

RUSHCREEK TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES
BOARD MEETING
09/21/2017

Hart Van Horn, Chairman called the Rushcreek Township Trustees Board meeting to order at 7:04pm leading with the Pledge of Allegiance dedicating it to the military who defend this nation and the law enforcement who protect our freedoms. Those in attendance in addition to Hart were: Dave Myers, Trustee; Bill Myers, Trustee; Road Superintendent, Doug Hintz; and Will Duvall, Fire Chief. Hart asked that all cell phones be muted along with all fire radios except the Chief and Road Superintendent.

Visitors

Chad Ashbaugh, Tracy Shahan, Bob Suer, Gary Davis, Tim Davis, Earl Lehman, Doug Burnworth, Lisa Burnworth, Raymond McCandlish.

Announcement

On September 11th the following Meeting Change was sent to the Eagle Gazette and placed on the website: *The County Land Bank and Prosecutor's office are holding an informational meeting at 7:00pm on September 20th in the Commissioner's Hearing Office. They are exploring a pilot program for the land bank to provide financial and logistical assistance to the townships for demolition of condemned structures. Due to the importance of this meeting, Rushcreek Township Trustees will be attending. Therefore, Rushcreek Township Trustees regular board meeting has been changed to September 21st at 7:00pm.* Results of meeting located under Trustee Van Horn's report.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Hart Van Horn reported on policy, Ohio Revised Code, open meetings act and sunshine laws. Rushcreek Township policy is based on state laws, some of these are further clarified at the county level and again in the township. Hart stated that there are no Triple F policies - Favors for Friends and Family - in other words; A Trustee cannot just make a statement that there is a law or policy unless it's based on State Law and a Trustee should be prepared to provide a copy of that policy/law. The Rushcreek Township Policy Manual is not a mystery, but is printed and always available in the Township Hall - Hart encouraged anyone to come read through it, ask questions about it whenever the offices are open to the public - Saturday morning between 8-10 a.m. are great times for this. The Township Policies will remain in place and the Manual will not be burned.

Hart explained political sign policy. All candidates are welcome to have supporters to display signs and promotions on their respective private property. A Trustee cannot intimidate a citizen or candidate from doing otherwise. As long as it's within the laws of Ohio, these displays can stay up all year. The Township has no authority over this type of display in regards to state or federal law. Hart apologized on behalf of the Township for Trustee Dave Myers actions towards contrary to the law.

Law and Policy are governed by authority beyond the township in the form of Ohio Revised Code, Ohio Administrative Code, Legal Precedent and the Attorney General's Opinion.

Meeting Agendas - Items and reports will be germane to the current business of the Township. That is described in the areas just mentioned. It's often referred to as Best Management Practice or BMP. Basically, we're not to be wasting the taxpayer's money on the approach of "Favors for Friends and Family". Hart also emphasized that political campaigning is not allowed during a meeting or anywhere on township property. If someone wants to be on record, speaking on the agenda is not as effective as completing the Citizen Comment/Complaint Form. As an example, during Open Session Mr. Gary Davis' comments on this form about the poor quality of roads in the area of his home will become Township record.

Trustees and Department heads are held to the same procedural policy as citizens. They can't just ignore BMP and trash policy or leave an item open in case something happens or in case something is said. Trustees are to prepare for meetings, just like everyone else. Therefore, the meeting will proceed with a closer eye on following the appropriate order.

Agenda

Raymond McCandlish advised that he has worked for the State of Ohio as Project Inspector on the roads for twelve years. After the chip/seal project he has driven throughout the Township and believes that the Township did a good job this year. There was no emulsion bleeding through that he observed. Raymond advised that it doesn't take a rocket scientist to do chip/seal and with the road crew having three men to complete projects he felt a lot gets accomplished. Raymond commented on his candidacy for Trustee and Hart imposed his authority to stop campaign comments. Mr. McCandlish thanked the Trustees for the donated time given to the Township.

Minutes

The minutes of the September 6th Regular Meeting and September 11th Special Meeting were presented to the Trustees for approval. Bill made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes because the Trustees had reviewed them prior to the meeting and approve the minutes. Dave seconded the motion. Roll Call: Dave, yes; Bill, yes; Hart, aye. Hart reminded everyone that the minutes are available upon request at the Fiscal Officer's office and the website www.rushcreektwp.org.

Treasurer's Report

EFT #575-2017 - #604-2017 and Warrants #40836 - #40855 in the amounts of \$179,097.53 were presented to the Trustees for signatures. This includes payments to: Seifert \$108,859.66; VFP Fire System \$7,106.40; and materials used for chip/seal. Dave made a motion to pay the bills and Bill seconded the motion. Roll Call: Hart, aye; Dave, aye; Bill, aye. Bill asked if the payment to VFP was the final payment and Hart responded that there continues to be retainage.

Appropriation Changes:

\$1,210.99 from 2021-330-230 to 2021-330-190
\$5,689.00 from 2021-330-420 to 2021-330-190
\$4,931.69 from 2192-330-400 to 2192-330-323-1000

Purchase Orders #24-2017 & #37-2017 were presented for signatures:

Road Superintendent Hintz presented the Board with a list of expenditures for the next period in the amount of \$16,000.00. Dave made a motion to approve the list of expenditures and Bill seconded the motion. Roll Call: Hart, aye; Dave, aye; Bill, aye. Hart asked about repairs to the International. Doug responded that the International has some electrical problems and repairs are estimated at \$1,000.00. The Purchase Order for chip/seal materials can now be closed.

