BALLVILLE TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES – REGULAR MEETING
BALLVILLE TOWNSHIP HOUSE
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 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 Philip F. Klausz.

Moved by Mr. Geyer, seconded by Mr. Klausz, that the minutes of the September 3, 2019 meeting be approved as written. Upon a vote, Mr. Geyer - Yes; Mr. Klausz –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, and also a Revenue Status Report. A verbal financial report was given as follows for today's meeting:

Total bills: .....$ 118,718.85
Total receipts: .....$ 2,871.58
Cash total in all funds: .....$ 1,262,541.97

It was moved by Mr. Klausz, seconded by Mr. Geyer, that the financial report be approved and the bills be paid. Upon a vote, Mr. Geyer – Yes; Mr. Klausz – Yes; Mr. Kusmer –Yes; the motion carried.

The trustees reviewed account activity for the Croghan Colonial Bank 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.

All three trustees and Mrs. Ickes were present earlier today for the exit conference for the 2017-2018 financial audit with Kristina Hoyng of the State Auditor's office.

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

Randy Johnson of 1052 Siler St. asked about the property on Siler St. where a trailer and house were recently removed. Mr. Kusmer said this property went into the Sandusky County Land Bank because the property taxes were not paid. After the county gets title to land bank properties, they are improved and sold. The Paul Reedy property is next to this property on Siler St. - the property taxes are still being paid, and the township has been working since last year to determine the owner. Discussion took place on mowing, tree cutting, etc., and Mr. Bain and Mr. Kusmer indicated that the township is hoping to get a resolution on the property.

CEMETERY BOARD REPORT - Jack Ferguson and Jim Gillis
Mr. Gillis asked about whether the cemetery mower will last another year; it is on its third/fourth season. Superintendent Lagrou believes it will be good for another year. Mr. Lagrou said Willie's has a mower like the one used at St. Joseph Cemetery, and it is pretty good. The township can also get state purchasing, and leasing was discussed.

The Cemetery Board will meet at noon on the first Tuesday in October, October 1, for its semi-annual meeting. Mr. Gillis and Mr. Ferguson wants to make sure John Willey is notified of the meeting.

Mr. Kusmer stated that the township has been informed that the Ohio Department of Commerce cemetery grant application was denied. If successful, the grant would have been applied to the costs to obtain the deed to Hill Cemetery. This was the first year for this grant, and there were 40 applicants. One of the criteria was apparently that the last interment had to be within the past 25 years, and 1905 was the last interment in Hill Cemetery.

Mr. Lagrou shared an article that was dropped off today about McGormley Cemetery's history. He advised that McGormley Cemetery was given to Ballville Township in 1927. There were no written records prior to 1909, and the township's first deed is from 1936. Discussion took place. Hill and Halter Cemeteries were shut down in the early 2000s because of Indian burials potentially there. Decker and Lebanon Cemeteries are still active; there are no new sales, but family members continue to be buried there. McGormley Cemetery is still active with new sales and burials.

ZONING INSPECTOR REPORT - David Bain, Zoning Inspector
Mr. Bain reviewed the Ballville Township Zoning Report from September 17, 2019, which was entered into the township's meeting minutes.

The Tim Pollard property was discussed. Mr. Pollard constructed a garage first, when it is the residence that should have been built first. Trustee Klausz advised the house is where the tax base is. Mr. Bain will monitor this property, and keep the trustees informed.

A brief discussion took place on the City of Fremont and the dam/overlook area.

In order to resolve ongoing zoning issues, Mr. Klausz asked Mr. Bain to choose just one, any one, of the problem properties and follow through to get the problem corrected Mr. Bain discussed the problems at Michael Compliment's property. Definitive action to clean up, prosecute, fine, etc., will get problems resolved. There is a need to show the public the township is serious about zoning. Perhaps revoking permits if zoning is not followed would alleviate the number of ongoing, unresolved zoning issues. Mr. Bain is doing a good job, and the township needs to show that rules will be enforced. Discussion continued regarding zoning matters.

Jack Ferguson asked about the Haunted Hydro and the burlap-covered fence that is a recent development over there. Chairman Kusmer advised that this should be discussed with Solicitor Barney. Mr. Lagrou reported that there is a fire inspection on Monday at the Hydro. The Hydro attorney and the township's attorney have been in communication about zoning matters.

