

RUSHCREEK TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES  
BOARD MEETING  
02/04/15

Bill Myers, Chairman called the Rushcreek Township Trustees Board meeting to order at 7:00pm leading with the Pledge of Allegiance. Those in attendance in addition to Bill were: Dave Myers, Trustee; Hart Van Horn, Trustee; Connie Moyer, Fiscal Officer; Bob Suer, Road Superintendent; and Will Duvall, Fire Chief. Bill asked that all cell phones be muted along with all fire radios except the Chief and Road Superintendent.

Visitor

Joel Denny, Dave & Patti Shonk

Minutes

The minutes of the January 21st meeting were presented to the Trustees for approval. Dave 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. Hart seconded the motion. Roll Call: Dave, yes; Bill, yes; Hart, aye. Bill reminded everyone that the minutes are available online at [www.rushcreek-twp.org](http://www.rushcreek-twp.org) or upon request at the Fiscal Officer's office.

Treasurer's Report

EFT #33-2015 – 64-2015 and Warrants #39800 - 39816 in the amounts of \$55,033.55 along with the January bank reconciliation were presented to the Trustees for signatures. Dave made a motion to pay the bills and Hart seconded the motion. Roll Call: Hart, aye; Dave, aye; Bill, aye.

Old Business

*Hart – Blighted land for RPC – 2/18/15*

*All – Final Appropriation Budget for 2015 – 2/18/15*

*All – School bus turnaround – Barb Gaskins advised Hart she is still working on the project. It was suggested she work directly with Road Superintendent and report back to the board once the matter is settled. The Superintendent is following through with any requests in the interim.*

Business

A work session was held on January 31<sup>st</sup> at 9AM to discuss 2015 road improvement plans and emulsion storage options.

- Caroline & Edwin McCandlish were invited to attend to discuss McCullough Road. Additional information from the County Engineer's office was discussed which certifies that measurements must be completed by the Township 25' East of the center of Mr. & Mrs. McCandlish's driveway where tax dollars are being collected to maintain the road. Mr. & Mrs. McCandlish asked the Township to extend the road beyond that point at an undetermined distance with a landmark of the flat area North of the old existing road. The Township agreed to contact the County Engineer's office and have a representative present when the Road Superintendent does the measurements as weather and schedule permits. The Road Superintendent will resume services to the previous point at his best estimation. The County Auditor and the Soil and Water Conservation District have been notified on land use. Rushcreek Township zoning inspector will review and place any additional information into the file including the false and invalid documentation that the McCandlish's originally provided then it will be turned over to the prosecuting attorney for review. Mrs. McCandlish questioned whether there will be any fines on zoning that is not currently being followed. She was assured from the Trustees that the Township is moving forward not backward with this situation however, the Township could not speak on behalf of any other entities.
- Emulsion storage tank options were discussed as well as comparison pricing. It was decided that during 2015 the Township would continue to purchase and pick up the emulsion from the supplier in Columbus for the Durapatcher. However, an option to purchase a tank was left open should something become financially available.
- The 2015 chip/seal program which was laid out several years ago was reviewed. For the two seasons in 2012 and 2013, the trustees did not follow the program and the road maintenance fell behind. Last year, the program was successfully implemented and approximately an additional mile of road was treated. It was Bob's recommendation to follow the program with an additional 2.2 miles for an approximate total of \$65,000.00 which does not include prep work.

Chief Will Duvall reported the following:

- On January 22nd Carey (Chris) Shaffer resigned and returned all issued equipment.
- Erika Hedges requested a maternity leave of absence on January 29th.
- Paperwork was submitted regarding the supervisor class which was approved at the last meeting for Chief Duvall to attend.
- Jordan Irwin requested two leadership classes at the Ohio Fire Academy on February 10<sup>th</sup> and March 23<sup>rd</sup>. After questions from Hart, Chief Duvall assured the Board that the training will focus on staff supervision skills in

addition to firefighting. Hart made a motion to approve Jordan Irwin's request to attend two leadership courses at a cost of \$50.00 each and Dave seconded the motion. Roll Call: Dave, aye; Bill, aye; Hart, aye.

