# BALLVILLE TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES – REGULAR MEETING
## BALLVILLE TOWNSHIP HOUSE
## TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 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 November 5, 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. A verbal financial report was given as follows for today's meeting:

Total bills: .....$ 45,920.00
Total receipts: .....$ 150.00
Cash total in all funds: .....$ 1,236,256.55

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 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).

Ron Shoemaker congratulated the trustees on getting the road levy passed.

George Snyder asked about 1121/1131 Siler St. which is owned by the Sandusky County Land Bank. He asked where the sewer and gas lines are, and it was discussed that the assessment is done by the Sandusky County Sanitary Engineer. The area of a lot that can be used for a building is 25%, and township zoning was discussed. Mr. Kusmer suggested that Mr. Snyder call OUPS about the location of utilities. The Sandusky County Health Dept. can help with the two dead wells there.

Fred Recktenwald, 15 Linda Drive, thanked the township and the road crew for getting out early and plowing the roads. He also asked why the township does not plow Linda Drive. It was discussed that it was never accepted for township maintenance. Mr. Recktenwald stated that snow plowing was considered a safety factor. They are a private road open to public travel as opposed to being a gated community. He asked that the township plow their road for safety purposes as there are 150 people in their condominium complex, many of them older persons.

Chairman Kusmer stated that Jim Barney, the township solicitor, will be asked to research this, and he reminded that the condominium association is a private entity treated the same as a private citizen. Mr. Recktenwald said this is not a maintenance item, but rather a safety issue. Mr. Lagrou said the township has gone in and plowed when there has been an emergency. The condominium association's plows are not out as early as the township's crew.

Ed Ollom, state representative candidate on the Republican ticket in March, 2020, introduced himself as a life-long township resident. He is pro-growth community; he is an engineer - not a politician. He supports intelligent infrastructure and the parks. There are good things in Ballville. He brought cards that he can hand out after the meeting.

Tom Ackerman, newly elected fiscal officer for Ballville, was present to introduce himself, and advised that he will be taking over shortly with the help of the trustees.

**HEALTH DEPARTMENT REPORT -** Trustee Rick Geyer
Tuesday, November 26 at 7:30 a.m., the Advisory Committee is meeting to discuss the tax assessment for townships. Chairman Kusmer has a lot of people coming in support of the townships. Discussion took place on the Health Department assessment. The Ohio Township Association is working on relief from the assessments in the state code.

**CEMETERY BOARD REPORT -** Jack Ferguson and Jim Gillis
Jim Gillis stated that all the veterans' flags have been taken off the cemeteries. It was noted that the township is marking the three-year anniversary of the McGormley Cemetery Veterans' Section.

Wreaths did not go up on Veterans' Day because of snow.

Anstead Construction might not be able to get in this year for the cleaning of the McGormley Veterans' Section for pressure washing and sealing.

Cemetery software was discussed and it was decided that Superintendent Lagrou will respond to an email from Matt Dean of UAN to let him know that the township will not pursue the UAN Cemetery Module. The township will renew with Pontem only.

**ZONING INSPECTOR REPORT -** David Bain, Zoning Inspector
Mr. Bain reviewed the Ballville Township Zoning Report from November 19, 2019, which was entered into the township's meeting minutes.

**PARKS BOARD REPORT -** Bill Lagrou and Kerry Wood
Mr. Wood reported that only three Parks Board members attended last Monday's meeting. There are attendance issues that must be addressed. The members present agreed that a portable restroom in Conner Park would be a good idea over the winter months. Decorating the Ballville Bridge was discussed. LED lighting will continue to be considered after the first of the year.

Mr. Klausz made a motion, seconded by Mr. Geyer, to provide a portable restroom in Conner Park at the cost of $75.00 a month from Adkins Sanitation. This will be available beginning in December for five months at a total cost of $375.00. Upon a vote, Mr. Geyer – Yes; Mr. Klausz – Yes; Mr. Kusmer – Yes; the motion carried.

