve the use of E & E Management LLC for seasonal contract labor as needed at the rate of \$25.00 per hour. Trustee Houston seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

FIRE/EMS: Chief Smith reported a total of 147 calls for the year to date. March saw 51 calls of which 22 were mutual aid given, 3 were mutual aid received. There were 34 fire calls and 17 EMS calls with 11 transports. The 2025 revised contract for 911 dispatch needs to be signed by trustees. The difference from the original Agreement is the time period. The new Agreement will only cover 2025 as the Austintown 911 center has indicated their need to increase their dispatch pricing significantly for 2026 and beyond. Some members of the fire department are scheduled to attend the University Hospital Annual Skill Practice Lab at MCCTC. Four junior firefighters are currently attending EMT classes at MCCTC. The insurance ISO rating for homes is done every five years and will be completed this May. Scanning software is needed to transfer EMS and Fire reports to the new ESO software at the cost of \$1,000.00. The new drug license has been posted. As always, University Hospital helps supply the necessary medical items when available. Chief Smith reported that they are always searching for grants and may hear back on some soon. Several invoices need approval: Engine 45 had a rebuilt steering box installed for

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

Meeting

BEAR GRAPHICS 800-325-8094 FORM NO 10148

Held

20

Regular Trustee Meeting of April 9, 2025, continued

\$2,019.34; Annual pump testing cost is \$550; Annual PM is \$1,380.00; SCBA and Compressor Testing cost is \$2,001.40; the cost to scan older EMS reports into the new ESO system will be \$1,000.00; and new tires for the Chief's car cost \$600.00. The total for approval is \$7,550.74. **MOTION 2025-38:** Trustee Toman made a motion to approve the above-mentioned expenses of \$7,550.54. Trustee Houston seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. Chief Smith continued by reporting that the four new sets of turnout gear received have been distributed along with the new raincoats. Assistant Chief Jillian Smith stated that the pavilion has been inspected and will be ready for use once two (2) fire extinguishers are placed in the building. Chief Smith reported on a statement posted on Face Book regarding the time required for Ellsworth Fire to respond to a recent fire call for smoke in a chimney. The Township has mutual aid Agreements all across the county. Whenever there is a situation when an Ellsworth crew is unable to respond the quickest, assistance may come from other surrounding communities. Ellsworth FD also provides aid and in many situations are the first to arrive in other communities. The residents always have coverage. If not from Ellsworth, then mutual aid from Berlin, North Jackson, Milton or Canfield.

ZONING REPORT: Inspector Sarna reported that since his last report, he wrote 2 zoning permits and submitted 2 agricultural exemptions. On March 18 he issued a permit for a deck to 9753 Palmyra Road where the fee was \$60.00. On April 2, 2025, a permit was issued for a privacy fence at 11152 Diehl Lake Drive for a fee of \$50.00. On March 13, 2025, he submitted an agricultural exemption affidavit to Mahoning County Building Department re: installation of a windmill for agricultural purposes of pumping water for the owner's cattle and horses at 9595 Leffingwell Road.

An agricultural exemption affidavit was submitted to the Mahoning County Building Department for a lean-two extension to a pole barn which is utilized for a horse stall at 5856 S. Bailey Road. The owner came to the zoning office regarding a letter she received from the Mahoning County Health Department stating that a site review was necessary to check the proximity of the well and septic to the extension. Mr. Sarna contacted Kyle at the Health Department and stated the property owner had provided the information required and no further information was needed.

The structure at 12082 Palmyra Road was inspected and noted that there has been no effort to secure the home or demolish it. He requested that the Fire Chief inspect the house for potential condemnation of the property. The current owner was very uncooperative when he spoke with him and stated that we would hear from his attorney. The daughter of the property owner at 5843 Gault Road requested an extension of the March 31, 2025, cleanup issue. There is accumulated debris in front of home and the neighboring garage. The status of the foreclosure for back property taxes at 11830 Palmyra Road was reviewed. The Assistant prosecutor's office is attempting to serve the owner who resides at 3925 S Newton Falls Road, Diamond, OH 44412 for the \$4,699.82 owed. This property also has accumulated debris. The work at 11632 Ellsworth Road is being monitored to be sure the issues there, are corrected.

The zone change application for 8890 Knauf Road was withdrawn by the owner. Letters to all attendees of the change hearing held by the zoning commission were sent out.

An anonymous letter dated 3/01/2025 was received and included zoning complaints against 5 properties: (1) the property at 3935 S Bailey Road is in Jackson Township; (2) A letter was sent to 4050 S Bailey Road for an abandoned pickup truck and wire fence with no permit; A response was made by the owner who has current plates for the truck and a permit for the fence; (3) Regarding the accumulated junk/trash and numerous trailers, autos and trucks at 4145 S Bailey Road. The owner responded that the home froze in January 2025, and extensive work is being done on the house which is not livable; (4) The house at 4223 S Bailey Road is being foreclosed upon. Contact was made with the mortgage company's attorney and the prosecutor's office. The property is being emptied, and a large dumpster is out front; (5) A letter was sent to 4289 S Bailey Road for two trailers parked by the existing garage. There is no residential structure.

A complaint was received about an abandoned Chevy truck and Cavalier sitting on the driveway at 10960 W. Western Reserve Road. A letter of violation was sent, and the vehicles were removed. Violation letters were sent on 3/20/2025, to 9913 West Hill Drive and 13321 Akron-Canfield Road for accumulated junk, debris, and wrecked vehicles.