- The Chief noted that the firehouse was lacking basic fire, smoke and toxic fume detection. He added smoke and carbon monoxide detectors in the fire house. It was noted that he is the first chief in over 25 years to make this important upgrade. Hart thanked Chief for his evaluation and asked that all township buildings be inspected for items such as these.
- Lieutenant interviews were completed last week by Chief Duvall, Trustee Bill Myers, and Captain Beery. Chief Duvall recommended the promotion from Firefighter to Lieutenant of Bremen-Rushcreek Fire Department to Jordan Irwin, Ryan Gard, Tanner Kline, and Ruth Walton. According to Bill's report, while attending the interviews, there were concerns with conflict of interests that were addressed to each applicant and their commitment to uphold Township Policies was confirmed. After discussion, Bill made a motion to approve the Chief's recommendation for the promotion to Lieutenant on the Bremen-Rushcreek Fire Department and Hart seconded the motion. Roll Call: Dave, aye; Bill, aye; Hart, aye. Chief advised that according to their guidelines, each officer will be evaluated after 30, 60, & 120 days. Pinning of the new officers will be held at the Appreciation Dinner being scheduled in April where retired Bill Molisee will also be recognized.
- The State of Ohio EMS Grant is now open and the fire department asked permission to apply. Since Assistant Chief Brian Irwin is off on leave, Kristen Krile will be the individual handling the grant. Trustee Bill Myers will work with Kristen and the paperwork will be brought to the Board of Trustees for approval prior to submission.

Will presented the Trustees with a list of expenditures for the next period in the amount of \$5,350.00. The Chief was questioned on the details of the increased amounts of "miscellaneous" requests, the details and their justification. The Chief indicated that this area of request is intended to cover unanticipated, but necessary expenses between regular board meetings, but not provide much more detail. Chief was instructed to be more specific on his requests in the future. Hart made a motion to approve the list of expenses and Dave seconded the motion. Roll Call: Dave, aye; Bill, aye; Hart, aye. Runs reported during the pay period: 23 squad and 3 fire. Since the Department is now involved in soft billing with MBI Solutions the Chief will include EMS transports in the future.

Hart reminded the Board that that one of the lights purchased for the outside of the firehouse would be too bright from one area and leave other areas in the shadow. It had been discussed, that this should be returned and for two smaller fixtures that can be mounted to better serve the Township's purposes. He asked if Dave would contact State Electric and see if they would return the fixture and exchange it for two smaller lights, one for each corner on the east side of the station. Dave agreed and Connie stated if State Electric needed a copy of their invoice she would provide it to Dave for the return.

Road Superintendent Bob Suer reported the following:

- Treating and plowing of roads during the past two weeks due to winter storms.
- New shop lights installed building is now well lit. The objectives for lighting upgrades at the Townships and Road buildings have now been met and Bob was thanked for the initiative to supervise this to its completion.
- 50% weight reduced signs were placed on the chip/seal roads according to Resolution #2015-03.
- Four new rear tires installed on the International. During the Spring & Summer the older tires will be placed back on for longevity purposes.
- Brush was cleared on Pumpkinvine road as weather permitted.
- Paperwork was submitted regarding the supervisor class which was approved at the last meeting for Bob to attend.
- The new garage door will be installed on February 5th.
- On January 31st while at the post office, homeowner, R. Hoffman approached the Road Supervisor asking "What clown put the No Parking signs on my property". Bob responded that he had received the request from the Board of Trustees. Ricky wants the sign removed off of his property. The Trustees pulled up the County Auditor's map to review the placement of one of the No Parking signs and found it was placed in a questionable location. Therefore, Bob was instructed to relocate the sign and note the Hoffman's unauthorized use of the parking area. It was also noted that the Hoffman's, have trash falling onto the township property and that vehicles registered in their names have been parked there without complying with township policy. The Hoffman's and the village will be contacted to enforce the respective policies.

Bob presented the Trustees with a list of expenditures for the next period in the amount of \$7,120.00. Dave made a motion to approve the list of expenses and Hart seconded the motion. Roll Call: Dave, aye; Bill, aye; Hart, aye.

Joel Denny Rushcreek Township representative on the Regional Planning Commission Board presented the Trustees with a report from the February 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting which is included at the end of these minutes.

Connie reported the following:

- Zoning Inspector Richard Campbell was attending the County Fire Association meeting and asked the following to be reported.

