

Emergency Meeting
February 8, 2015

The Rushcreek Township Board of Trustees held an Emergency Meeting on Sunday, February 8, 2015 at 8:30am. The purpose of the meeting was to determine and plans to correct “unsafe” working conditions and necessary corrective actions that must be enacted. The notice was placed on the township website www.rushcreektwp.org and sent to the Eagle Gazette for posting.

Bill Myers, President called the Emergency Meeting to order at 8:30am. In addition to Bill were: Dave Myers, Trustee; Hart Van Horn, Trustee; Bob Suer, Road Superintendent; and Connie Moyer, Fiscal Officer.

On Friday, February 6th accidents occurred while tree trimming. Bob came into the office on Saturday, February 7th to complete the paperwork and turned into Trustee Van Horn who was operating open public hours from 8am – 10am. After reviewing the paperwork Trustee Van Horn contacted the other Trustees and Fiscal Officer to have an Emergency Meeting.

Discussion was held on safety training for the equipment that the road department operates. Bill stated that in the Workers’ Compensation course he completed for the Township the motto was to “avoid future incidents which lead to accidents”. However, he had not made any plans to share the content of this course with the township employees.

Hart questioned the frequency and level of safety training for Township Employees. There is no record of recent or regular training and past trustees have not instituted safety training program. Hart added that recent incidents have caused personal injury to township employees and property damage that could have been prevented if safe procedures for equipment and vehicle use had been implemented. As a newer trustee, Hart questioned the other trustees of their knowledge and experience of formal safety training and standards of accepted practices. Dave and Bill admitted that they had not participated in or ever implemented any such training or procedures. It was also noted that several years of incidents on record were not reviewed and actions were not taken to correct possible unsafe behavior or unsafe practices.

Hart stated the Rushcreek Township Board of Trustees, has an obligation to provide its employees with a safest possible work environment. He is uncomfortable that trustees in the past have not made this a priority. There has been a focus on the training and safety procedures for the fire department employees, but not the Road Department which is exposed for hundreds of hours each week to risks and the taxpayers properties to safety hazards. Hart further stated that this is why he called for the Emergency Meeting on a Sunday with the urgency to review safety procedures and create an action plan before the Road Department’s next work day.

The Trustees acknowledged that there is a problem and a plan of action must be enacted. Hart advised Bob that he felt Friday’s work should’ve stopped and the paperwork filled out immediately. Rushcreek Township Safety Policy & Procedures was reviewed. It was noted that these procedures were lacking in some areas, but it was a good basis for a starting point to raise the standards for safe conduct on the job.

Hart presented printed materials for courses that are available through OSHA which ranges \$89.00 - \$300.00.

- OSHA – 10 Certificate – This course is a general safety course
- OSHA – 30 Certificate – This course is training in specific areas

Bob stated that LTAP provides training dvd or cd tapes at no cost but must be returned.

It was decided that, in Bob’s absence, on Monday morning before the Road Crew would leave the Township office, Dave would read and review the Township’s policy on Safety Procedures with them. Dave will also be responsible for the supervision of the Road Crew on Monday (2/9/15).

An initial action plan was also determined -

By the February 18th regular meeting Dave will present the following options on:

1. What training resources are we going to use
2. How training will take place
3. A deadline for completion

At 9:18am Hart made a motion to go into Executive Session under ORC 121.22(G)(1) to discuss employee issue with regards to safety and invited Bob to attend. Dave seconded the motion. Roll Call: Dave, aye; Bill, aye; Hart, aye.

Executive session ended 10:04am

Meeting Adjourned: 10:05am

SIGNATURES ON FILE