

MINUTES OF ELLSWORTH TWP BOARD OF TRUSTEE'S

REGULAR MEETING

NOVEMBER 11, 2015

Chairman Bob Toman called the November 11, 2015 regular meeting of the Ellsworth Trustees to order at 7:02 p.m. A roll call was taken to establish a quorum: Trustee Fred Houston – present, Vice Chairman William Spellman – present, and Chairman Robert Toman – present. Also present were Fiscal Officer James DeCenso, Zoning Inspector Wayne Sarna, Maintenance Supervisor Matt Stroney, Fire Chief Robert Sternburg, and EMS Director Brian O'Neil. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. A moment of silence was observed for our nation's veterans. Western Reserve News records the meeting.

MINUTES: Fiscal Officer James DeCenso presented the minutes of the October 14, 2015 regular Trustee meeting. No one in attendance requested that they be read. Trustee Spellman made a motion to accept the minutes of the October 14th meeting. Trustee Houston seconded the motion. The vote was all in favor.

FISCAL REPORT: Fiscal Officer James DeCenso reported that October expenditures totaled \$28,793.57 and revenue collected was \$17,959.52. The township's monthend cash balance was \$667,532.22 plus a receivable from the ODOT loan of \$155,327.00 for a book total of \$822,859.22. Mr. DeCenso announced that the 2014 2<sup>nd</sup> half real estate settlement had just been received and that he would be able to have a full report at the next meeting. Mr. DeCenso then reviewed the prior month's proposal to invest some of the township's funds into FDIC insured CDs. In light of the federal reserve bank's announcement regarding interest rate increases in December, he suggested that the Township postpone any long term investments, but could begin with a \$100,000 six month CD currently paying 0.24%. The trustees discussed looking at longer terms and waiting for the new rates to be announced before purchasing any CDs.

MAINTENANCE REPORT: Mr. Matt Stroney reported that there was one burial last month. He reported that ODOT would be holding it's fiscal meeting on December 10<sup>th</sup> in Columbus. Also that the Mahoning County Green Team will be providing to the Township new containers for recycling. Mr. Stroney then suggested that they use some of the remaining grindings to extend the west side of the admin/fire parking lot in a similar fashion to the east end. He would be able to accomplish this for no cost by not setting a limestone base and with the assistance of Berlin Township's equipment. He also advised that he had attended a demonstration of a liquid ice melting method held at Goshen Township. The trustees then discussed options on Mr. Stroney's suggestion to extend the parking lot. No decision was made.

ZONING REPORT: Mr. Wayne Sarna gave his Zoning report. One amended building permit was granted in the township since his last report. He reported that this was required for the construction at 11140 Diehl Lake Dr. This does not include any residential purposes. Any residential use would require a Zoning variance request. One other building permit was written since his last report. A request was received to place a directional sign at the corner of 45 and 224 for a Bed and Breakfast in Berlin Township. He requested input from the Mahoning County Prosecutor's office. Mr. Sarna then reported that he received a request for a computer, printer and back-up media from the Zoning Commission. Trustee Houston made a motion to have the Zoning Commission purchase the needed computer devices up to \$1,500 from the general fund. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The trustees noted that the purchase should be coordinated with the Fiscal Officer to assure a tax-exempt purchase. The vote was all in favor. Trustee Spellman noted that he had requested a copy of the county's computer use policy to use in the Township and will follow up on his unanswered request.

FIRE and EMS DEPARTMENT: Chief Sternburg gave the Fire Department report. The chief reported four structure fires calls, two vehicle accident calls and eight EMS calls since his last report. He reported that he and Deerfield Fire Department would be submitting a grant for additional radio equipment. Chief Sternburg and the trustees discussed the availability of the Department to communicate with other departments. The Trustees and Chief Sternburg then discussed the new 911 formats proposed for Mahoning County. The Chief will advise the Board once the new logistics are arranged. The Chief then announced the promotion of Ted Smith from Captain to Assistant Chief.

Chief O'Neil reported that there were four EMS transports since the last report. Chief O'Neil then reported that the delay to purchase the new AEDs is due to the need for a medical director to sign off on the purchase and usage. However the medical director had resigned and he is looking into finding a new director.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Trustee Toman reported that he attended the Trick or Trunk event and thought it a success. The Trustees then discussed with Chief Sternburg the definition of the Ellsworth Fire Corp (non firefighters) and the Ellsworth Firefighter's Association (firefighters). Both groups raise funds to purchase equipment for the Fire Department. Trustee Toman reported that many citizens have called him about speeding cars in the Township. The maintenance department will once again deploy the radar speed machine throughout the Township. Also that he is still exploring some street lighting options in the Township.

Trustee Spellman discussed the ability, authorized by ORC 307.66, for the VFW to request funds from the Township for the next Memorial Day Observance. Trustee Spellman then advised the Board that any discussion regarding the price to purchase the School property should be done in executive session per ORC 121.22. The Trustees then discussed whether the Township should begin discussions to discuss the property offered to the Township by the Western Reserve School Board. Chairman Toman then read the letter from the School Board to the Township offering the property at 6194 S. Salem Warren Rd. The Board requires an answer from the Township prior to December 31, 2015. Trustee Houston made a motion to instruct the Fiscal Officer to respond to the School Board that the Township is interested and to make Trustee Toman the point person of any further discussion. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The vote was all in favor. Trustee Spellman then announced that the letters of intent for the sewer line extension has been transferred to the Mahoning County Sanitary District. He then reminded the Maintenance Supervisor that the Township's inventory would need to be updated and reported soon.

Trustee Houston congratulated Trustee Spellman and Fiscal Officer DeCenso on their recent elections. He then reported that the east parking lot extension had made a positive impact on Election Day parking. Traffic pattern was much improved from prior events.

OLD BUSINESS: The Trustees discussed the Township's snow removal contract with Western Reserve Landscaping and the need to get salt for this season. Discussion was then held regarding the EFD Engine #1. Mr. Stroney advised the Board that MCCTC has declined to restore the truck at the school facility. The trustees discussed the ability to create an account for contributions. The Fiscal Officer was instructed to set up such an account.

NEW BUSINESS: The Trustees discussed the need to create an employee review process. They agreed to each process a review and to meet in executive session with each employee prior to the Township Reorganization meeting in January. The Fire Department will continue with their current program. The Trustees will evaluate all salaried and hourly, non-elected, non-firefighter Township employees.

Trustee Spellman advised the public that applications for the HEAP program are now available for residents who qualify for heating bill subsidies.

Trustee Houston then made a motion to pay travel expenses for any Township official to attend the ODOT LTAP in Columbus. Trustee Spellman seconded the motion. The vote was all in favor.

Chairman Toman announced that next regularly scheduled board meeting would be held Wednesday December 9, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

At 9:02 PM, Trustee Spellman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Houston seconded the motion. The vote was all in favor.

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Fiscal Officer

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Chairman

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Trustee

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