- No permits were issued since the last meeting.
- A Zoning Basic Training course was held on January 29<sup>th</sup> at the Ag. Center. Those attending representing Rushcreek Township including Richard were: Andrew Schmelzer and Tony Seesholtz.
- As in the past, Fairfield County Board of Elections sent the paperwork to utilize the Township facility as a voting machine transport garage during the May 5<sup>th</sup> election. All Trustees agreed to the request.
- County Auditor submitted amended certificate where the State lowered the LGF distribution by \$799.00 which is a General Fund revenue item. Our General Fund revenue budget was adjusted accordingly.
- The February Grassroots Clippings was distributed to all members.
- After months of trying to work with Verizon Wireless to get the three cell phone lines removed from the bill it appears this has been completed. A supervisor was able to complete the task with the Township receiving a credit for several months.

As the Trustee in charge of Administration Hart reported the following:

- In reviewing the Township's right-of-way policy prior to placing on the website there were several places referencing the Township road supervisor and clerk. Since functions and titles have changed, the policy was revised to reflect the proper titles. The website was also added to the brochure along with deadline to be added to the meeting agenda. Hart made a motion to adopt the revisions to Rushcreek Township Right-of-Way & Road Hazard Policy effective February 4<sup>th</sup> and Bill seconded the motion. Roll Call: Hart, aye; Dave, aye; Bill, aye.
- Similar letters were sent to the Bremen-Rushcreek Fire Fighters Association and the Ladies Auxiliary with copies provided to each Trustee. The letters requested both groups to provide proper documentation in order to be covered under the Township. Bremen-Rushcreek Fire Fighters Association President Jordan Irwin has been very cooperative in providing the requested documents. No response from the presumed Auxiliary has been received. It was revealed that this group [aka Ladies Auxiliary] may have been collecting and controlling funds inappropriately under the Township and Fire Department's name. A work session with the officers of the Association and the Trustees was scheduled at 9AM on February 14<sup>th</sup> at the Township office. Bill stated he will advise Jordan so the officers can be in attendance. No future events can be held without the requested paperwork being received. The letters included IRS and State Auditor bulletins. So there is no confusion, the insurance agent has also been contacted to certify and cover only those entities specifically approved by the Rushcreek Township Board of Trustees.
- Resolution #2015-16 was presented to the Board. This resolution requests the County Engineer to submit a resolution to the Fairfield County Commissioners on behalf of the Rushcreek Township Board of Trustees to close a portion of Avalon Road. The closure would be from house number 11700 Avalon Road to the Perry County Line per the Ohio Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices until such time that repairs are completed. Dave announced that he had a problem with this and he had an opinion but would not reveal it to the Board. Hart challenged his position that Dave's comments appeared to be an attempt to influence the decision and public opinion without explanation. Bill also questioned the need for the road closure and repairs. Bill explained with graphic demonstration of the dam, his opinion is that this is a problem with the Conservancy District which needs to open the valve. Hart reminded the Trustees that this situation has been discussed in the past with no resolve. He stated that there is an agreement in place since 1969 allowing the District to flood Avalon road as needed, the Township would need to maintain the road with these circumstances and it was signed by all of the Rushcreek Township Trustees. There is record of the District doing its part to maintain the dam. There is no record of maintenance of the road by the Township to deal with these conditions. Hart pointed out that for over 40 years, Trustees have neglected this maintenance and as a Trustee for only 13 months, he is uncomfortable that the Township continues to ignore the risk. This is a public safety hazard and action must be taken. Connie responded that for some unknown reason there seems to be a bone of contention with trustees Myers and Myers about the Conservancy District's role in this. She continued, Bob met with the Directors of the Conservancy District and their road crew, maps were reviewed and questions were answered. The District is open every Tuesday & Thursday between 9:30-3:30 and if Dave or Bill had questions it was their responsibility to go to the entity and have their questions answered instead of going on an assumption and waiting 10 plus years without taking any action. Hart presented a document which is "Exhibit A" in Resolution #2015-06 which was signed on March 25, 1969 by the Township Trustees one of which was Bill and Dave's father, Michael Myers. The document clearly states that flooding is expected to occur on the average of once in more often than five years. Rushcreek Township grants permission to the Conservancy District to flood Township Road 334 (Avalon) and hereby agrees to close it to traffic during periods of high water with adequate barricades. Construction of the dam began in 1969 which was an ideal time for road repair since the heavy equipment was already on-site. Hart continued that we must move forward instead of looking back. Hart made a motion to adopt Resolution #2015-06 and Bill seconded the adoption. Roll Call: Dave, aye; Bill, aye; Hart, aye.
- Hart reported that he and Richard attended the FERC Hearing (in Logan) on Tuesday evening to hear testimony and comments on the LEECH Xpress. This is a gas pipeline that will run through a portion of Rushcreek Township starting in 2016. He and Richard also met with Dale Arnold, a Ohio Farm Bureau staff director before the hearing to gather resource information which was very helpful. Information was distributed to the trustees and they were encouraged to read and follow developments of this project, since it will have an impact on our community.