Last week a truck hit the ROAD CLOSED sign at the Chudzinski Johannsen Park, and there was minor damage to the sign.

A check has been prepared for the trustees' signatures tonight for DWA Recreation. Mr. Lagrou will send the check in with the Expression Swing order, as discussed at the last meeting.

Mr. Lagrou advised that S & S will come in and probably take a day to finish the Conner Park roofing project.

**ROAD SUPERINTENDENT REPORT –** Superintendent Bill Lagrou
Mr. Lagrou advised that five new batteries from Futronics for the township's repeater units are needed and will cost a total of $437.00. Mr. Geyer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Klausz, to make this purchase. Mrs. Ickes advised that a purchase order will be issued from the Gasoline Tax Fund. Upon a vote, Mr. Geyer – Yes; Mr. Klausz – Yes; Mr. Kusmer – Yes; the motion carried to purchase the batteries.

Gary Lemaitre of Siler St. has inquired about a driveway that runs from Siler to Buckland. He has maintained it for years. This road was put in by residents over the years and is a "paper" alley – there is no parcel number and no one owns it. Mr. Lemaitre wants to know if the township would take care of it. Mr. Kusmer will discuss this with Jim Barney. The township's previous solicitor, Randy Strickler, had advised the township not to touch it because of liability issues.

Mike Willis of Sandusky Township contacted Mr. Lagrou regarding a skid loader that is for sale and they are asking $54,000.00, which is negotiable. A new one is $86,000. This one is 5-6 years old and is a nice one. Ballville has borrowed it several times and has probably put 20 of the 160 hours on it. The clam bucket doesn't work that well. After discussion, the trustees agreed they are not interested and would rather have a front-end loader to meet the township's needs.

The Progress Road re-dedication was last done in 1984. Discussion took place.

Superintendent Lagrou has a list of 11 trees that need to be removed. Quotes were received for tree and stump removal from Hawk Tree Service - $11,400.00; Axe Pro - $7,600.00; and Bill Sowers - $10,500.00. The township will take care of removing the grindings, replacing with dirt, and planting grass. Mr. Klausz made a motion, with a second by Mr. Geyer, to approve the bid from Ax-Pro for this work. Upon a vote, Mr. Geyer – Yes; Mr. Klausz – Yes; Mr. Kusmer – Yes; the motion carried. Mr. Lagrou advised that he has received a Certificate of Insurance and proof of Workers's Comp from Ax-Pro.

The township crew is back working on leaf removal. They have collected 26 loads so far and can continue now that the snow is gone.

**OLD BUSINESS**

A motion to accept the health insurance renewal proposal from Sprouse Insurance through Medical Mutual for January 1, 2020 was made by Mr. Geyer, seconded by Mr. Klausz. Upon a vote, Mr. Geyer – Yes; Mr. Klausz – Yes; Mr. Kusmer – Yes; the motion carried. The trustees signed a renewal letter that will be sent to Julie Hasselbach at Sprouse Insurance.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Chairman Kusmer advised that on November 30 at 11:59 p.m. Mrs. Ickes is stepping down as fiscal officer and the trustees have to appoint someone. On Sunday, December 1 at 9:00 a.m. the trustees will have a special meeting to appoint Tom Ackerman. Mr. Klausz made a motion, with a second by Mr. Geyer, to hold this meeting. Upon a vote, Mr. Geyer – Yes; Mr. Klausz – Yes; Mr. Kusmer – Yes; the motion carried. Mrs. Ickes will place the legal notice for this special meeting. The first meeting for Mr. Ackerman as fiscal officer would be Tuesday, December 3. Trustee Geyer said that he has talked to the township's attorney about having a retired fiscal officer help train Mr. Ackerman and help with close-out of the year. Mr. Kusmer stated that Dave Robenstine was a fiscal officer for many years. Mrs. Ickes reminded that there would have to be money appropriated before proceeding with this.

