

BALLVILLE TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES – REGULAR MEETING
BALLVILLE TOWNSHIP HOUSE
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2017 – 5:30 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chairman W. Robert Kusmer with the Pledge of Allegiance. Also present were Trustee David P. Stotz and Randal L. Strickler, Solicitor. Chairman Kusmer stated that the record should show that Trustee Richard A. Geyer was not present due to an excused absence.

Moved by Mr. Stotz, seconded by Mr. Kusmer, that the minutes of the November 21, 2017 meeting be approved as written. Upon a vote, Mr. Stotz –Yes; Mr. Kusmer – Yes; the motion carried.

Ellen Ickes, Fiscal Officer, provided printed financial reports to the trustees, and a financial report as follows:

Total bills:\$ 18,445.88

Total receipts:\$ 13,446.70

Cash total:\$ 908,999.21

It was moved by Mr. Stotz, seconded by Mr. Kusmer, that the financial report be approved and the bills be paid. Upon a vote, Mr. Stotz – Yes; Mr. Kusmer –Yes; the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

A sign-in sheet was passed around and all present were requested to sign in (attached).

Phillip and Jillian Estep of 1503 Buckland Avenue were present to advise that they have received a letter from the fiscal officer for the costs of postage and advertising for the zoning appeals meeting on November 15, 2017 for \$162.20. Their total cost for this appeal would be \$387.20 based on what they paid for the appeal (\$225.00) and what the township has billed for its mailing/advertising fees (\$162.20).

The Esteps asked the trustees to waive the fees for the Board of Zoning Appeals hearing (filing fee and mailing/advertising costs) since this zoning situation was not their error. After the permit was approved, they purchased and placed the shed in question at their residence. Subsequently, they went through with the appeals process for a violation regarding the placement of the shed for which they received the permit.

Mr. Stotz moved, seconded by Mr. Kusmer, to forgive the fees of \$387.20 based on the circumstances of this zoning issue. Upon a vote, Mr. Stotz - Yes; Mr. Kusmer - Yes; the motion carried to waive the \$387.20 in fees. The Esteps expressed their appreciation to the trustees.

Gary Grayson was present on behalf of T. Weickert (regarding a fence issue on Pinewood Drive). Solicitor Strickler advised that he spoke with Ms. Weickert's attorney twice today. A possible resolution has been reached, and Solicitor Strickler will provide additional information to Ms. Weickert's attorney; overall, there was good conversation over this matter. Chairman Kusmer advised that Ms. Weickert's attorney has not returned his phone call. Mr. Grayson stated that he wanted this in writing.

CEMETERY BOARD REPORT - Jack Ferguson and Jim Gillis

Mr. Gillis reported that information on the columbarium should be gathered and available some time in the first quarter of 2018. He stated that a columbarium should be considered in response to increased number of cremations.

Superintendent Lagrou informed the trustees that there was a funeral today for Josephine Frazier.

Discussion took place on the donation of three flags by the VFW for McGormley Cemetery. Superintendent Lagrou also mentioned that the VFW had donated eight other flags the township got last spring as it has been discovered that the township was never billed for them. Appreciation will be expressed in a thank you note that the fiscal officer will send to the VFW.

Deeds were signed by the trustees for:

Betty Parker, McGormley Cemetery, Section 13, Lot 15, Grave 4

David Frazier, McGormley Cemetery, Section 16, Lot 14, Grave 5 & 6

ZONING INSPECTOR REPORT - David Bain, Zoning Inspector

Mr. Bain reviewed the Ballville Township Zoning Report from December 5, 2017, which was entered into the township's meeting minutes.

Tim Sidoti was present, and stated that because of property issues involved in his divorce, he was having difficulties moving some things from his property. He stated that he believes he knows who filed a complaint about him by referring to his relationship with the person. Mr. Grayson questioned if the complaint was made in writing. Mr. Sidoti requested that the trustees give him until May 15, 2018 to get the property cleaned up so he can work on it over the winter. In the course of discussion, Mr. Bain stated that he himself had noticed the problems at the property, listing them as grass not being mowed, and vehicles on the property.

Mr. Grayson asked Mr. Sidoti if anyone talked to him before a letter was received from the township, and Mr. Sidoti replied "no". Mr. Grayson stated that this was "absurd" and an invasion of privacy. Mr. Bain stated that he and Mr. Sidoti have spoken by phone. Mr. Sidoti said that he had always called whenever a card from township zoning was left for him. Chairman Kusmer reminded Mr. Sidoti that there have been numerous conversations about zoning issues over the years. Mr. Sidoti said he has had a lot going on personally. Mr. Kusmer asked if there was some place that Mr. Sidoti could store the vehicles that are sitting outside. The trustees agreed to give Mr. Sidoti until May 15, 2018 to clean up his property. Mr. Kusmer informed Mr. Sidoti that if he is going to continue scrapping cars out that it must be done inside a building and not in his yard. Solicitor Strickler cited the township's junk vehicle regulations. Licensing of vehicle and trailers was also discussed, and further discussion took place.

