

RUSHCREEK TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES
BOARD MEETING
05/20/15

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; Richard Campbell, Zoning Inspector; 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.

Visitors

Samantha Fetty, Tanner Kline, Tracy Shahan, Jennifer Campbell

Oath of Office

Newly appointed Lieutenant Tanner Kline; along with Captain Richard Campbell were administered their Oath of Office by Fire Chief Will Duvall. Chief Duvall then pinned each officer.

Minutes

The minutes of the May 6th meeting were presented to the Trustees for approval. Hart 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. Bill reminded everyone that the minutes are available upon request at the Fiscal Officer's office and the township website www.rushcreek-twp.org.

Treasurer's Report

EFT #264-2015 – 297-2015 and Warrants #39901 - #39912 in the amounts of \$23,988.13 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

Radio License - Dave presented confirmation of the paperwork that he had submitted online. However after reviewing, it did not resemble the current license that is on file. Hart pointed out things have changed in the last ten years and the paperwork presented could now be an acceptable license. Dave agreed to call the individual he has been working with to be sure what he presented is correct.

Business

Chief Will Duvall reported the following:

- Scott Widener submitted his resignation on May 14th with all equipment being returned.
- On May 14th five members participated at Bremen Elementary annual health day. The safety house was borrowed from Pleasant Township Fire Department.
- The individual interested in the ladder truck purchased another unit therefore the ladder truck is still being advertised through the contract with Fenton Fire Apparatus.
- Processing for the new applicants is still ongoing by the Lieutenants and Assistant Chief.

Will presented the Trustees with a list of expenditures for the next period in the amount of \$4,200.00. Bill made a motion to approve the list of expenses and Hart seconded the motion. Roll Call: Dave, aye; Bill, aye; Hart, aye. Runs reported during the pay period: 18 squad which includes 14 transports and 4 fire.

Hart advised that door closures and a thermostat lock was delivered to the fire department for installation. Will reported the door closures were installed with the thermostat lock to follow.

Road Superintendent Bob Suer reported the following:

- Pothole repairs & patchwork is continuing on chip/seal roads.
- Several gravel roads have been graded and stoned.
- Two crosspipes were installed on Borah Hill Road.
- Township cemetery mowing completed for the upcoming holiday as required by law.
- Spraying for control of weeds around signs and guardrails is approximately 60% completed by Trustees Van Horn and Dave Myers.
- The new bucket for the bucket truck arrived at the Township on May 15th.
- Several trees have been removed off of roads during recent storms.
- The chipper automatically shut down. Vermeer Company was contacted who arrived on-site. Computer diagnosed the oil pressure switch was defective. Part arrived the following day which our crew installed.
- Hart has continued contact with Fairfield County Assistant Engineer, Jeff Baird about the Avalon Road repairs. Jeff still needs to complete a survey and develop a recommended plan for Avalon Road. Hart distributed the

correspondence that he sent to Jeff Baird and will also copy to Engineer Jeremiah Upp. The County should have the survey crew out this week with a written plan to the Township next week.

