BALLVILLE TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES – REGULAR MEETING
BALLVILLE TOWNSHIP HOUSE
TUESDAY, MAY 21, 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 Trustees Richard A. Geyer and David P. Stotz.

Moved by Mr. Geyer, seconded by Mr. Stotz, that the minutes of the May 7, 2019 regular meeting be approved as written. Upon a vote, Mr. Geyer - Yes; Mr. Kusmer – Yes; Mr. Stotz –Yes; the motion carried.

Moved by Mr. Geyer, seconded by Mr. Kusmer, that the minutes of the May 14, 2019 special meeting whose purpose was to enter into Executive Session to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee.be approved as written. 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: .....$ 20,706.18

Total receipts: .....$ 2,320.00

Cash total in all funds: .....$ 1,274,687.27

It was moved by Mr. Stotz, 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.

The trustees reviewed account activity for Croghan Colonial VISA 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).

Doug Cheek was present and stated that he wanted "to get my feet wet" on township matters.

Phil Klausz asked about the township using finish mowers on S. River Rd. and Superintendent Lagrou advised that people walk dogs and want to have river access, so it is maintained for that. Two employees can mow it in an hour. Discussion took place about the maintenance of several township properties.

CEMETERY BOARD REPORT - Jim Gillis
Mr. Gillis advised that the Cemetery Board met today and the prices for township cemeteries will be going up on June 1, 2019, with the approval of the trustees. Mr. Lagrou has prepared an updated price sheet.

He also stated that the township still needs to get a title to Hill Cemetery.

The Cemetery Board discussed having a columbarium sometime in the future. The number of cremations permitted per plot in area cemeteries was discussed. The township permits two burials on a plot – either a full burial and a cremation, or two cremations. Mr. Klausz stated that Oakwood Cemetery permits four cremations per plot.

The trustees approved the purchase of a wreath from Otto and Urban for approximately a dozen veterans interred in the Oakwood Mausoleum, something that needs to be done every couple of years. Mr. Lagrou advised the cost is $50.00.

Mr. Geyer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stotz, to increase the rates in township cemeteries effective June 1, 2019. Upon a vote, Mr. Geyer – Yes; Mr. Kusmer – Yes; Mr. Stotz – Yes; the motion passed. Superintendent Lagrou will get the updated rates out to local funeral homes.

Mr. Lagrou will get a copy of the Cemetery Board minutes to Mrs. Ickes when they are done.

ZONING INSPECTOR REPORT - David Bain, Zoning Inspector
Mr. Bain reviewed the Ballville Township Zoning Report from May 21, 2019, which was entered into the township's meeting minutes.

General Dynamics recently contacted him about having a taller tower. Upon researching this, he discovered that the township has no jurisdiction over General Dynamics. They are a public utility and are regulated by the PUCO, not by township zoning.

Mr. Bain will work on the property at Cole and Williams and the problem of tall grass. Once the owner is determined, the township may add the cost of mowing to the property taxes if the township has to have the property mowed.

PARKS BOARD REPORT - Bill Lagrou and Kerry Wood
Mr. Wood advised that there has not been a Parks Board meeting since the last trustees' meeting.

Mr. Lagrou said the township had to purchase a new leaf blower because the old one burned up and quit working.

Mr. Lagrou told Mr. Stotz it was good to see him back, and Mr. Stotz replied that "it is good to be here".

The township crew is working on trimming and mowing, and the Cancer Walk is coming up soon.

Mr. Geyer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stotz, to move Christy Gooslin from Alternate status to a regular member on the Parks Board. Upon a vote, Mr. Kusmer – Yes; Mr. Geyer –Yes; Mr. Stotz – Yes; the motion passed.

Several pending items were discussed. The May 7, 2019 General Fund Levy passed, but Mrs. Ickes advised that the township may not be able to act on any of the pending items. There is a new General Fund issue involving the Health Department assessments, which could increase from less than $5,000.00 to over $80,000.00 next year.

The trustees discussed the Sandusky County Parks grant from 2017 – the township received $7,893.00 and has not spent it yet. The township's share previously had been $2,307.00 for the Expression Swing(s) and other equipment.

