

BALLVILLE TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES – REGULAR MEETING
BALLVILLE TOWNSHIP HOUSE
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 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, along with Rich Gillum of Kocher & Gillum, as Solicitor for Jim Barney.

Moved by Mr. Geyer, seconded by Mr. Kusmer, that the minutes of the October 16, 2018 regular trustees’ meeting be approved as written. Upon a vote, Mr. Geyer - Yes; Mr. Kusmer – Yes; Mr. Stotz –Yes; the motion carried.

Trustee Kusmer wanted the following change made to the October 29, 2018 special levy meeting minutes, on Page 1, Paragraph 9, to include that Jerry Cunningham’s discussion regarding CAUV with county auditor Jerri Miller as follows:

Changed from:

“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.”

Changed to:

*“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, **and discussed CAUV with Jerry Cunningham.** 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.”*

Moved by Mr. Kusmer, seconded by Mr. Stotz, that the minutes of the October 29, 2018 special trustees’ meeting regarding the current operating expenses levy for the General Fund be approved as amended. Upon a vote, Mr. Kusmer – Yes; Mr. Stotz –Yes; the motion carried. Trustee Geyer stated that he would abstain from voting since he was not present at the meeting.

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:\$ 98,404.18
Total receipts:\$ 16,279.07
Cash total in all funds:\$ 1,084,038.82

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).

Joe Garrett, energy consultant for Trebel, LLC, was present to explain that Trebel specializes in residential aggregations for electricity and natural gas. Mr. Garrett provided information to the trustees regarding the 2010 countywide aggregation program. Using a broker, First Energy made a donation to the county commissioners for choosing First Energy, and this was called a grant. First Energy has been their supplier for the last nine years and he noted that they are now in bankruptcy.

Trebel specializes in townships all over Ohio and believes that townships should have their own programs that they can manage. Trebel would charge a fee on the back-end for bidding of suppliers for lower costs. Mr. Garrett stated that while the townships don't get much revenue from the current arrangement, the county got \$199,000.00 at the beginning of First Energy's contract, and the County Commissioners Association of Ohio also gets a cut, too. Palmer Energy is involved in this.

Mr. Garrett spoke about aggregation being a township rather than a county initiative, and that the trust level occurs at the township level. He stated that the county got the townships to vote this in and Palmer Energy was promoted as the supplier. Trebel does not have termination fees. He wants to make sure the trustees are aware that the township can have its own aggregation program. Mr. Garrett said when the residents are happy, the governmental body is happy, and Trebel is the last piece of the process. If the township is interested, he can send a contract and have the trustees and the township solicitor review it.

Mr. Garrett briefly discussed ballot language that would state the township would set this up with the PUCO instead of saying the township can join with others. The process would include advertising the information and holding meetings.

The current program ends in May, 2019, and if the township wants to contract with Trebel, this would need to be done by June 1. The township would select the supplier, and Trebel would combine the township with other entities for good volume leveraging. There is also leveraging on pricing and risk which gives the township the upper hand for control. Residents would contact Trebel for customer service

Mr. Garrett advised that the same form letter has been used by county commissioners across the state for sending to their townships regarding aggregation.

The townships have received 6% off for 9 years (since 2010), but Mr. Garrett questioned where the other 14% went and stated that, in hindsight, this has never been explained.

Mr. Kusmer asked what percent the township would receive and Mr. Garrett responded that this is based on the stock market, but typically is around 12%. Several years ago 6% in the Edison market was considered good.

Mr. Garrett, on behalf of Trebel, asked that they be hired for three years; it takes one year to be compensated and the PUCO says not less than one year, or more than three years, for a contract. Trebel follows the energy market and prices are up right now. He stated they are thinking a two-year contract since in the third year prices are likely to drop. Long term planning is best. Mr. Garrett stated that he would be back if the trustees are interested. He thinks the other group wants to renew now and would pull the township along with the county at the first lowering of price. Trebel will bid this out in February.

Mr. Garrett asked if there was a resolution that stated that the township was with the county forever.

