

**BALLVILLE TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES – REGULAR MEETING**  
**BALLVILLE TOWNSHIP HOUSE**  
**TUESDAY, AUGUST 21, 2018 – 5:30 P.M.**

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

Moved by Mr. Geyer, seconded by Mr. Kusmer, that the minutes of the August 7, 2018 meeting be approved as written. Upon a vote, Mr. Geyer - Yes; Mr. Kusmer – Yes; Mr. Stotz –Yes; the motion carried.

Ellen Ickes, Fiscal Officer, advised that the 2017 second half property tax settlement had been received, and 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: .....\$ 26,615.65

Total receipts: .....\$ 318,837.38

Cash total in all funds: .....\$ 1,301,549.98

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.

Mrs. Ickes also read an article aloud from the Ohio Township Association August 2018 GrassRoots Clippings entitled, “State Deposits Even More Money Into Rainy Day Fund” (a copy is attached to the minutes). The State of Ohio has recorded record revenues into its Budget Stabilization Fund and had less than anticipated expenditures, subsequently reporting a “rainy day” fund balance of \$2.7 billion. The final paragraph reads as follows: “When asked about sharing revenue with local governments, the governor continues to state that local entities have other ways to raise revenue and suggested they cut unnecessary spending and stop hoarding taxpayer dollars.” Discussion ensued.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

Doug Crowell identified himself as a resident with a family history in the township, as the volunteer fire department chief, and a business owner in the township. Regarding the proposed General Fund current operating expenses levy for the township, Mr. Crowell stated that he “gets it” as taxes are necessary to help the township survive. He doesn’t want to pay more taxes, but will do so if that is what it takes to plow and salt roads, and have drainage work done. He stated that there was plenty of blame to go around, and he knows that there was money in the township’s General Fund that had to be put into the fire fund when the fire fund did not generate enough revenue.

Discussion took place on the property on Route 6 that could have generated tax revenue if the township had kept it years ago.

Mr. Crowell stated that people are on the trustees' side for the levy, and they understand what needs to be done. Parks are not personally important to him, but Conner Park brings people and revenue in. Many township residents understand the situation.

Trustee Kusmer advised that the General Fund was hit particularly hard with about a 64% decrease with the loss of estate taxes, with the state receiving that revenue. The loss of personal property taxes was also discussed. Other public entities are experiencing the same effects from the loss of revenues and the township has cut \$100,000 from its General Fund budget.

Trustee Kusmer continued by stating that the 2017 Kenworth truck the township purchased replaced a 1989 truck which had high maintenance costs (Road and Bridge Fund).

He further stated that with the proposed 1.25 mil levy proposed for the November 6 ballot, together with the cuts that have been made, the township will be able to meet its General Fund expenses. A \$100,000.00 property valuation would cost \$43.75 a year to the owner. Without a levy, the township will face receivership in 2020.

Mr. Crowell then addressed the fire department's need for the township – if it were not for the Universal Farms employees and Ballville's employee responding to fires during the day, there would not be much response because of the number of firemen who work out of town, or who have employers that do not let them respond during work hours. To have paid staff at the fire department has been estimated to cost \$500,000.00 a year.

Trustee Geyer stated that Mrs. Ickes had wanted to take Superintendent Lagrou's township truck away from him, but Mr. Geyer spoke up for Mr. Lagrou because he has no problem that Mr. Lagrou uses it. Mrs. Ickes replied that the discussion over the use of the truck was based on IRS regulations and compliance with those rules, all part of discussion on the new employee handbook the township has been working on for some time. Trustee Geyer said that the truck was in the township for the township. Trustee Kusmer stated that the township's previous Solicitor, Randy Strickler, had advised that there was no problem with it when the vehicle is police force. In conversation, it was mentioned that the truck has a light bar on it, is marked as "park ranger", and Chairman Stotz stated that it was well-used.

David Rimelspach was present and learned that Zoning Inspector Bain was not present tonight. A brief discussion took place, including the superintendent's use of a township truck because of being called out at any time. Trustee Kusmer advised that he had looked at old meeting minutes and the superintendents had township trucks.

Betty Kusmer, wife of Trustee Kusmer, was present and had no comments.

Jack Ferguson advised that his family also had a long history in the township. He asked about where the people come from that attend the trustees' meetings, and then mentioned a camera that had been installed on the Ballville Bridge, which led to discussion about whatever it is that AEP recently installed on the last pole on this side of the bridge. Mr. Ferguson mentioned the arguing among the trustees, and outbursts. He mentioned his childhood, and his memories of when his father worked for the township. He stated that what we have in Ballville is great and we should enjoy every bit of it. If the township needs more money, then it should ask for it. He believes the backing is there from the residents as people like living out here.