The OSS grant was awarded, no money received, but the township has taken no action to utilize it. The grant expires in September.

The steel roofing project started in Conner Park in 2017 had been put on hold. The township has the steel roofing material in storage. At the time the work was done, the labor to complete roofing the remaining buildings was estimated at $1,600.00 for the dugouts, and $3,200.00 for the restroom building.

Mr. Lagrou will get updates on costs for the pending projects.

Mrs. Ickes advised that she spoke to a representative from the Sandusky County Health Department today. They discussed the recent notice that Health Department assessments may greatly increase if the Health Department's November, 2019 levy does not pass. The township currently pays less than $5,000.00 a year, with the assessment to the Health Department by all public entities in the county totaling $37,000.00.

If the November, 2019 Health Department levy does not pass, the Health Department will need to have $560,000.00 in order to operate next year at its current level. The Health Department can, by statute, make an assessment of entities in the county that totals $600,000.00 (instead of $37,000.00). Mrs. Ickes was advised by the County Auditor's office that an increased assessment could be made for tax year 2019, collection year starting in 2020 (next year). The township's share of that assessment is over $80,000.00 a year, up from less than $5,000.00.

Ballville Township currently receives around $160,000.00 in property tax revenue for the General Fund, and the Health Department assessment of over $80,000.00 is half of that current revenue.

Mrs. Ickes stated that the township's May 7, 2019 General Fund additional levy passed, and it is expected to provide a little over $200,000.00 a year to the township. The township had anticipated that this additional amount would keep the General Fund solvent and allow the township to meet its expenses. She stated that the increased Health Department assessment would greatly harm the township's General Fund.

Mrs. Ickes advised that the tax budget is due in July and will have to include the $80,000.00 assessment because it is a potential expenditure. The township will have a difficult time managing both its day-to-day expenses and the additional assessment.

There is also another tax assessment scenario proposed by the Health Department. The township's share would be over $13,000.00; the county tax assessment would total $100,000.00. This amount is believed to be an additional tax levy option for the Health Department for a later date.

ROAD SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – Superintendent Bill Lagrou
The township will have an OTARMA physical review of properties tomorrow morning at 8:00 a.m., and Mr. Lagrou will show them around.

Darr Road and Timpe Road issues continue and the township is working on the problems

Superintendent Lagrou and Brandon Shull, of S&S, went to assess the water problems at the home of Kim Wright, 907 Timpe Road. Sandusky County Engineer Carlos Baez has reviewed the situation and has made suggestions to correct the problems, estimated at a cost of $12,000.00. This includes installing two catch basins, a 12 inch tile and re-routing the main on her property. Easements will be needed. There is a fire hydrant in Ms. Wright's yard that will need to be worked around. Mr. Lagrou will have something prepared for the next meeting on this matter.

Superintendent Lagrou asked the trustees if they could go into Executive Session before the meeting was over to discuss and follow up on the May 14 personnel meeting.

Mr. Geyer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stotz, to accept the low bid of $36,291.00 from Erie Blacktop for the Buchman Road repaving project. Upon a vote – Mr. Geyer – Yes; Mr. Kusmer – Yes; Mr. Stotz – Yes; the motion passed. The county engineer's estimate on this project was $36,000.00.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS
The Sandusky County Disaster Recovery Plan was discussed and the township does, in fact, participate in the county's plan. Mrs. Ickes advised that the state auditor's report from the last audit brought into question whether there was a plan.

Mr. Geyer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stotz, for increased appropriations in the General Fund to appropriate the donations from both Walter Whitt and Phil Klausz (for the Connie Joy Klausz Memorial). The motion passed following a roll call vote: Mr. Geyer - Yes; Mr. Kusmer - Yes; Mr. Stotz – Yes; as Resolution 2019-7:

RESOLUTION 2019-7
A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF BALLVILLE TOWNSHIP TO ADJUST APPROPRIATIONS OF CERTAIN ACCOUNT LINES IN VARIOUS FUNDS.