- After reviewing KLA Risk Management recommendation on sign placement on pavement to gravel roads, ten signs will need to be ordered at approximately \$48.00 each. Due to vandalism twelve will be ordered.
- The Village of Bremen has contracted a project on Strayer Ave. The Township allowed the construction company to haul excess dirt and fill (approximately 600 ton) to our yard which will be utilized on the Avalon Road project. Also, the Township provided a separate location to stock #57 limestone. The contractor has completed Strayer Ave. project and has given the excess #57 to the Township which is approximately 50 to 60 Tons. Hart questioned if the limestone was rightfully the contractor's material to give the Township. He emphasized his concern that if the Village paid for the stone, then the Township should not be accepting it from the contractor and it should not be used without the Village's approval. It was then revealed that the contractor had also given approximately 40 Tons of #57 to a property owner outside of the Village. Hart stated this did not sound right and proper. Bob was directed to discuss the excess limestone with the Village Administrator.
- In response to the Trustee request of a cost projection for the next five years to maintain the approximate 25 miles of chip/seal roads. **THESE PROJECTIONS ARE INKIND WORK NOT HIRED AT CURRENT PRICES:** Cost estimate is \$250,000. In addition \$7,000 a mile more for culverts and preparation which is an additional \$175,000. Total five year projection: \$425,000
- In response to the Trustee request of a cost projection for the next five years to maintain the approximate 15 miles of gravel roads: Gravel, grading, and stone application will be approximately \$120,000. This does not include culverts and tree removal. To turn the gravel roads into chip/seal would be approximately \$300,000 for prime coat and chip/seal. Therefore total cost would be \$420,000 for the 15 miles of gravel. Hart thanked Bob for this report and stated this is the Plan to Raise the Standards. It is now the Trustees job to find the money which is approximately 1 million dollars.
- Norma Waites on Pleasantview Place asked that a Trustee contact her. She is requesting a dust mat be placed in front of her home. Bob pointed out that several years ago he had asked the Trustees to give him a list of all houses in the Township to estimate dust mats. If the Trustees wish to provide dust mats this estimated cost of \$25,000 will need to come out of the chip/seal project cost. After discussing, Hart agreed to contact Ms. Waites.
- The broom on the road sweeper is still out of service. The caster was ordered with the wrong part shipped. Instead of the quoted \$500.00 the caster cost is now around \$750.00, which has a rubber tire and will give better service per Franklin Equipment. After discussing the Trustees agreed the rubber tire would be of greater value.
- Spring mowing of the roads should start the first part of June with completion taking around 2.5 weeks with two mowers. Avalon Road will take priority over mowing. If the County has not approved the Avalon project, Bob advised he will take two weeks of vacation during the spring mowing.
- The crew needs to start prep work for chip/seal. After viewing the damage to the roads from the winter, there appears to be additional prep work that was not calculated.
- Force Account paperwork on three culverts will be completed and submitted to the County.

Bob presented the Trustees with a list of expenditures for the next period in the amount of \$6,975.00. Dave made a motion to approve the list of expenses and Hart seconded the motion. Roll Call: Dave, aye; Bill, aye; Hart, aye.

Connie reported the following:

- Medicount sent an email advising that their legal department has reviewed the contract that Anthem had sent Rushcreek Township. Medicount sent a notice advising it is in our best interest NOT to sign the agreement at this time. Emails between Medicount and Anthem included the following questions and answers: Q, What will the Tricare fee schedule be for ambulance providers if they sign the agreement? A, The Tricare rate is 70% of the current Anthem rate. The current Anthem rate is that of CMS. Q. What happens if the Provider does not sign the agreement? Will it impact their current agreement? A. It will not affect their current agreement. Q. If the Provider does not sign the agreement, how will claims be paid? Will the Provider receive payment? Will the patient receive payment? Will the claim be denied? A. If Anthem does win the bid, the payments will go to the members. If they are non-par and they change their minds then they will have to request to join the network. Q. When will we know if Anthem wins the contract? A. Our understanding is that it will be some time in the 3rd Quarter of this year. To summarize, Medicount believes Anthem may be attempting to use these agreements as leverage to win the Tricare contract. Any department that signs this agreement is participating in a bid that would decrease their payment amounts by approximately 30%. If Anthem ultimately wins the bid, Medicount will then assess the need to participate. Hart made a motion to follow Medicount's recommendation as stated in the communication and NOT sign the contract, Dave seconded the motion. Roll Call: Hart, aye; Bill, aye; Dave, aye. Hart continued that he spoke with Arnold Mann from Medicount on April 28th and did not report at the last meeting because of time restraints. Mr. Mann was the individual responsible for reviewing the contracts that were taken over from MBI. Medicount has agreed to abide by the terms of the MBI agreement which is a two year contract with a one year option to renew.
- On May 18, 2015, Auditor of State Dave Yost released a draft bulletin to public offices and independent public accountants concerning "Abuse Standards." The draft bulletin contains important information for review and

comment by public officials and other interested parties regarding the application of these Standards. Authoritative guidance and examples of "abuse" are included in this draft bulletin. The draft was distributed to the Trustees.

