

**BALLVILLE TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES – SPECIAL MEETING**  
**GENERAL FUND CURRENT OPERATING EXPENSES LEVY - NOVEMBER 6, 2018 BALLOT**  
**BALLVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT HALL**  
**MONDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2018 – 7:00 P.M.**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. with Chairman David P. Stotz leading the Pledge of Allegiance. Also present was Trustee W. Robert Kusmer. Trustee Richard A. Geyer was not present.

Chairman Stotz announced the purpose of the special meeting was to discuss the General Fund Levy on the November 6, 2018 ballot.

All present were asked to sign in, and the sign-in sheet is attached.

Leftover handouts of what Mr. Kusmer and Mr. Stotz themselves prepared and mailed to township residents regarding the levy were available to those present.

Trustee Kusmer presented information and explanations on the township's General Fund revenue of approximately \$158,000.00 in 2018 from property taxes and rollbacks. He advised that cuts have been made from appropriations to cut back on expenditures, taking \$100,000 out of the expenditure budget of the General Fund.

The years of 2016, 2017 and 2018 to-date were presented in a slide presentation (copy attached). Other funds cannot cross over into the General Fund. Discussion took place on cemeteries, including the Oakwood Mausoleum's expenses to the township. By statute, if a township is given a cemetery, it must accept and maintain it. An estimated \$200,000.00 was spent on the Oakwood Mausoleum and cemeteries' repair about 20 years ago from the General Fund.

The Chudzinski-Johannsen Park was discussed. The change of the parks and zoning boards going from paid to volunteer status was discussed (all General Fund savings).

Bob Humberger of 116 Red Path Circle wanted to discuss the impact of the new tax on his tax bill, and discussion ensued. Sandusky County Auditor Jerri Miller was present and she explained different aspects of taxation. She also passed out a tax levy calculation sheet for everyone's use to see the actual impact of a tax levy on a specific piece of property.

Vince Snyder of 154 Canterbury asked about property re-evaluations, and Mrs. Miller explained the effect of the state's reduction factor - no more is collected, but it is reallocated. She provided information on millage and CAUV (Current Agricultural Use Valuation) for farmers. There is a set amount of taxes, and in some years it may be that farmland pays more than residential, or that residential pays more than farmland. The distribution of taxes may change, but the tax amount collected does not.

Mrs. Miller advised that eight townships have some kind of levy on the ballot in November.

Trustee Kusmer pointed out that Ballville is not alone in the General Fund shortage, and this is felt all across the state and is a topic of discussion at the Ohio Township Association conferences. He pointed out that the state of Ohio has a rainy day fund of \$2.7 billion dollars, some of that being money that townships used to get.

Fiscal Officer Ellen Ickes advised that the township's carryover from previous years, from when inheritance taxes were received, is dwindling. The township has never been able to operate on the property tax and rollbacks alone in the General Fund. There has always been something in addition to the property taxes. The ballot issue for the General Fund operating expenses is something the residents of the township are asked to decide and vote on.

Trustee Kusmer again discussed the township's budget. Mr. Snyder asked about the township's plan and what will be cut. Mr. Kusmer advised that budget reductions will be seen in zoning, parks, and cemeteries. The township's fixed General Fund expenses is over \$100,000. Receivership by the state is what results from General Fund deficiencies. Mrs. Ickes advised that the State Auditor's office will provide assistance to townships that are struggling or in fiscal distress, at first at no charge, and then fees will need to be paid.

Fire Chief Doug Crowell advised that Danbury Township in Ottawa County is experiencing the same situation as Ballville is with their General Fund.

Mr. Kusmer and Mr. Stotz were asked how the township could buy the property across the road from the current township house. The response is that it will be mostly road and bridge-related, and the plan for development is long-term. Mr. Kusmer showed a map of the five places the township crew must go to retrieve various items. Salt is stored on the back side of Conner Park - the salt has damaged the storage building and also the parking lot. Universal Farms, Hydraulic Park, CR 201, and the City of Fremont maintenance building are storage sites for salt, pipe, and other material. Hydraulic Park's storage building is in disrepair and will need to be replaced in the near future.

Discussion took place on the difference in salt prices, and the purchase of salt at a low price could result in a \$40,000-\$50,000 a year savings, which would pay for the salt bin construction. Salt is extremely high right now. Mr. Brian Edwards of 2163 Hayes Avenue stated that salt prices are very volatile and sometimes availability is a problem.

Mr. Kusmer stated that in the past, trustees had tried to get 14 acres next to Conner Park to locate all facilities on one property, but were not successful. The plan to house the township's facilities and storage in one central location has been there for some time. He stated that the trustees are doing these things to save money in the long run. The trustees' goal is to have the whole township complex on the new Tiffin Road property eventually, perhaps over a 20 year period. It would mean getting rid of Hydraulic Park storage building, which is in bad shape. Mr. Stotz said the option is there to build on the new Tiffin Road property.

Mr. Kusmer also stated that Conner Park was developed over many years, the Chudzinski-Johannsen Park will be developed over a span of many years, and the new facility site will be managed in the same way.

Mr. Kusmer explained that the Chudzinski-Johannsen Park is 75 acres of land that cost the township around \$7,000.00 to purchase. A grant and donation by the property owner was part of the arrangement. Kinder-Morgan provided \$100,000 donation and there were other non-taxpayer sources for the money the township has set aside for the park development.

The township was fortunate to receive a \$300,000 state grant for Chudzinski-Johannsen Park. These grants are awarded every two years, and once on the list, recipients stand a better chance to receive future awards as they are now a “line item” on the state’s budget. This state money will be awarded to someone, and it is a good thing for Ballville to be receiving it at this time.

Mr. Kusmer and Stotz encouraged residents to please contact them, and Mrs. Ickes as well, if there are any questions or concerns with the General Fund levy.

Mr. Edwards stated that most states’ money is grant-based for their federal and state monies, and that grant-writers profit quite a bit from this. Mr. Kusmer stated that the township has been fortunate in that it has written its own grants. Ballville Township Superintendent Bill Lagrou stated that 70% of Conner Park’s development came from grants. County Auditor Jerri Miller stated that it is not possible to get grants for General Fund purposes.

A brief discussion took place on what some present believed to be township expenditures on roads not in the township or maintained by the county. This would not be General Fund expenditures regardless.

Mr. James Palomo stated that people need to listen to what is being said about the General Fund levy.

There being no further business, it was moved by Mr. Kusmer, seconded by Mr. Stotz, to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. Upon a vote, Mr. Stotz – Yes; Mr. Kusmer - 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