BALLVILLE TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES – REGULAR MEETING
BALLVILLE TOWNSHIP HOUSE
TUESDAY, May 7, 2019 – 5:30 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. with Chairman W. Robert Kusmer leading the Pledge of Allegiance. Also present were Trustee Richard A. Geyer and James Barney of Kocher & Gillum, Solicitor. Chairman Kusmer announced that Trustee Dave Stotz was not present due to a recent accident.

Moved by Mr. Geyer, seconded by Mr. Kusmer, that the minutes of the April 16, 2019 meeting be approved as written. Upon a vote, Mr. Geyer - Yes; Mr. Kusmer – 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: .....$ 8,844.19

Total receipts: .....$ 18,314.85

Cash total in all funds: .....$ 1,289.898.54

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. Kusmer –Yes; the motion carried.

The trustees reviewed account activity for the Staples account credit cards for the last billing period, and Chairman Kusmer signed the credit card attestation(s). Payment by check is included in the above referenced bills.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Ryan McBride, whose family lives at the corner of Michaels Rd. and Ponds Side Drive, was present to report excessive speeding on Michaels Rd. His concern is for the safety of his children, and for others, including bikers who use the road. He requested installation of a three-way stop there. He noted that with the money the township has, it wouldn't take much of it to spend $4,000.00 to put up stop signs. Superintendent Lagrou advised that a speed study would cost between $2,000 and $4,000, and he added that this location has been discussed with the new county engineer, Carlos Baez. Mr. Baez had advised that a stop sign cannot be installed just to slow traffic down. It was suggested that the Sandusky County Sheriff's Department be contacted to monitor the area. Mr. McBride replied that he has called them in the past and was told him there are limited resources for this type of thing. There is a speed limit near the Eye Center, and it was suggested that maybe the township could put up another speed limit sign. Upon further discussion, Mr. Bride stated that traffic really speeds up as drivers leave the subdivision and approach Hayes Avenue. Chairman Kusmer said that he would talk to Carlos Baez and Sheriff Hilton regarding this problem.

Craig Hilty has lived at 1390 Morrison Rd. for 35 years and is experiencing a very serious erosion problem, stating that he has lost probably 60 ft. of his woods' topsoil ridge. The effect of sub-surface water was discussed. Chairman Kusmer suggested that Mr. Hilty contact a consulting engineer for answers; these problems are due to the soil becoming saturated and soft, and breaking away, and he was aware that it can be a problem.

Terry Joseph of Williams Drive expressed his concerns for a neighboring property that has not been mowed, and discussion ensued about the property. Since the taxes are paid up, it does not qualify for the Land Bank.

Kerry Wood asked whether Trustee Geyer has been talking against the General Fund levy. Mr. Geyer responded that he hasn't sent anything out to people. Mr. Wood asked him why he was against the levy. Terry Joseph said that the News-Messenger's report that it would cost $44.00 a month was a misprint and, based on that information, the levy would probably fail. Chairman Kusmer reported that he had asked the News-Messenger for a correction, and he had also sent a letter to the Editor supporting the levy which is on the ballot today. Additional discussion followed, with Mr. Geyer saying he has a right to vote "NO", and that he has never lied while in this seat. He wants responsible spending, so let the people vote. Mr. Wood stating that Mr. Geyer has misled people. Mr. Geyer mentioned the loss of the death tax and now all of a sudden the township needs revenue, but the township could spend $110,000 for water lines. Chairman Kusmer advised that the township gets $160,000 in General Fund revenue and the expenses are at least $300,000.

Terry Joseph spoke up and explained that certain funds cannot be spent for other things that are not in that fund, and that is all that matters. After Mrs. Ickes asked him his name, he advised that he worked for the State Auditor for 30 years. He further explained that the township's money cannot all be lumped together. He also stated that the township's levy was not presented properly in the newspaper. He has seen entities have to shut down and have the state take over with General Fund shortages and these problems are serious.

Chairman Kusmer advised that the township has cut the township's share of medical coverage, frozen wages, no longer pays advisory boards, and that they have lost a couple of employees over the changes. There are no more cuts the township can make in the General Fund.

6:00 P.M. BUCHMAN ROAD REPAVING BID OPENING

Carlos Baez, the new Sandusky County Engineer, was present and, at 6:05 p.m., Mr. Geyer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Kusmer, to close the acceptance of bids. Upon a vote – Mr. Kusmer – Yes; Mr. Geyer – Yes; the motion passed. The township received five bids, all before 6:00 p.m.

Mrs. Ickes opened the bids in the following order, and read each one aloud:

Contractor	**Bid Amount**
Gerken Paving	$ 37,329.50
Helms and Sons Excavating	$39,382.25
M & B Asphalt	$ 36,885.00
Henry Bergman, Inc.	$ 37,965.00
Erie Blacktop	$ 36,291.00

Chairman Kusmer thanked those present who had presented bids and advised that Mr. Baez would review them. The township will award the bids at a later date. Mr. Baez advised that the bid results would be posted on the county engineer's website tomorrow.