PARKS BOARD REPORT - Bill Lagrou and Kerry Wood
The Parks Board meeting minutes from September 9, 2019 and revised meeting minutes from August 12, 2019 were entered into the township's meeting minutes, along with special meeting minutes from September 16, 2019 regarding Chudzinski Johannsen Park.

Kerry Wood noted that the recent increase in shelterhouse fees for next year took place after action was taken by the Board of Trustees. Usually the Parks Board discusses these things first.

Kerry Wood spoke to Tom Hoffman of Valley Electric about the cost savings the township has seen since installing LED lights. Mr. Hoffman said he could put LED bulbs in the same fixtures that are currently not LED, and it would save more money. Starters and ballasts would have to be taken out, or maybe just new heads installed. Discussion took place. Mr. Lagrou advised that two of the older light poles have fallen in the last two years. The lights in the back are newer.

Mr. Lagrou advised that Tyson Root of Root Electric will be providing a quote for surge protectors.

Mr. Wood asked about putting roofs on the dugouts and restroom building at Conner Park. Roofing materials were purchased previously and then the work was put on hold before these roofs were done. Discussion took place on things to be repaired in Conner Park. Mr. Lagrou was directed to get a written quote for the cost of labor to finish the roofing. If it is $4,800 or less, the cost originally quoted, the work can probably be done this year. Mr. Kusmer indicated that money can be moved from park wages as they are only at 39% of the budgeted amount.

The County Parks Grant was discussed next. The township has received the money already. Mr. Lagrou received a quote as of August 13, 2019 of $12,552 for the Expression swing. This is a $2,100 increase, but includes the wood fiber ground matting underneath. The price in May, 2018 totaled $12,119.81, which was $10,604.81 for the swing and $1,515.00 for the wood fiber matting. Mr. Lagrou will provide written copies of the quotes to the trustees.

Upon discussion, it was agreed that there is great interest in completing the Expression swing and roofing projects. Mr. Kusmer advised that the township would probably have to move about $7,100 around to allow the completion of these projects.

The township children's Halloween party is Wednesday, October 30 at 7:00 p.m. The Connie Klausz fund will be used. The event will be posted on the township's Facebook page.

Chairman Kusmer discussed the Chudzinski Johannsen Park project and a recent meeting with the Parks Board. Prices from Great Lakes Demolition, the contractor performing the road work, who is already on-site, offered several additional options to the township for the park's development. Mr. Kusmer advised their quote for the additional work is very good considering the work to be done.

Mr. Kusmer advised that a pond cannot be constructed because bedrock was found, making the ground unsuitable for a pond.

The Parks Board reviewed the options from Great Lakes and the township trustees were asked to vote to approve Options 1, 2 and 4. The four options received for additional work in Chudzinski Johannsen Park are attached to the minutes, and are listed below:

Option 1 - $18,100.00 road swale on lower area that will drain down to the river.
Option 2 – $49,347.00 for a new parking lot at the lower end. This is a small parking lot with swale for draining and paved with appropriate curbing.
Option 3 - $108,800.00 to construct a large parking lot (200 cars). This cost is too high to consider.
Option 4 – $19,900.00 for the creation of a stream across the property, meandering from Misty Meadows down to the river. Chairman Kusmer will speak to the Misty Meadows Board of Directors regarding this work.

The recommendation is to go with Options 1, 2 and 4 for a total additional amount of $87,347.00. This work would bring the total to $310,313.70. for work with Great Lakes Demolition. The State Capital Grant is for $300,000. There is $190,000 in the township's fund from donations. Trees for a wooded area would also need to be purchased.

Chairman Kusmer asked to increase the contract for Great Lakes to $310,313.70. This would mean about $330,000 total expenditures with trees, grasses, etc.

The township work crew will cut paths and seed when construction is complete. Wildflowers, and rye, meadow, and sage grasses, along with hardwood trees, will be planted. By next year, the township should have a good park going. The road is cut in all the way (stone), and curbing work will be done soon. Parking lots will be put in once approved. A ditch will need to be added.

Mr. Kusmer will let ODNR know that the construction schedule will change regarding the grant, and that there will be no pond.