Mrs. Ickes advised that acceptance notifications have been received from Bill Guhn (Board of Zoning Commission) and Richard ~~Guhn~~ Hoffman (correction noted by Mr. Geyer at December 19, 2017 trustees' meeting) (Board of Zoning Appeals) for changes from alternate to member status effective January 1, 2018.

Mr. Kusmer advised that Assistant Prosecutor Mark Mulligan will send a letter to property owner Chris Williamson for the Hayes Avenue property discussed at the last meeting with concerned neighbors.

PARKS BOARD REPORT - Bill Lagrou and Kerry Wood

Mr. Wood advised that he was not present at the last Parks Board Meeting.

Mr. Lagrou advised that the Ballville Bridge decorations are up and the banners will follow. In February he will check for after-the-holidays deals on new garland for the bridge since the current garland is not in good shape and is 12-13 years old.

Ax-Pro continues with tree removal, and just took down six trees in Conner Park.

The park is done this year except for a little mulching and leaf pickup. Mr. Lagrou also reported that the township was in its third round of leaf pickup today.

Mr. Lagrou provided Mrs. Ickes with a copy of the Facility Use Agreement for the American Cancer Society's use of Conner Park free of charge for the Relay for Life on Saturday, June 9, 2018. The township's sponsorship of the event was voted on at the November 7, 2017 meeting.

ROAD SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – Superintendent Bill Lagrou

The \$500.00 OTARMA MORE grant will be applied to the purchase of safety harnesses, and Mr. Lagrou advised that the township would be ordering them by the end of the week.

Road mowing is done. Mr. Lagrou said that the township crew did a good job.

B & W had charged \$75.00 to straighten a road mower blade a while back but, in the last week of mowing, a new blade had to be purchased (from Montage) and the cost was \$500.00.

Last year the township had 110 loads of leaves – so far this year they are up to 80 loads.

Ax-Pro continues to work on tree removal.

On December 12, Sandusky Township will host the superintendent's luncheon that Ballville had considered hosting.

Discussion took place on gas shut-off valves, permits, damage to roads and berms, and work done by various contractors. The township is familiar with Integrity Permits since a representative from there had been a speaker for the Sandusky Township Association regarding the RUMA. Chairman Kusmer stated that the township needs to protect itself for damage to township roads by having bonds from different kinds of uses and various contractors. The township should be notified beforehand when these companies are coming in and also should be informed of the scope of the work to be performed. Discussion turned to the removal of the Ballville Dam as it will be hauled off from the Sandusky River in large concrete pieces on heavy trucks and transported over township roads. It was discussed that work performed in the township's right-of-way needs a permit. The township will address these concerns over the winter months to formulate a plan for the future.

Trustee Kusmer was contacted by Sandusky County Engineer Jim Moyer about paving prices, which are quite low at this time. Kokosing is \$53.00/ton and M & B is \$58.00/ton. Mr. Moyer suggested that the township bid its Issue I work now even though the township has not been awarded the Issue I grant yet. Mr. Kusmer would like the bids set for February 6, 2018 during a regular meeting of the trustees. If awarded the grant, the township can proceed with the necessary resolution(s) in July, 2018. Mr. Kusmer stated that it looks good for the township (jointly with other townships) since our score was 110 points, which was over the needed 107 points.

Discussion followed regarding other repaving the township wants to do, including Poorman's subdivision (probably jointly with Sandusky Township), Buchman Rd., Roselawn, and also Martin and Fennimore where tiles were put in. Mr. Lagrou pointed out that, with repaving projects, the township always need to consider the height of existing driveways.

Mr. Kusmer also remarked that there are also sewer/drainage projects to be considered in the future, and the township will look at what money is available after the first of the year.

The annual contract with Universal Farms expires December 31. Chairman Kusmer advised that he has been in touch with Doug Crowell about his recent correspondence to Representative Bill Reineke regarding the EPA (trustees received a copy from Mr. Crowell by certified mail). Solicitor Strickler advised that the township should hold off on renewing the contract at this time. A brief discussion took place on the EPA issue regarding Universal's ability to contain their water on their property.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Stotz made a motion, seconded by Mr. Kusmer, for the passage of temporary appropriations for the first three months of 2018. The motion passed following a roll call vote: Mr. Kusmer – Yes; Mr. Stotz – Yes; as Resolution 2017-48:

RESOLUTION 2017-48

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF BALLVILLE TOWNSHIP TO ADOPT TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR EXPENDITURES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$462,128.75 FROM JANUARY 1, 2018 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2018

Solicitor Strickler advised that he is working on revisions to the Employee Handbook and he will have a draft for the trustees to review at their next meeting on December 19.

The November 30, 2017 Bank Reconciliation, purchase orders and checks for bills were signed by the trustees at this meeting.

There being no further business, it was moved by Mr. Stotz, seconded by Mr. Kusmer, to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Upon a vote, Mr. Kusmer - Yes; Mr. Stoz - Yes. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen K. Ickes, Fiscal Officer

W. Robert Kusmer, Chairman