- Next OTA meeting is at Berne Township Fire Dep't on June 27th at 6pm. Fairfield County Health Department will be the speakers. Connie was instructed to reserve 7 spots.
- KLA Risk Management report was again submitted to the Trustees for processing of the paperwork. Since the Trustees agreed to follow the recommendations, Dave will prepare the paperwork and return to KLA with copies to the file.
- Mr. Shangler a resident on Borah Hill Road called and asked that when a road is closed that the residents along that road be notified. Hart advised Bob to get prices on ordering a road closure sign that can be placed a few days before the closure and report at the next meeting.
- The local Bremen Food Pantry was contacted to see if they would be interested in the noodles from the ladies group. Linda Young was very appreciative picked them up and distribution was made by the food pantry to our local citizens in need.
- Since Chief Duvall was interested in disposing of the noodle maker that is now in the possession of the Township, the Bremen Historical Society was contacted to see if this was something they would be interested in since their kitchen is Health Department certified. If the Township is interested in donating the noodle maker to the Historical Society they have agreed to allow any non-profit organizations within the Township to utilize the equipment. This will enable **ALL** organizations within our community to benefit instead of giving to a single organization. Chief Duvall stated he would like to hold off on this decision for a period of time.

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

- He will be out of state during the June 3rd meeting however all reports will be available for review during the meeting.
- 2016 Budget preparation is upon us. Hart has advised Trustees since October that personnel performance reviews were to be done annually and should have been done in January, Bill and Dave opted to wait for Budget Preparation to complete. To date, no reviews have been done and Budget Review is due at the next meeting. Now, we are late in the process and will need to hold special meetings to catch up. Prior to the Fiscal Officer conducting the accounting for the budget, the Trustees must complete (in order of sequence) the personnel performance reviews, department reviews, and wage recommendations. After much discussion the following schedule was set: Special Meeting June 1 @ 6pm to go over Employee Reviews and Evaluations. This meeting will be an "Executive Session". Special Meeting June 17th @ 7am to review the 2016 Budget Meeting with Department Heads starting with Zoning at 7am; Fire at 7:15; and Road at 8:15. The 2016 Public Budget Hearing was set for 6:30pm July 1st. Notices will be sent to website and newspapers.
- Per Bill's report, an invoice and letter was sent to landowner Danny Redmon to recover \$5,275.00 damage to McCullough Road with copies to Trustees and Road Superintendent.
- Due to the damage that our roads are receiving from logging operations and other incidents, Hart advised he is looking into policies on Road Use Limits and Enforcement. Dave responded that several of the chip/seal road projects completed last year are in great condition.
- After the large culvert was stolen from the township stockyard, quotes were obtained for a Video Surveillance System to be placed at both the Fire Department and the Township. Fire Department cost is \$2,265 and Township \$1,275.00 This is a one-time cost with no monthly service fees.
- A Tobacco-Free Policy was presented to the Board for policy (copy attached). Medical and legal research paperwork was distributed to the Trustees and Supervisors which detailed the many dangers of tobacco usage to both the user and non-user. On many occasions there is spit on the Township property where people walk as well as spit splattered on the side of Township owned vehicles. Although the Township currently has a "No Smoking" policy this does not include smokeless tobacco. Chief Duvall stated that other companies have implemented such policies however it was as a result from insurance claims. He continued that his main concern was in the parking lot or their personal vehicle, with the fire department on a 24 hour shift the employees would be under duress having to wait that long to use tobacco. Chief asked if using in the parking lot or their personal vehicles could be done. Bill asked what the consequences of this policy would be as far as discipline for a trustee's use of "chew". Dave asked if he could keep his own spit bottle in a designated spot. Hart replied that all of the comments excluded the intent and interest of the taxpayers, the citizens of the community, and the health risks noted in the research that was distributed. He further stated that the trustees and anyone in medical/healthcare were duty bound to support this type of policy. Hart made a motion to adopt the Tobacco-Free Policy as written. No response was given by either of the Myers brothers. Therefore, Hart stated without a second the motion would die. Again, the Myers' refused to answer. Hart stated that he wished to be put on record: "Both of the Myers brothers are Tobacco users leaving behind their spit bottles in the township offices and spilled at times, spitting on the side of Township trucks and damaging the paint finish, and emphasizing their interest is on themselves not on the good of all which is shameful and once again shows selfishness. Most of the public are non-users which have rights also. It is unnecessary that the public majority are expected to clean up or