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

Mr. Gillis advised that the cemeteries look really, really good. Many people think that the township has ownership of Oakwood Cemetery, which it does not, and it is not well-maintained.

The cemetery rates were recently increased, as of July 1, except for veterans' graves.

Superintendent Lagrou relayed a situation with a family member who thought her family had more graves than it does in McGormley. They worked together and got the situation figured out.

It was discussed that, in 1964, a resident could make a grave purchase for \$10; non-residents paid \$20 each. One particular family bought a lot of graves.

There is one indigent burial likely soon, and another grave sale pending.

The trustees signed two deeds tonight:

Dennis Smith, McGormley Cemetery, Section 15, Lot 15, Grave 1 and 2

Robert Hammer, McGormley Cemetery, Section 4, Lot 9, Grave 1

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

Mr. Bain was not present, but had prepared a Ballville Township Zoning Report from August 21, which was entered into the township's meeting minutes.

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

Mr. Wood advised that there are no Parks Board meeting minutes done right now.

Mr. Lagrou advised that the portable restrooms have been removed and this will be quite a savings for the township.

The American Cancer Society Relay for Life will be June 8, 2019. Mrs. Ickes asked about the costs to the township, if any. It was discussed that the township will decide at a later date, based on how many hours the event will be.

Superintendent Lagrou advised that last year's Sandusky County Parks District Grant has been discussed with Andy Brown of the Parks District. The township received the proceeds of \$7,893.00 in late 2017. The township has a PO open for \$10,200.00 (parks and township shares), but no purchase has been made yet. Mr. Brown has advised that there is no time limit for the township to utilize the grant money – next year would be fine. If the township chooses not to make the purchases it planned on, the grant money can be returned to the Parks District with no problem.

Discussion took place on the high price of playground equipment. If purchased, the township's new swings would go in the back playground, but this has been placed on hold at this time.

It was reported that Larry Gundy wants to be included in the Chudzinski-Johannsen Park meetings, and it is hoped that he would like to be a part of the park development.

Trustee Kusmer advised that he spoke to Fremont City Schools Superintendent Jon Detwiler and asked if the schools would be keeping their current playground equipment after the new elementary schools are built. If not, Trustee Kusmer asked about the township purchasing some of the equipment, and that other townships might be interested as well. It is likely that \$1.00 will be enough to purchase pieces of equipment.

The Halloween Party for township children was briefly discussed. Mrs. Ickes asked about getting donations for the candy, and advised that she would donate toward it. A date has not been determined.

Trustee Kusmer stated that there were some comments made at the last trustees' meeting, on August 7, that were erroneous. He has done some checking, and he wanted to clarify what he has learned since that meeting.

He called Representative Reineke's office regarding the statement (by Trustee Geyer) that the \$300,000 for the Chudzinski-Johannsen Park was taken from funds to fight opioids. Trustee Kusmer stated that this was a false comment. He stated that \$120 million was in the Ohio budget to fight opioid addiction. Every two years the state provides capital appropriations – and this year \$2.6 million was available and the township, Terra State Community College, and the City of Fremont were among the recipients. Trustee Geyer reported that he had gotten the information for his statement at the August 7 meeting from a Tiffin newspaper.

Trustee Kusmer researched Bill Rusch's statement at the August 7 meeting that there was an overall plan for the township for future development, and looking through the meeting minutes of Mr. Rusch's term, Trustee Kusmer could find no such plan. On April 7, 1987, Trustees (Bill) Rusch, Porczak, and Fausey voted to purchase 34 acres of tillable ground for future development. Twenty acres were purchased and there was an option for 14 more acres. Trustee Kusmer said that the trustees were looking, even back then, to centralize the township's operations as we are today. Eventually the township's facilities will be together, starting with replacing dilapidated structures; the township will benefit from a more efficient storage and work facility.

Next, Trustee Kusmer addressed Todd Lindsay's complaint at the August 7 meeting about the township's purchase of the property across Tiffin Road for a new township facility. Trustee Kusmer referred to the May 2, 2017 trustees' meeting, at which Mr. Lindsay offered the purchase of 27 wooded acres of his property near the new park to the township. Trustee Kusmer stated that he found this to be hypocritical of Mr. Lindsay. Superintendent Lagrou advised that some of the property Mr. Lindsay offered was not usable due to power lines that run down the center of it. It was discussed that the township would have to additionally purchase 100 feet off Baker Road to access the property offered by Mr. Lindsay. Also, while Mr. Lindsay complained recently about the township's purchase of land in 2017, he had followed up that purchase by approaching the township to also buy some of his land.

Betty Kusmer, wife of Trustee Bob Kusmer, stated that her husband has spent hours and hours in order for the township to receive the grant from the state for the new park. She advised that he spent the entire month of December working on this for the township.

Mr. Wood stated that the Parks Board would still like to work on a bicentennial celebration for the township (in 2022), and at this time they are only spending time on it.