Trebel will notify the county and supplier if the township goes with them. Resolutions would be needed to set this into place. Trebel discovered that townships can have their own programs as a result of First Energy's bankruptcy filing.

Discussion took place on Trustee Kusmer's question about how revenue for the township is determined – based on population? Mr. Garrett offered that the township determine what is best – perhaps enough to cover the cost of the township's energy use at its facilities. Trebel has contracts with eight suppliers. Mr. Garrett left the meeting after advising that he will email the information and contract to the township's fiscal officer for the information to be distributed to trustees and the township's solicitor.

CEMETERY BOARD REPORT - Jack Ferguson and Jim Gillis

Superintendent Lagrou advised that there is a funeral tomorrow for Carl Cooley.

The trustees signed a deed for Grover Dowell: McGormley Cemetery, Section 15, Lot 14, Grave 8

Discussion took place on Mr. Gillis' statement that there are complaints that children cannot be buried with parents in the veterans' section. Superintendent Lagrou stated that the veterans' section is just for the veteran and spouse.

Mr. Gillis informed those present that there are plenty of veterans' events to attend for Veterans' Day: on Friday there is a veterans' day at the high school; Marine Corps on Saturday; and at the courthouse on Sunday.

A brief discussion took place on planting trees.

ZONING INSPECTOR REPORT - David Bain, Zoning Inspector

Mr. Bain reviewed the Ballville Township Zoning Report from November 6, 2018, which was entered into the township's meeting minutes.

Following a discussion on Matt Hoffman's property, Mr. Kusmer advised that Mr. Bain should send a letter to Mr. Hoffman. Trustee Geyer is Mr. Hoffman's brother-in-law, and Mr. Geyer responded affirmatively to Mr. Bain's question as to whether he could speak to Mr. Hoffman about this matter.

The Guthrie property on McGormley Road (formerly Barney Smith residence) was discussed. A permit was issued to the Guthries for a new home 7-10 years ago, and the old Smith home was to be burned down, but it is still standing. Phil Klausz questioned whether taxes were paid on both homes. Mr. Bain will send a letter to the Guthries regarding the township's concerns. The property is zoned agricultural.

Jack Ferguson asked if the zoning inspector checks for delinquent taxes before issuing zoning permits. Mr. Ferguson stated that someone he believes is interested in obtaining a zoning permit is listed in the newspaper as being delinquent on taxes on several properties. Solicitor Rich Gillum advised that a permit would have to be issued unless the township's zoning resolution specifically states that there could be no delinquent taxes by the owner.

PARKS BOARD REPORT - Bill Lagrou and Kerry Wood

Mr. Wood advised that there is a Parks Board meeting next week.

There was a hayride for the seven children who attended the Halloween party on October 27 in spite of the bad weather. Trustee Geyer asked if they have rain dates. Mr. Lagrou responded that the children could always come into the township house in the case of bad weather.

Superintendent Lagrou said that the park is shutting down and he will advise the EPA that the restrooms have been closed down. One shelter is closed.

A light pole in Conner Park rotted, snapped, and fell onto the walking track. Valley Electric was called in and spent a half-hour capping the power off as an emergency measure. Mr. Lagrou advised this was one of the first lights installed in 1988 and there is no way to tell if there is a problem with the other lights.

Superintendent Lagrou is getting prices for several trees for the parks, cemeteries, and roads.

ROAD SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – Superintendent Bill Lagrou

SourceWell was discussed, and it is similar to state purchasing. Mr. Lagrou will get more information and get back to the trustees. Later in the meeting, Jack Ferguson advised that these programs are not always a good deal.

The township recently picked up three church pews that were sitting out at a nearby church, and they were free for the taking. Only one is being used by the township, in the township house meeting area. Part-time employee Jon Leemaster inquired as to whether one of the pews could be given to his church. The trustees agreed that it would be a good use of a pew, especially since the pews cost the township nothing.

Township trucks have been serviced and will be hot-oiled by Wonderly Collision.