Fire Chief Duvall presented the Board with a list of expenditures for the next period in the amount of \$2,150.00. Bill made a motion to approve the list of expenditures and Dave seconded the motion. Roll Call: Hart, aye; Dave, aye; Bill, aye.

Business

Chief Will Duvall reported the following:

- Runs during the last pay period: 9 EMS including 6 transports and 1 fire runs.
- Attended the weekly renovation meetings. This week projects are cabinets and flooring. The finish work continues on the suppression system.
- Engine 541 had valve work to the pump started with completion anticipated shortly.
- Repairs to the bay garage door are complete.
- On September 30th at 9:00am the fire department will hold a Farm Rescue class led by Instructor Lt. Jordan Irwin. Richland and Pleasant Townships have been invited to attend.

Road Superintendent Doug Hintz reported the following:

- Equipment used during chip/seal was cleaned and serviced prior to placing in storage for next season.
- Low hanging tree limbs were cut and chipped in a few problem areas. More tree trimming will be completed once the weather turns cooler.

- Pot holes and plugged culverts were addressed throughout the township. The crew realizes there are more which will be taken care of as time allows.
- The following roads were graded: Marietta at W. Rushville Road, Holliday, Avalon, and Purvis.
- Work on the fence at the Township has resumed and will continue as time and weather allows.
- Worked on the dust mat on Fairview.

Bill stated that he has inspected the dust mat on Fairview and the crew did a super job. He continued by asking Dave and Hart to inspect the results of this dust control trial procedure with asphalt grindings which seems to be effective.

Connie reported the following:

- As a matter of housekeeping on September 8th two files were delivered to the Prosecuting Attorney for review. The OPEC file along with the check in the amount of \$1,749.99 and a contract from FEMA to approve the compressor system. The contract was delivered to the Prosecuting Attorney for his review prior to presenting to the Board for approval.
- Fairfield County Board of Elections again requested verification to utilize the township garage as a voting machine transport garage for the upcoming November 7th election. Road Superintendent Doug Hintz validated the form which was returned to the Board of Elections.
- Lancaster Public Transit System sent a request, distributed to the Trustees, for funding from Rushcreek Township 2018 budget which has been an on-going request for the Trustee's consideration.
- Rushcreek Township annually requires a Driver Abstract on all employees and elected officials. These forms require a notary signature which Bremen Bank has again agreed to provide at no charge. The forms were distributed to all department supervisors. The Trustees and Supervisors agreed to have the forms back to the business office by October 9th. If problems were anticipated, the forms should be mailed to the respective employees to assure completion by the established deadline.
- On March 7th the Trustees held a Special Meeting to discuss the Fire Suppression System. A motion was passed to transfer \$68,200.00 from the Fire Fund to the Capital Improvement Fund and an Amended Certificate was obtained. In reviewing the documents, we did not include in the request to appropriate the money from the Capital Improvement Fund. Bill made a motion to approve the appropriation amount of \$68,200.00 within the Capital Improvement Fund and Hart seconded the motion. Roll Call: Hart, aye; Dave, aye; Bill, aye. Connie will provide documentation to the Auditor.

Trustee Reports

Dave

- Reviewed and approved fire and road payroll.
- Helped road crew on various road projects.
- John Bowman, Bremen Village zoning inspector was contacted regarding the fence permit. A fence permit is good for two years therefore a new permit was issued with an expiration date of December 28, 2018.
- All Trustees attended the Land Bank meeting on September 20th.
- He apologized for calling Lisa Burnworth about the campaign sign and advised he did not call because his brother was also running for office, it was because the Township had Resolution #2013-13 adopted. Lisa responded that she was unsure how the conversation that she had with Dave was made public as she thought the matter was settled. Campaign signs are also covered in the Rushcreek Township zoning rules on pages 14 and 61.

Bill

- Thanked Dave for covering on his September 16th Saturday duty. He will be busy on October 7th therefore the board will work out details to have the time covered.
- Spoke with the crew who is doing the bridge repair on Marietta road which is running ahead of schedule.

- The following zoning permits have been issued since the last meeting: Tim Wolf, 800 Jerusalem Rd. – front & back porch; Brad Bigham, 11320 Graffis – accessory building; and Mark Rogers, 1370 Countyline Rd., - accessory building.
- No one wants to commit to filling the vacant zoning positions until after the first of the year therefore, the hiring process will need to be done by the 2018 Board of Trustees.

Hart – All three trustees attended the meeting on the Fairfield County Land Bank Program, conducted by the county Treasurer’s and Prosecutor’s offices. Much was learned about the expanded program that will better support the Townships in our county. This program is now able to help bridge the gap of costs and possibly carry the costs of recovery land that has been abandoned or cannot no longer be inhabited. There are various criteria for a property to be eligible for this program, but the main objective is to make a property that was once in the real estate tax inventory buildable again so that it can be sold, either back to the original owner or others, and again contribute to the tax base of our community. Hart emphasized that the fund for the program is not “free” money, because the cost to recovery is to be paid back by various means.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:48pm