

**BALLVILLE TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES – REGULAR MEETING**  
**BALLVILLE TOWNSHIP HOUSE**  
**TUESDAY, APRIL 17, 2018 – 5:30 P.M.**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chairman David P. Stotz leading the Pledge of Allegiance. Also present were Trustees Richard A. Geyer and W. Robert Kusmer.

Mr. Geyer requested the April 3, 2018 meeting minutes to be amended as follows: for a correction on Page 3, Paragraph 3, last sentence, which was written as: (The township had voted to be a sponsor again for the American Cancer Society Relay for Life walk in Conner Park on June 9, 2018 on November 7, 2017). Mr. Geyer asked that is be corrected to: (The township had voted **on November 7, 2017** to be a sponsor again for the American Cancer Society Relay for Life walk in Conner Park on June 9, 2018). The correction was made by Fiscal Officer Ickes. Moved by Mr. Geyer, seconded by Mr. Kusmer, that the minutes of the April 3, 2018 meeting be approved as amended. Upon a vote, Mr. Geyer - Yes; Mr. Kusmer – Yes; Mr. Stotz –Yes; the motion carried.

Ellen Ickes, Fiscal Officer, provided printed financial reports to the trustees: Appropriation Status, Payment Listing, Receipt Listing, Fund Status, Cash Summary by Fund, Resources Available for Appropriation, and Comparison of Budget and Appropriated. A verbal financial report was given as follows for today’s meeting:

Total bills: .....\$ 27,291.79

Total receipts: .....\$ 3,881.25

Cash total of all funds: .....\$ 1,182,670.11

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

Gary Grayson was present to state that he was at the April 3 trustees’ meeting and made a determination request regarding the Terri Weickert fence matter (Pinewood Drive), and that he is her Power of Attorney. Discussion took place, and Mr. Grayson said he was still waiting for an answer. Mr. Kusmer advised that the township is waiting to hear from its attorney, who will be present at the May 1 trustees’ meeting. Mr. Grayson continued, asking why the trustees turned this over to their attorney when the decision is up to the trustees, and wanted to know why the trustees resisted speaking to him. Chairman Stotz advised that the township is waiting to hear from its attorney.

Mr. Grayson next addressed Jack Ferguson, who was attending the meeting, regarding comments that someone made regarding the VFW. Trustee Geyer spoke and stated that this was a meeting of the trustees and pointed out the posted code of conduct for trustee meetings. Mr. Grayson asked about several topics, including comments made, flags donated by the VFW, and Mr. Ferguson's relationship with the township. Mr. Grayson stated that the township was a "B-----t operation.

Kerry Wood and Mr. Grayson engaged briefly in a loud exchange when Sheriff Chris Hilton, who had arrived late at the meeting, identified himself as the sheriff, and stated "Conversation over". Mr. Grayson asked if he was being removed forcibly from the meeting, and he immediately left the building at 5:40 p.m.

Sheriff Hilton spoke next, as a follow-up to a discussion he had with trustees several months ago, and presented the trustees with his proposal for a deputy for Ballville Township during the summer months. He offered that Deputy Matt Stotz could be contracted to work only for Ballville Township during his months off from his position as a school resource officer. The cost, which would include overtime costs, would be \$24,847 for three months, and the sheriff provided details of this and other potential arrangements, with the county providing a \$35,000 cruiser. The sheriff said that 25% of their calls come from Ballville, and the township could probably have its own department out here. Trustee Geyer told the Sheriff that finances are a problem. The sheriff stated he understood, and asked the trustees to keep this in mind for the future. He asked the trustees to let him know their decision.

Doug Crowell was present to discuss the May 1 renewal of the Ballville Volunteer Fire Department's contract with the township. He presented Mrs. Ickes with a copy of the contract with their areas of concern highlighted, all of which will be sent to the township's solicitor for review.

#### **CEMETERY BOARD REPORT - Jack Ferguson and Jim Gillis**

Mr. Gillis advised that the veterans' flags will go up in all cemeteries on May 19.