Superintendent Lagrou informed the trustees that the 1997 GMC doesn't want to start or stay running, and he asked if the trustees were interested in selling it. When it runs, they use it, but keep putting money into it. There is a salter and plow that fits just that truck. He will talk to Baumann's to get a resale value, which will probably be between \$6,000 and \$8,000. A bid date would be set at another time if the truck is to be sold. Mr. Gillum stated that the township would have to advertise the sale of the truck.

Republic Services trash hauling contract ends in December, 2019. If we want lower prices, starting with November – March every-other-week dumping is \$89.88. From April-September it would be down from \$267 to \$180 a month for once-a-week dumping. If we go with the lower rates, this would mean a new contract for the next 36 months. Superintendent Lagrou will look into this further and report back. Cyclone would charge \$150.00 a month for every week dumping, and pricing will be requested for different dumping cycles.

Baker Road repairs, reported at the last meeting, were discussed again. The tile was rotted, and the township set a new catch basin and the tile offset was mortared in. Discussion took place on using 30" or 24" pipe. If the township used 24", they would not have to cut a driveway and could save the 30" for future use. Mr. Lagrou got a price from S & S Hauling and Excavating for this work, and it will be \$4,340.00. The township crew will be doing the work themselves instead.

Poorman Subdivision repaving is all done and Ballville's part is all good. Mr. Lagrou walked the subdivision and checked all of the driveways.

Issue II project had a few problem areas, but none on Ballville's roads. Re-milling and re-paving of the problem areas is taking place.

Ax-Pro and Sowers Tree Service provided estimates for removing nine trees and stumps in Roads. Ax-Pro's estimate is \$5,750; Sowers is \$6,280. The township crew will remove other trees throughout the winter. Mr. Kusmer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Geyer, to accept the bid from Ax-Pro for the tree and stump removals. Upon a vote - Mr. Geyer - Yes; Mr. Kusmer - Yes; Mr. Stotz - Yes; the motion carried. Following a brief discussion with Mrs. Ickes, the approval is conditional upon receiving a Certificate of Insurance from Ax-Pro listing Ballville Township as an additional insured.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Kusmer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Geyer, for a reallocation within the Gasoline Tax Fund . The motion passed following a roll call vote: Mr. Stotz – Yes; Mr. Geyer - Yes; Mr. Kusmer - Yes; as Resolution 2018-36:

RESOLUTION 2018-36

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF BALLVILLE TOWNSHIP TO REALLOCATE AMONG ACCOUNT LINE ITEMS WITHIN THE GASOLINE TAX FUND

Mrs. Ickes advised that the township recently received a Columbia Gas change of supplier notice. The trustees reviewed the information and advised Mrs. Ickes to call and opt out of the supplier change. The deadline for this is November 7.

The Universal Farms contract for brush drop-off ends December 31. Doug Crowell advised that he would present information to the trustees at the next meeting regarding renewal.

Mrs. Ickes asked about the township performing performance evaluations for employees. It was discussed that Superintendent Lagrou will review the employees and the trustees will review Mr. Lagrou some time in the near future.

The employee handbook was also discussed as it has been almost a year since Solicitor Barney was to review the draft and advise the trustees accordingly.

Mrs. Ickes reminded the trustees that there are training requirements for elected officials in their terms. She proposed that each trustee take his/her own training (Sunshine law, public records, etc.) rather than to send someone to the training for the trustees. This way the elected officials in the township are all aware of the laws and any changes to them. Webinars are available for these trainings in most cases.

Mrs. Ickes asked the trustees if she could utilize the services of an accountant for advice regarding a few things she has questions on (procedures, year-end). Solicitor Jim Barney had recommended someone local, and Mrs. Ickes is waiting to hear back on the charge for these services, which would be minimal.

The October 31, 2018 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. Kusmer, seconded by Mr. Geyer, to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 p.m. Upon a vote, Mr. Geyer - Yes; Mr. Kusmer - Yes; Mr. Stotz – Yes; the motion passed and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen K. Ickes, Fiscal Officer

David P. Stotz, Chairman