Trustee Geyer asked Chairman Kusmer if he would sign a letter of support for an interchange that will eliminate CR 229 and 198 on the Route 20 bypass. County Engineer Carlos Baez is excited about this project and deemed it a good opportunity - a $10 million project to be performed using safety funds. There have been many deaths at this dangerous intersection. It will be replaced with a "diamond" interchange, and they will light the new bridge. Four townships come together near this location – Ballville, Sandusky, Riley, and Green Creek. Mr. Baez said that the county was saving up for this project. This stretch of road was poorly designed from the start. The county is 100% for the improvements – there is a lot of heavy equipment and truck traffic on the road. While accidents and deaths have been recorded as they happened, no one could ever tabulate the number of near-misses that have taken place there. County Commissioner Scott Miller stated that ODOT has moved surprisingly fast on this project. Mr. Baez said they will know more about this on Friday, May 10, and that the project is probably four years down the road.

Discussion turned to the west edge of town with Mr. Miller citing another hazardous portion of the Route 20 bypass where Bill Mayle was killed a year or so ago. They might consider having this improved to be similar to what Perrysburg has with under- and turn-lanes.

Kim Wright of 907 Timpe Road was present and reminded the trustees that she was here a year ago about the water issues at her residence. Three-fourths of the Timpe Road drainage system runs through her property, and she continues to pump massive amounts of water out of her basement. EverDry has installed two of their largest commercial-grade pumps, and they don't keep up so another pump was installed. Ms. Wright reported that she has lost $6,000.00 in goods in her basement. Someone has to be there when it rains and she cannot afford to keep missing work, so she relies heavily on her father to help her out. She believes there is a broken pump, and Superintendent Lagrou has been trying to help her. A year ago the trustees approved a tile camera to her house. Mr. Lagrou, the county's Ditch Maintenance staff, and Mr. Baez have all been to her house when it rains. She has spent up to 26 hours continually pumping water. Ms. Wright stated that this is the township's responsibility to resolve the issue. Mr. Lagrou advised that Adkins' in-tile camera got all the way to the catch basin and it showed both damage to the tile and stone in the tile. The DVD will show more information if they can get it all the way through the tile the next time they go into it.

Ms. Wright asked the trustees to re-route the line. It was discussed that there have been multiple petitions – about every 20 years or so, apparently as far back as 1954, with no action being taken. In 1981, the repair work was estimated at $380,000. Ms. Wright stated that the trustees should maintain and repair the water main on her property. She shared that the previous owner had not disclosed the water problems when she purchased the home, and she cannot sell it the way it is with water in her house all the time. She noted that the EverDry panels popped off the walls from water gushing in. Chairman Kusmer advised that the township will look at this situation closer after the Adkins camera provides a better synopsis of what is going on out there.

Ms. Wright added that she cannot leave the house when it is raining because her house is on top of (an 8 inch) drainage tile. She requested a copy of the Adkins camera video and Mr. Lagrou will make sure she gets a copy. Mr. Lagrou stated that the township is looking into plans regarding re-routing the tile.

Chairman Kusmer reminded Ms. Wright that this is the property owner's problem, not the township's problem. He estimated that correction of the existing storm sewer on Timpe Road would cost $600,000.

CEMETERY BOARD REPORT - Jack Ferguson and Jim Gillis
Mr. Ferguson reported that the Oakwood Cemetery Board will have a meeting next Monday. Discussion took place on HB 166, and Chairman Kusmer advised that, per ORC 517, townships have to take cemeteries if they are given to them. This law was likely put into place for smaller, church cemeteries that needed care, not for cemeteries the size of Oakwood Cemetery. County Commissioner Miller agreed, and stated that Ballville is not the only township facing this scenario, and that taking Oakwood on would create a burden on township residents. Upon discussion taking place on the possible acquisition of Oakwood Cemetery by the township, it was mentioned that the transfer to Ballville Township is not expected to be discussed at next week's Oakwood Cemetery Association meeting.

Mr. Miller further advised that he is still hearing the humming sound at his residence even though they have had all of their utilities shut off from their respective grids.

Commissioner Miller added that Ballville Township does a good job with the roads and streets. This year the county will be re-paving Tiffin Road from the Ballville Bridge out to the Seneca County line. He appreciates Superintendent Lagrou and the township crew and he thanked them, stating that Ballville was a good township to live in.

It was discussed that the township owns and maintains five cemeteries and the Oakwood Mausoleum.

Discussion took place on Oakwood Cemetery. Chairman Kusmer advised that the cemetery spans 43 acres and holds approximately 25,000 graves. The roads on the old side of the cemetery are in disrepair and it would cost at least $1.5 million to correct the issues.

Superintendent Lagrou stated that about two weeks ago, he noticed the front roof of the Oakwood Mausoleum had tiles that appear to have shifted. Deemer Roofing was called in for an estimate. Discussion took place on the possibility that the most recent repairs out there caused a shift in the membrane. According to Mr. Lagrou, the township has extra tiles on hand if needed.

Veterans' flags for Memorial Day in the cemeteries were discussed. Mr. Geyer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Kusmer, to donate $50.00 to the VFW for veterans' flags again this year. Upon a vote – Mr. Kusmer – Yes; Mr. Geyer – Yes; the motion carried.