At the May 1 Cemetery Board meeting, price increases for cemetery rates will be discussed, and presented to the trustees at their meeting later the same day for them to vote on, per Mr. Lagrou.

Mr. Lagrou advised that cemetery cleanup has been going on for the last two weeks. The weather has prevented them from getting into McGormley Cemetery for cleanup.

Jerry Eakin of C.L. Deemer has provided a quote to correct the problem at the Oakwood Cemetery mausoleum for \$3,200.00. The caulk is apparently 20 years old and the work would involve re-sealing the caulk on both sides of the mausoleum to correct the stain problem. Mr. Lagrou was unable to get any other local quotes for this work, and he was referred to C.L. Deemer by the contractor who performed the mausoleum work 20 years ago. Mr. Eakin will be invited to the May 1 Cemetery Board meeting to discuss this work with the Cemetery Board.

A deed signed for William and Krista Lagrou  
McGormley Cemetery - Section 12, Lot 22, Grave 3 & 4

**ZONING INSPECTOR REPORT - David Bain, Zoning Inspector**

Mr. Bain reviewed the Ballville Township Zoning Report from April 16, 2018, which was entered into the township's meeting minutes.

Properties within the township and fire code issues were discussed by those present.

The Board of Zoning Commission met on April 11 and there is a zoning appeal hearing on April 18.

**PARKS BOARD REPORT - Bill Lagrou and Kerry Wood**

Kerry Wood reported that John Blakeman of Meadow Environments LLC was at the April 9 Parks Board meeting, and they hope to work with him on the Chudzinski-Johannsen Park. Discussion took place on the layout and design of the park regarding freshwater and wetlands ponds, the inclusion of a pond for educational use by students in the schools, locations and design of bridge(s), and the location and use of utilities and sanitary sewer.

Mr. Lagrou said the Conner Park restrooms opened yesterday, April 16.

The KLA Risk Assessment received from Becky Ames following her March 19 visit to the township was reviewed and the township's response to issues and suggestions will be provided by June 1.

Regarding summer employment, a discussion took place, and Mr. Kusmer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Geyer, to re-hire Paige Miarer, Zach Militello, who both worked last year, and Michael Egbert, a former employee, to work seasonally for the summer months. Upon a vote, Mr. Geyer - Yes; Mr. Kusmer - Yes; Mr. Stotz - Yes; the motion carried.

Baseball and soccer practices and games have started, but the bad weather has affected their schedules.

Turf from Harmon Stadium was available free for the taking, and the township managed to get two rolls of it. Mr. Lagrou said it would be good to use at the Conner Park soccer goals on top of a stone base, and it would cut down on mowing time around the goals.

Mr. Lagrou said he spoke to the township's solicitor, Jim Barney, regarding the parks and sports contracts, and that the contracts are good.

Discussion turned to "bouncy houses" and Mr. Kusmer stated they were OK as long as Journeys (the local business that provides them) insures them and provides proof that the township is named as an additional insured. Solicitor Barney will need to amend the township's park rental agreement and we must have the Certificate of Insurance and Department of Agriculture permit each time bouncy houses are brought in.

Following discussion of the trustees and Mr. Lagrou regarding renewal of the Sam's Club membership and the various items the township gets there, Mr. Geyer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Kusmer, to renew the membership for the \$45.00 fee. Upon a vote, Mr. Geyer - Yes; Mr. Kusmer - Yes; Mr. Stotz - Yes; the motion carried. Mr. Lagrou advised that a tax-exempt renewal form also needs to be completed.

The Parks Board meeting minutes from March 12, 2018 and April 9, 2018 were entered into the township's meeting minutes.

### **ROAD SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – Superintendent Bill Lagrou**

Mr. Lagrou advised that Solid Waste has requested information on how many leaves the township takes to Universal Farms, followed by a discussion that included Doug Crowell from Universal Farms who said he provides some of this same information to Solid Waste.