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

Superintendent Lagrou stated that the township was not going to go with Erie Blacktop for the road milling. Garza Construction is the best option, and the township can have its own work crew work on this, with the township borrowing Sandusky Township's skid loader. It will cost \$500.00 for two days to rent a skid loader with a broom from Streakers, and three of our trucks will need to be used since Garza has only one truck. Garza can perform this work in one day, and Mr. Lagrou would like to get this set up.

Mr. Kusmer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stotz, to hire Garza Construction for \$4,250.00 for one day to mill Cole and Buchanan Roads (for the Issue II road repaving project). Upon a vote: Mr. Geyer – No; Mr. Kusmer – Yes; Mr. Stotz; Yes, the motion passed 2-1.

Mr. Lagrou asked Mr. Geyer why he voted no on this because the roads must be milled or they will be higher than the residents' driveways after the road is repaved in the Issue II repaving project. Upon further discussion, it was decided that it may take two days to complete the work depending on weather, etc. Mr. Geyer said he agreed with this.

It was decided to re-vote based on the discussion that took place. Mr. Kusmer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stotz, to hire Garza Construction for \$8,500.00 for a possible two days of work for the milling of Cole and Buchanan Roads. Upon a vote: Mr. Geyer – Yes; Mr. Kusmer – Yes; Mr. Stotz – Yes, the motion passed unanimously. It was discussed that one day of work is what the township hopes is all it will take.

Mr. Lagrou advised that the township's fair board is at the fairgrounds for the county fair.

A new lid was put on the 4" riser catch basin on Stahl Rd.

The Universal Farms brush drop-off magnets for 2019 are available for distribution, and the township trustees thanked Mr. Crowell for having them made up.

All of the Melissa Drive cul-de-sac has been removed.

The township crew has been repairing catch basins, making new ones, and repairing tiles.

Zach Militello, Paige Miarer, and Michael Egbert, are done working for the summer.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

A woman was seen at the Chudzinski-Johannsen Park recently cutting wildflowers. Mr. Kusmer said that residents are welcome to help themselves to them. It was reported that the site is already being used for senior pictures and family photos. The grasses have to be mowed every year, but the township has been advised that they don't have to be burned off every year.

Cyclone Services out of Vickery could save the township quite a bit of money if we can switch from Republic Services to them for trash hauling, but we are under contract with Republic for a while yet (through 2019) and will have to wait to switch.

ODOT emailed Mr. Lagrou that winter salt is \$51.05 per ton. Nothing more has been said about the summer salt that was somehow ordered through the County Engineer's office in a mix-up – that price was \$58.00 a ton.

Ohio Department of Commerce, Liquor Control, sent a notice of change in ownership of Shelluke's. Mr. Kusmer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Geyer, that the township does not object and does not wish a meeting on this change. Upon a vote: Mr. Geyer – Yes; Mr. Kusmer – Yes; Mr. Stotz – Yes; the motion passed. Mrs. Ickes will sign and return the form accordingly informing the state the township does not object or request a meeting.

Mrs. Ickes explained the Tax Commissioner has dismissed the township's request for a transfer of \$27,000.00 from the Road and Bridge Fund, as permission was not needed for this "correction" as it is not considered a "transfer". She stated that she that was advised by Local Government Services initially that this was to be paid from the General Fund at the time of the purchase. She has received an interpretation from Assistant Prosecutor Mark Mulligan, and verbal approval from State of Ohio auditor Joe Weininger that the transfer is OK and no permission is needed from the State of Ohio Tax Commissioner. This transfer will be helpful to the township's General Fund. Mr. Kusmer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stotz, for the transfer of \$27,000.00 from Road and Bridge Fund to the General Fund to correct the \$36,000.00 purchase of the new Tiffin Road property made in 2017 from the General Fund. This makes a net expenditure from the General Fund of \$9,000.00 and a Road and Bridge expenditures of \$27,000.00 according to expected usage of the property (25% General; 75% Road and Bridge). The motion passed following a roll call vote: Mr. Geyer - Yes; Mr. Stotz – Yes; Mr. Kusmer - Yes; as Resolution 2018-33:

**RESOLUTION 2018-33**

*A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF BALLVILLE TOWNSHIP AUTHORIZING REALLOCATIONS WITHIN FUND 2031 - ROAD AND BRIDGE FUND AND TRANSFER OF \$27,000.00 FROM FUND 2031 - ROAD AND BRIDGE FUND TO FUND 1000 - GENERAL FUND FOR AN APPROPRIATE DISTRIBUTION OF EXPENDITURES TOWARD THE PURCHASE OF LAND MADE IN 2017*

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

There being no further business, it was moved by Mr. Geyer, seconded by Mr. Kusmer, to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 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