ZONING INSPECTOR REPORT - David Bain, Zoning Inspector
Mr. Bain reviewed the Ballville Township Zoning Report from May 7, 2019 which was entered into the township's meeting minutes.

Mr. Bain advised that at the recent Board of Zoning Commission meeting, only three members were in attendance, and that no one wanted to be chairman. It was discussed that Ray Rellinger had been a good chairman, and several members have left since he resigned.

Mrs. Ickes advised the following appointments had been accepted by the appointees:
Ron Shoemaker – from Alternate to Board Member on the Board of Zoning Appeals
Harold Ingram – from Alternate to Board Member on the Board of Zoning Appeals
Tom Ackerman – from Alternate to Board Member on the Board of Zoning Commission
Jim Miranda – from Alternate to Board Member on the Board of Zoning Commission

Mr. Bain informed the trustees that he has taken the previous year's permits to the County Recorder as required by law.

Mr. Bain also advised that he would not hold zoning hours next Thursday for medical reasons.

Mr. Bain will walk the property of the Haunted Hydro in the near future.

Discussion took place on the importance of attendance at committee meetings and having a chairman for each committee. Trustee Geyer will call the zoning board members regarding their interest levels and attendance.

PARKS BOARD REPORT - Bill Lagrou and Kerry Wood
Mr. Wood advised that the Parks Board will have a meeting next Monday.

Superintendent Lagrou received the approval of the trustees to hire Paige Miarer again this summer, as well as to hire Robbie Baez, for summer seasonal workers at minimum wage.

Discussion led to the budget, and Mrs. Ickes reviewed the Appropriation Status Report with Mr. Geyer to clarify the General Fund and its components. She showed how the cemeteries are both part of a specific cemetery fund and they also fall under the General Fund. Revenues from the designated cemetery fund come from the sale of lots and fees collected for burials, headstones, etc. The General Fund cemetery revenues come mostly from property taxes.

The trustees were advised by Mr. Lagrou that the ground in the parks are finally drying up. Two successful non-profit walks have been held already this year (NAMI on April 27 and Heartbeat on May 4). The Cystic Fibrosis and Steps of Change events are coming up soon, and the American Cancer Society walk is June 8.

Chairman Kusmer announced a $2,000.00 donation was received from Phil Klausz in memory of his wife, Connie Joy Klausz, which is to be used for children's activities in the township. Mr. Kusmer thanked Mr. Klausz for the donation and added that he wished the donation could have been under better circumstances. There were many tear-filled eyes during this acknowledgement.

ROAD SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – Superintendent Bill Lagrou
Superintendent Lagrou informed the trustees that a Timpe Road resident has contacted him about the problem of water in his front yard, apart from Ms. Wright's complaint.

Margo Alspaugh, who lives near the Hydraulic Park Recycling Center, has requested that the township put a fence up so that she doesn't have to look at it. No action was taken, and the trustees agreed that the area was well-maintained.

As a follow-up to a statement by Phil Klausz that he was looking for a picture of the "Ballville School Bus", it was requested that anyone with old photos pertaining to the township provide a copy to the township. An old fire truck was discussed as well.

Mr. Lagrou advised that OTARMA's appraisers will be here May 22 at 8:00 a.m. to visit the township's properties, and he will accompany them as they tour the township's facilities.

Sinking ground on Darr Road is causing the possibility of losing the guardrail. Unilliance will be contacted to get this resolved.

Tom Adams of Our Lady of the Pines contacted Mr. Lagrou regarding water at the bottom of their hill as it is getting worse and the water is stagnant. Options were discussed, including having them contact the Health Department, or maybe the City of Fremont could mosquito-spray it.

Morton Salt will deliver four loads of salt yet this year. The 2019 price is $69.38 a ton. The township will not be purchasing any salt this year as they have 175 ton stored with the City of Fremont and the township's bin is full.

Superintendent Lagrou reported that the four re-programmed tornado sirens all went off during the recent monthly testing, so the re-programming was successful.

The fiscal officer will prepare thank you notes for Ken Frost and Bill Guhn from the City of Fremont for the use of their bucket truck on the CR 41 tornado siren reprogramming effort.

Mr. Lagrou has been in touch with the Bureau of Workers Comp/PERRP regarding their recent visit.

Bryan Myers left full-time employment with the township and his last work day was April 21.

OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Ickes advised that the township has received a copy of the electric aggregation contract from Volunteer Energy.

The new employee handbook was briefly discussed. Mr. Lagrou advised that the employees desire to use all holiday and leave time taken toward their 40 hours a week when earning overtime. In this scenario, overtime would be based on reaching 40 hours in the week, worked or not, as long as 40 hours is reached.

NEW BUSINESS

The township has received four resumes for possible full-time employment. Following a brief discussion, the trustees will hold a meeting on Tuesday, May 14 at 6:00 p.m. for the purpose of entering into Executive Session to discuss employment with applicants.

The April 30, 2019 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. Geyer, seconded by Mr. Kusmer, to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m. Upon a vote, Mr. Geyer - 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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W. Robert Kusmer, Chairman