The timing of next year's brush drop-off was discussed. Mr. Lagrou asked if the March drop-off could be scheduled in April because there is not always a good turnout in March. Residents that missed the drop-off in March are then calling because they don't want to wait until May for the next drop-off. Mr. Crowell stated that the turnout depends on the weather. No action was taken.

The township picked up files from former solicitor Strickler on April 12, and discussion took place on the proper storage for these files.

The Sheriff's Department made a midnight call to Superintendent Lagrou regarding a large tree that came down on Darr Rd. at Twp. Rd. 9. Ax-Pro was called in to take care of this for the township.

This year's tree list will include a few large trees on the river side of South Darr Road. Two rotted trees have their roots tangled – one is straight, one is leaning - and Mr. Lagrou is afraid the leaning tree will pull both of them down. So far this year, he has a quote from Ax-Pro for \$4,300 for the removal of three trees.

Trucks are being readied for springtime. The weather has been wintery and there were accidents today because of the icy roads.

Trustees Geyer and Stotz and Mr. Lagrou attended the County Engineer's annual meeting last week. There, discussion took place on the permissive license tax that has been proposed as a county-wide venture. Ballville Township would receive \$44,000 if this was county-wide, compared to \$33,000 if it was implemented by the township alone. Money received would not go to the General Fund, but a Road and Bridge-related fund.

Doug Crowell informed the trustees that Erie County has a \$15 per truck permit fee that he has only seen over there, and we do not have in Sandusky County.

Mr. Lagrou talked to Columbia Gas about the location on Cole Road where they dug a hole and rain has washed the stone away. The residents on Japack Drive are also driving over it and popping stone off when they turn onto Cole Rd. Columbia Gas is supposed to have this blacktopped this week. Mr. Kusmer advised that a permit should be obtained, and the company held liable and be bonded before this type of work is performed. Road cut permits should be revisited by the township.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Geyer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Kusmer, to renew the township's Sandusky County Township Association, and along with it the Ohio Township Association, membership. The cost is \$300.00 and that includes memberships for the trustees, fiscal officer, superintendent and zoning inspector. A fee of \$50.00 for the township association secretary is included. Upon a vote, Mr. Geyer - Yes; Mr. Kusmer - Yes; Mr. Stotz - Yes; the motion carried.

Mr. Kusmer advised that the Sandusky County Economic Development Corporation has requested a \$25,000 pledge of \$5,000 a year for five years. This would replace the current annual pledge by the township of \$2,500. This matter was tabled at this time.

Mr. Geyer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Kusmer, for reallocations within the General Fund. The motion passed following a roll call vote: Mr. Geyer - Yes; Mr. Kusmer - Yes; Mr. Stotz – Yes; as Resolution 2018-15:

### **RESOLUTION 2018-15**

A Resolution of the Board of Trustees of Ballville Township to reallocate among account line items within the General Fund

No action was taken on the item on the agenda on a resolution of the Board of Trustees of Ballville Township to reallocate among account line items within the General Fund regarding the 2018 OSS grant expenditures. Upon discussion, the township has 18 months to act on the grant. The reallocation was tabled for now.

Mr. Kusmer relayed information from County Auditor Jerri Miller about a General Fund operating levy and advised the following gross proceeds would be obtained if the township were successful in passing a levy: 1 mill would provide \$146,000; 1-1/4 mills \$182,000. Discussion took place on the need for additional revenue due to the loss of General Fund revenues that used to come from estate taxes and local government funds that were lost to the state to balance its budget. This has impacted the township's carryover balance in the General Fund adversely, and the township must make extreme cuts in the General Fund due to this. Property taxes and rollbacks alone do not meet the needs of the township's General Fund. Discussion took place on how best to address this issue.

Purchase orders and checks for bills were signed by the trustees at this meeting.

There being no further business, it was moved by Mr. Kusmer, seconded by Mr. Geyer, to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. Upon a vote, Mr. Geyer - Yes; Mr. Kusmer - Yes; Mr. Stotz – Yes; the motion passed and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

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Ellen K. Ickes, Fiscal Officer

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David P. Stotz, Chairman