- Department heads were notified that all changes, repairs or modification to the township's information systems, including computers, copiers, software, etc. must have approval from the trustees first. We must maintain the integrity of the systems in a consistent manner.
- There was a complaint reported to the trustees that heavy equipment exceeding the township road limits was being transported on Durbin Run Rd. by a local contractor into Hide-A-Way Hills. There was some discussion as to who would be responsible for following up. Seeing no offer from the other two trustees, Hart offered to contact the Hide-A-Way Hills manager and Chief Duvall offered to contact and advise the local contractor.
- Hart reminded Chief Duvall that the EMS billing system and procedures need close monitoring. The Chief suggested that he can meet with Hart on Saturday, during Harts office duty to review what the fire department had so far.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:30pm

***SIGNATURES ON FILE***

## **FAIRFIELD COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT**

### **Rushcreek Township Board of Trustees Meeting: 2/4/15**

**RPC Meeting: 2/3/15**

**RPC Representative: Joel Denny**

#### **Presentation: David Rutter, the Watershed Coordinator from the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) on the Sustaining Scioto Project**

- The study/project was conducted to proactively identify risks to the region's water resources due to climate change.
- The project brings together technical data, climate modeling and stakeholder input with the end result to create an adaptive management plan to respond to impacts resulting from climate change.
- The study uses United States Geological Survey watershed modeling to assess the impacts of changing weather patterns and regional development on water resources within the Upper Scioto watershed.
- Vulnerabilities to water resources, public health, the economy and other sectors within the region were identified and prioritized.
- The Upper Scioto Basin is more than 3200 square miles large and provides drinking water for close to 2 million people.
- It is estimated that Central Ohio's population will increase 500,000 by 2050.
- All data models show the average yearly temperature increasing over time especially after the next 20 years.
- No clear data trend was discovered for the average annual precipitation.
- If temperatures and heat waves do increase, it will lead to:
  - Reduced water volumes coupled with increased water demand
  - Lower water quality
  - Increased waterborne and heat-related illnesses and deaths
  - Increased energy costs
- Their goal is to create Adaptive Management Strategies to understand and prioritize risks, develop strategies to reduce risks, implement strategies, and reevaluated strategies as more information becomes available, especially in regards to developing infrastructure, which is expensive and takes time, so planning now is important.
- The most immediate strategies are labeled "no regret" strategies because if they are implemented and increases in temperatures do not occur, then the improvements would still be beneficial to society.

#### **Subdivision Activities**

- The RPC approved a Final Plat for the Winding Creek Subdivision in Violet Township through two 180-day extensions, which would take Final Plat approval through February 26, 2016.

#### **Liberty Township Text Amendments**

- Liberty Township wanted to amend its zoning definitions due to a situation in the township where an individual has connected electricity to an automobile in order to use it as a house. By trying to be more specific with their definitions, the RPC staff recommended against this amendment because it believes

that the code already addresses the issue of the car being used as a house and adding the new definition would create potential conflict with some of the existing definitions. The RPC voted with the staff recommendation.

- The RPC voted to approve a staff recommendation that Liberty Township add wording to their Accessory Uses of Article IX to address garage sales and indicated that language should be included indicating whether or not a zoning permit would be required.
- The RPC voted to approve amendments to Article 9.6 B.8, Article 9.7, & Article 9.8 B that referenced the Ohio Revised Code in regards to Telecommunication Towers in various different zoning areas.
- The RPC voted to approve an amendment that corrected an editorial mistake.
- The RPC voted to approve wording in Article 10.9 that aligned the definition of junk cars to how the Ohio Revised Code defines them.

#### **CDBG Contract Amendment**

- The RPC voted to approve an amendment that accepted grant money from the CDBG despite past deadlines prior to the RPC meeting.

#### **Request for Transfer of Funds**

- The RPC voted to approve the transfer of \$5000 in unappropriated funds to an appropriated fund to meet future obligations.