Mr. Geyer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stotz, for reallocation of line items to adjust appropriations closer to expected expenditures. The motion passed following a roll call vote: Mr. Geyer - Yes; Mr. Kusmer - Yes; Mr. Stotz – Yes; as Resolution 2019-8:

RESOLUTION 2019-8
A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF BALLVILLE TOWNSHIP TO REALLOCATE AMONG ACCOUNT LINE ITEMS WITHIN VARIOUS FUNDS.

Discussion turned again to the Sandusky County Health Department's assessment. Chairman Kusmer stated that the Health Department can legally come after the township's General Fund revenue. It is possible they will be increasing the assessment from the township – currently it is less than $5,000.00, and it could go up to over $80,000.00 if the Health Department's levy that is on the November, 2019 ballot does not pass. That increased assessment will be 24% of the township's General Fund projected revenue.

For some townships, the Health Department assessment could be as high as 30% of their General Fund revenues.

Mr. Kusmer has discussed this with the Ohio Township Association in order to find a way to change the statute that allows this. He is also concerned about the financial hardship that would occur if Oakwood Cemetery would be transferred to the township.

It has been suggested that the Sandusky County Commissioners have the ability to stop the increased Health Department assessments from taking place. Chairman Kusmer is hoping to get all the townships on board to sign a letter as we need to fight hard to keep this from happening. He has learned that there are other counties in Ohio that are dealing with this scenario also.

Discussion took place on the services that the Health Department provides to the township.

Mrs. Ickes stated that she was told that the Health Department needs $560,000 next year to maintain operating at their current level. Their November levy is expect to get this amount for them. If not, it is likely that they will assess county entities for the $600,000 assessment next year, in 2020. That assessment rate means $80,950.13 will come straight from the township's General Fund next year. That is half of what the General Fund receives right now.

Mr. Geyer stated that he contacted several of the volunteer board members about attendance. He reported that Walter Lamson wants to stay on the Board of Zoning Commission, but does not want to be the chairman. Brad Stearns advised that he is considering resigning for personal/family reasons.

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

There being no further business, it was moved by Mr. Stotz, seconded by Mr. Geyer, to adjourn the meeting at 6:32 p.m. Upon a vote, Mr. Geyer - Yes; Mr. Kusmer - Yes; Mr. Stotz – Yes; the motion passed and the meeting was adjourned.

At 6:32 p.m., Mr. Geyer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stotz, to re-open the meeting to enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel/employment as requested by Mr. Lagrou earlier in the trustees' meeting. Upon a vote, Mr. Geyer – Yes; Mr. Kusmer – Yes; Mr. Stotz – Yes; the motion carried and the meeting was re-opened.

The trustees agreed that the new full-time employee hired by the trustees would be paid at a rate of $16.00 an hour. Health insurance is paid by the township for the employee, and the employee must pay 100% of premiums for spouse and/or dependents. The employee that is hired must have a CDL or obtain one within six months of hire. Mr. Lagrou advised that there is an eight-day course in October for the CDL training.

At 6:45 p.m., Mr. Geyer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Kusmer, to enter into Executive Session to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee. Upon a roll call vote, Mr. Stotz – Yes; Mr. Geyer – Yes; Mr. Kusmer – Yes; the motion passed and the trustees entered into Executive Session with Superintendent Lagrou and Mrs. Ickes.

At 6:50 p.m, Mr. Geyer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stotz, to leave Executive Session and return to the regular meeting. Upon a roll call vote, Mr. Kusmer – Yes; Mr. Stotz – Yes; Mr. Geyer – Yes; the motion passed and the trustees returned to regular session.

Applicants for the full-time position were discussed. Mr. Geyer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Kusmer, to offer the position to an agreed-upon applicant. Upon a vote, Mr. Geyer – Yes; Mr. Kusmer – Yes; Mr. Stotz – Yes; the motion passed. Mr. Lagrou will also contact the person to discuss the offer of employment. The start date will be decided in the process.

There being no further business, it was moved by Mr. Stotz, seconded by Mr. Geyer, to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 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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W. Robert Kusmer, Chairman