Mr. Klausz made a motion to continue the Chudzinski Johannsen work by adding Options 1, 2 and 4 to the contract for Great Lakes Demolition. Mr. Kusmer seconded the motion. Upon a vote, Mr. Geyer – No; Mr. Klausz - Yes; Mr. Kusmer – Yes. The motion carried 2-1.

Mr. Wood asked Mr. Geyer why he voted against this motion, and Mr. Geyer replied that he has always been opposed to this park.

Mr. Brindley asked about the stream. Mr. Kusmer advised that it will come from the existing creek with the ability for the township to control it. A wetlands area will be created, and it will be a great place for Biology students, in particular, to experience and learn.

Next Wednesday, Mr. Lagrou will have a walk-through with Beth Adams of the EPA. It has been about four years since they've had one. The township will probably will have to go to once a month water samples after this visit. Right now, samples are only taken three times a year.

Matt Haynes' brick is in Conner Park in memory of his dad, Dave Haynes. The township receives a $50.00 donation for paver bricks. The cost to engrave is $30.00. It would be wise for the township to revisit these costs to evaluate and reaffirm its schedule of rates.

Mr. Lagrou has just taken one of his trainings for water testing; the second one is on October 23. His water certification is then good through 2022.

ROAD SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – Superintendent Bill Lagrou

Lisa Kuelling sent an email requesting a meeting with the trustees regarding mitigation. Mr. Lagrou will set something up with her. The trustees hope to meet with her tentatively on October 15 at 4:30 p.m.

John Willey has requested trustee input regarding the county's Comprehensive Plan and he will be in touch to gather what is needed.

Superintendent Lagrou completed the OTARMA safety survey and sent it in. He will provide a copy to the fiscal officer.

Mr. Lagrou obtained a copy of the crash report for the accident involving a vehicle that struck a township truck recently. The accident was also reported to Sprouse Insurance, the township's insurance agent. The other party had car insurance, and the driver was cited for failure to control.

Discussion turned to the anticipated drainage work at Kim Wright's property on Timpe Rd. Mr. Lagrou and Mr. Kusmer talked about an easement that will be needed for the neighboring property owned by Eduardo Delarosa. A PO will be needed for Attorney Anthony Chudzinski for $400.00, which should adequately cover the cost for the easement. The drainage work at Ms. Wright's property is hoped to start in October/November.

Superintendent Lagrou requested that the township renew its Sam's Club membership. Mr. Lagrou would like to go back to Sam's and get their trash bags because they work better than any other the township has tried. Mr. Geyer made a motion to get a new Sam's membership, and Mr. Klausz seconded the motion. Upon a vote – Mr. Geyer – Yes; Mr. Klausz – Yes; Mr. Kusmer – Yes; the motion carried.

The township is looking into the use of the county's ditch mower with the long, extended arm. The cost would be $50.00 an hour for the mower and a county-employee operator. There are 6-7 places the township can't reach with its equipment. A purchase order will be needed if the county does this work for the township.

The township crew replaced a rotted tile at Elm and Fennimore last week. Superintendent Lagrou advised that they will patch over this with hot mix because it is a high traffic road.

The joint 2020 Issue II application with Green Creek, Sandusky, Townsend, and York Townships was turned in to the County Engineer on September 5 at 11:45, before the deadline. Everything seems to be in order. Mr. Kusmer said there is an Issue II meeting on Friday.

Mr. Lagrou was asked if he could look at Jesse Sandoval's property (dirt, grass) at the corner of Buchanan and Richard.

Kerry Wood asked about Les Gallatin, who passed away recently. There is a tree in Conner Park that was planted for his many years of service as he served on both the Parks and and Zoning Board for at least 15-22 years. It was discussed to have a paver engraved in memory of him.

Mrs. Ickes advised that she will send in the OTARMA MORE grant application to reimburse the township for $500.00 for the recent Windows 10 upgrade for township computers. Payment is made in tonight's payments to Seneca Computers for this work.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Ohio Township Association scholarship application is available to graduating seniors. It has been sent to area high schools, posted on the township's website, and at the township house.

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. Klausz, to adjourn the meeting at 7:18 p.m. Upon a vote, Mr. Geyer - Yes; Mr. Klausz – 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