The OTA winter conference is coming up. Mr. Kusmer suggested a good attendance by the township at the conference.

Mr. Kusmer advised that employee Chad Myers'grandfather recently died. Chad took Monday and Tuesday off, and the funeral was yesterday. As a newer employee, Chad had no sick or vacation time to use to take off for the funeral. Upon discussion, the trustees want to pay him for these days even though he had no leave time to use. Mr. Kusmer made a motion, with a second by Mr. Geyer, to pay Mr. Myers for these days off. Upon a vote – Mr. Geyer – Yes; Mr. Klausz – Yes; Mr. Kusmer – Yes; the motion carried. Additional discussion took place and it was noted that Chad has a comp time accrued balance. Mr. Klausz stated that the township needs to take care of its employees. Mr. Lagrou advised that he wants to review the employee handbook with the trustees in January.

Superintendent Lagrou advised that Chad Myers has passed his CDL test.

Chairman Kusmer wants to bring back the Christmas party for township residents. The trustees will pay for the party privately, and are looking at December 13. All are welcome.

Brent Binkley wants to be on the Zoning Board. Mr. Klausz made a motion, with a second by Mr. Geyer, to accept him for the open position that expires 12/31/21. Upon a vote, Mr. Geyer – Yes; Mr. Klausz – Yes; Mr. Kusmer – Yes; the motion carried.

Ron Shoemaker will submit a letter to move from the Board of Zoning Appeals to the open position previously held by Walt Lamson on the Board of Zoning Commission that expires on 12/31/21.

Rick Geyer passed out an email he sent to Mrs. Ickes on November 6 regarding a payroll issue for trustees (copy attached). The trustees and the solicitor were cc:'d on the email. Mrs. Ickes advised that she was threatened by Trustee Geyer over this in 2016 and therefore she did not respond; instead she had requested that Solicitor Jim Barney speak to Mr. Geyer about this matter.

Mr. Geyer advised that they are to be paid a certain amount by ORC. Mrs. Ickes asked if Mr. Geyer spoke with Solicitor Jim Barney about this after he sent the email. Mr. Geyer advised that he and Mr. Kusmer are being ripped off. Solicitor Barney had told him they would catch up. Discussion took place. Trustee Geyer insists that you must be paid in the same fiscal year. The trustees will work with Tom Ackerman, who was recently elected as the new fiscal officer to resolve this. Chairman Kusmer said we have to be paid at the end of the month, and at the second meeting of the month a check should be issued and signed by the trustees and dated for the last day of the month like it used to be done. Mrs. Ickes wished Tom Ackerman good luck.

Mr. Geyer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Klausz for the reallocation of funds, with Mrs. Ickes providing a brief explanation. The motion passed following a roll call vote: Mr. Geyer - Yes; Mr. Klausz – Yes; Mr. Kusmer - Yes; as Resolution 2019-30:

**RESOLUTION 2019-30**
*A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF BALLVILLE TOWNSHIP TO REALLOCATE AMONG ACCOUNT LINE ITEMS WITHIN GENERAL FUND AND THE GASOLINE TAX FUND*

Mrs. Ickes advised that the purchase order for the River Drive Lighting Assessment could not be dated November 1 since the date the County Auditor did not certify that "expenses do not exceed estimated available resources" in this fund until November 7 due to the county's recent computer ransomware problem. She advised that the new fiscal officer may have to pay several dollars from the General Fund to pay for the remainder of 2019 utility bills.

A letter to UAN, Ohio Shared Services, and other necessary notifications that there is a change in fiscal officers was discussed in order to ensure a smooth transition.

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 6:49 p.m. Upon a vote, Mr. Geyer - Yes; Mr. Klausz – Yes; Mr. Kusmer - Yes; the motion passed and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

_____, Fiscal Officer on December 3, 2019
* Minutes record by Ellen K. Ickes, Fiscal Officer on November 19, 2019

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W. Robert Kusmer, Chairman