The issue with the county Soil and Water Division and EPA at The Aspen Reserve/Diamondback property has been resolved. The county viewed the concrete pathways and grading that were installed over the old golf cart paths and no violations were found. Numerous inquiries were made about the property for sale at 10334 Akron-Canfield Road. This property has a commercial section and a rear residential with one empty structure. The structures appear to have been empty for years.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

Meeting

BEAR GRAPHICS 800-325-8094 FORM NO. 10148

Held _____

20 _____

Regular Trustee Meeting of April 9, 2025, continued

We received a letter from the Mahoning County Auditor, Ralph Meachum, requesting the Township's procedure for permits for the following: new construction, demolition, and zoning permits. Mr. Sarna attended the zoning appeals hearing on April 1, 2025, where the BZA approved the variance/appeal to place a manufactured home at 9352 Akron-Canfield Road. The board approved the variance, and a permit will be issued.

The inspector is proposing that new permit fees be based upon "project cost" rather than "value" to provide more clarity as to determining the amount of the permit. **MOTION 2025-39:** Trustee Houston made a motion to change the wording on the zoning fee schedule from value to project cost. Trustee Toman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. A discussion was held on the \$450.00 permit fee at 9352 Akron-Canfield Road for a new manufactured home (after a fire). **MOTION 2025-40:** Trustee Houston made motion to waive the permit fee due to hardship for the new home. Trustee Toman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Trustee Toman reported the crime watch reports are available. The final estimate for the Elk Road Flooding Project is also available but is still working on an easement issue. He spoke with Steve Martin concerning a clogged ditch behind his house. The trustees will review his concerns.

Trustee Houston informed all that the new cemetery property has had the plots laid out. There are two choices for the driveway, either along the property line or six (6) ft in to leave a grassy area. Phase I is to decide what to do with the property but is waiting on the State of Ohio to approve that the Township owns the property and provide a non-taxable deed to the Township. Phase 2 is the repair of the building located on said property. **MOTION 2025-41:** Chairman Spellman made a motion to approve up to \$1,200.00 to repair the building at 10774 Akron Canfield Rd. Trustee Toman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

Chairman Spellman reported that First Energy is deciding whether they will need an easement build across Township property. The township would receive \$22,000.00 for the first year of the project easement.

Chairman Spellman recognized Fred Schrock who spoke about the gazebo location. He felt that the east side of the driveway is a better location. A 15-foot concrete pad is to be installed. He suggested that donations may be found to assist with costs. The Township is to begin work on this project this month.

A discussion was held on the electric rates rising in May. The Township belongs to the NOPEC aggregation. The 12-month contract is \$0.085 per Kwh, and \$0.090 per Kwh rate for 24-months. The Township has no control over the rates and individuals need to look at all the available rates and choose wisely.

Chairman Spellman described a proposal from the Ohio VFW Ohio Charities' to donate \$11,500 in total to the Township to be used for purchasing multi-gas detectors and distributing, at no charge to the residents of Ellsworth Township : **MOTION 2025-42:** Chairman Spellman made a motion to accept a donation check from VFW Ohio Charities of Columbus in the amount of \$10,500.00 and one in the amount of \$1,000.00 from the VFW Ohio Charities of Newton Falls. These funds are to be used to purchase multiple gas detectors for the residents of Ellsworth Township. Trustee Toman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor. Senior Vice Commander of the VFW Ohio Charities, Ray Schafer, presented the trustees with the checks. Chairman Spellman stated that the residents of the township may receive some comfort and security from these gas detectors after the disastrous gas explosion that recently occurred in the Township.

The annual Memorial Day Parade will be held on Sunday, May 25, 2025. For the first time since COVID, a program will be held inside the VFW beginning at 10:30 am. Flag raising will occur at approximately 11:15 am outside, and the parade begins at 11:30 am. The parade should arrive at the cemetery at 12:00 pm. The line-up for the parade will begin at 9:45 am at the VFW.

Fred Schrock and Carol Check commented on the cemetery headstone restoration project. The gentleman doing the restoration work will reset as many headstones as possible in two days. He is scheduled for May 24th at Ellsworth and May 25th at Geeburg cemeteries. Geeburg has both a Revolutionary War and a Civil War headstone to restore.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, May 14, 2025, at the Township Hall at 7:00 pm.

With no further business, at 8:52 pm, **MOTION 2025-43:** Trustee Toman made a motion to adjourn. Trustee Houston seconded the motion. The roll call vote was all in favor.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS


Minutes of

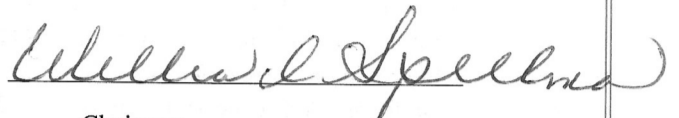
Meeting

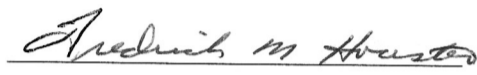
BEAR GRAPHICS 800-325-8094 FORM NO 10148

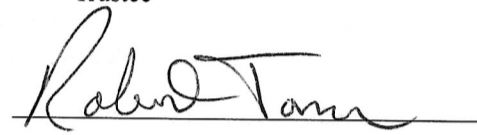
Held _____ 20 _____

Regular Trustee Meeting of April 9, 2025, continued


Fiscal Officer


Chairman


Trustee


Trustee