be exposed the spit left behind by the minority". Again, Hart pressed for a response. Bill stated he wished to table the matter.

- While operating the 1980 Brown Chevrolet pickup Hart noticed seat belts are not working, door skins missing leaving sharp edges and pinch points exposed, the clutch sticks to the floor and several safety problems. This vehicle is simply unsafe. He pointed out these problems to Dave Myers and Hart brought his own vehicle in to use for road weed spraying. Requested Bob and Dave to remove the vehicle from service with disposal arrangements to be made and was disappointed that it was still in use to date. Bob responded that he had one last cemetery to mow and needed the truck for hauling the mower. The vehicle is now out of service with usable equipment being removed. Bob stated he will pull the plow off of the truck and sell. He wished to purchase two new lighter weight plows for the dump trucks. The current plows are at least thirty years old and are excessively heavy. If purchasing new plows this would enable the ability to plow and treat at the same time thus reducing manpower and fuel costs. Hart advised Bob to put together a financial packet if this is something he wished to pursue.
- Hart noted that another unsafe piece of equipment is the lawn mower that the Township uses for cemeteries and the Township side yard. Bob stated he has repeatedly asked for a new mower and earlier Trustees have tabled the request. Hart stated that we can't continue to use unsafe equipment. The mower does not have a motor cover and if debris flips up it could result in an employee injury. This is not a matter to tabled and forgotten. Bob was instructed to price a new riding mower and present to the Board.
- The doors at the fire department are being left open while heating and cooling the building thus resulting in automatic door closures and a thermostat cover being purchased. Hart commended Will for making an effort at the fire department to conserve energy by having a notice on the thermostat to remain set at 72 degrees. However, there are personnel who are obviously not respecting the costs of unnecessary cooling. While visiting the fire department recently, Hart observed the door to the truck bays was open with Bill standing in the middle of the door while the air conditioner was set and running at 68 degrees. When Hart confronted Bill about the problem he was flippant in his reply that he does not like air conditioning. This was and is uncalled for. It is imperative that we set a standard of treating the taxpayer's money like our own as is our sworn duty. Currently the electric budget at the fire department is \$7,000 per year. The cost of electric is 13.9 cents per kilowatt. Every hour the air conditioner runs one degree less than 72 is a cost of \$97.67 per month. When the doors are open it is even more excessive. Hart asked Bill if he was willing to pay the minimum of \$1,200 per year out of his own pocket with Bill replying he was not. Hart wanted to be on record that this type of abuse combined with heating costs is an abuse of the taxpayer's money.
- Hart asked if Bill has prepared any of the employee evaluations that are needed since we are coming up on 2016 budget preparations. Bill responded he had not. Hart continued that Bill has been missing from active duty from the Township for weeks. Although his timesheet states he is "checking on the fire department", Hart pointed out that Bill stopping into the Fire Department for a few minutes a day doing nothing was not fulfilling his Trustee responsibilities. The outside security lights that were purchased many months ago still have not been installed, which Bill has refused to address. Will stated that Ryan Gard is completing this project. Hart continued that this and other items are Bill's responsibility to make sure these matters are completed. There is far more expected to run this Township than stopping and just having conversations. If Bill did not have time to devote to his responsibilities and recognize the waste of taxpayer's money, Hart asked that Bill resign.

Meeting Adjourned: 10:17pm