

RUSHCREEK TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES
BOARD MEETING
03/15/2017

Hart Van Horn, Chairman called the Rushcreek Township Trustees Board meeting to order at 8:31am 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; Connie Moyer, Fiscal Officer; 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

Mary Hoffman, Bob Suer, Barb Hockman, Charles Hockman, Chip Pritsel, Marvin Plank, Chad Ashbaugh, Rick Moyer, Jason Maurer, Tracy Shahan, Lisa Burnworth

Work Session

The following notice was sent at 10:25am on March 8th to the Eagle Gazette and the website: *The Rushcreek Board of Trustees will conduct a Trustees Work Session for the Purpose of a Construction Site Review on Friday, March 10, 2017 at 8:00 a.m. at the Bremen Rushcreek Fire Department Firehouse, 201 Marietta St., Bremen, OH 43107. Please note that no business matters of the township will be executed at this session. Also note that this location is a construction site with limited access as required for safety purposes.* The following individuals were present: Trustee Dave Myers, Trustee Hart Van Horn, John Seifert and Chad Hutchinson of Seifert Construction, Byron Bowersock of Bremen Village, Chief Duvall, Robert Shaw of VFP Fire Systems, Pat Kelly of Kelly Architectural Services. Discussion held on the placement of the sprinkler riser for the fire suppression system. Meeting Ended: 9:07am.

Minutes

The minutes of the March 1st Regular Meeting and two Special Meetings held in succession on March 7th 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 #184-2017 and Warrants #40614 - #40629 in the amounts of \$8,468.56 were presented to the Trustees for signatures. (Note: this did not include payroll which ends at midnight tonight) Dave made a motion to pay the bills and Bill seconded the motion. Roll Call: Hart, aye; Dave, aye; Bill, aye. All appropriations were moved from temporary to permanent in the UAN system which was approved by the Trustees at the beginning of the year and in compliance with all of the amended certificates. Hart questioned Doug on the purchase from Dittmar Sales & Service and Doug responded that it was for chainsaw parts and oil.

Road Superintendent Hintz presented the Board with a list of expenditures for the next period in the amount of \$1,800.00. Dave made a motion to approve the list of expenditures and Hart seconded the motion. Roll Call: Hart, aye; Dave, aye; Bill, aye.

Fire Chief Duvall presented the Board with a list of expenditures for the next period in the amount of \$2,650.00. Bill made a motion to approve the list of expenditures and Hart seconded the motion. Roll Call: Hart, aye; Dave, aye; Bill, aye.

Business

Chief Will Duvall reported the following:

- Runs during the last pay period: 13 EMS including 7 transports and 5 fire runs.
- Warren Fire Equipment serviced all twenty of the air-packs.
- Attended the Safety Council meeting on the 7th will Bill Myers.
- The water tap for the fire suppression system is planned for next Tuesday. All parties involved believe there will not be a need to shut the water off. John Bowman the Code Enforcement

Officer for the Village of Bremen was invited to the Work Session held on March 8th for the fire suppression system. However, Mr. Bowman was unable to attend due to a prior commitment and thanked the Township for the invitation.

- The alignment on squad 541 was completed as well as ball joints and repairs to the sway bar. The squad has 27,000 miles and has been garaged so it seemed unusual that the ball joints needed replaced.
- Attended the Blue Coat Award where Jessica Barnhart was the recipient representing Bremen Rushcreek Fire Department.

Road Superintendent Doug Hintz reported the following:

- The crew was called out twice during the last period for down trees since the last meeting.
- Heavy rain and high wind caused backed up culverts and ditches throughout the Township.
- Four roads were under water which resulted in officially closing Locust Grove and Avalon East with both roads reopened within two days.
- Due to cold temperature a few icy spots were treated.
- Brush and trees from Marietta Road have been cleared from Holiday Road to Corporation limits in preparation of chip/seal.
- The International is experiencing problems that could possibly be the computer. The vehicle will be sent to Fleetmaster's for an evaluation. Dave reported that as of now everything seems to be operating. The battery cables, relay, and under the hood have been cleaned.

Hart asked Doug if he contacted Barb Gaskins from Fairfield Union bus barn to make sure their contact list was updated. Doug responded that he will be contacting her to discuss both the contact update and the turnaround invoice.

Connie reported the following:

- The March Grassroots Clippings was distributed to the members.
- Another determination of unemployment compensation benefits was received on David Kilbarger stating he is totally unemployed from Rushcreek Township due to a lack of work. Another letter was written advising this is not correct. Hart advised he provided the letter to the prosecuting attorney to review Worker's Compensations determination. Connie asked if he was aware that it was time sensitive and Hart responded that council was aware.
- In December while attending Auditor of State Dave Yost class much of the discussion has been around cybercrimes increasingly targeting local governments especially using email. In the Ohio Township September/October magazine. Mr. Yost recommended that local governments review how our contact information is publicly displayed and consider removing email addresses to reduce the number of targets available to scammers. The internet is the tool of choice for criminals. Hart stated he was aware of the article and has spoken to our webmaster. Once our email is posted it is then it is in cyberspace. There are some ways to deter this including firewalls and encryptions. Both he and Chief Duvall are working on IT at the firehouse and the Township will also be considered in these discussions. Hart added that a Disclaimer will also be placed on the website.
- The Amended Certificate was received in reference to the fire suppression system. A purchase order has not been completed until all paperwork is received from the contractor. The contractor for the roof repair presented the paperwork right before the meeting. Once confirmed a purchase order will be executed.
- Ed Pool, a past Trustee, contacted Connie and advised the Presbyterian Church that he works for has a nice copier machine they are willing to sell for \$200.00. He immediately thought of the Township because of the one page feed copier that we have. The unit is 10 years old and has a couple of toners along with several boxes of staples included. Toner refills were checked online and they are available ranging from \$60 - \$100 each however it was unknown how many copies a cartridge would produce.

Bill made a motion to purchase the Cannon Image Runner 5070 copier from First Presbyterian Church in Lancaster for \$200 and Hart seconded the motion. Roll Call: Hart, aye; Dave, aye; Bill, aye.

Hart presented Resolution #2017-08 for passage. This Resolution is in regards to the State Treasurer's presentation of Ohiocheckbook.com labeled as a Transparency Program which was held as a Work Session on February 22nd. According to Ohio Treasurer Josh Mandel, Ohiocheckbook.com was created for the purpose of displaying government finances in a searchable format available at the fingertips of taxpayers across Ohio. Hart made a motion to adopt Resolution #2017-08 which will place Rushcreek Township financial records in the program. Bill seconded the motion. Dave asked Connie to give her opinion of the program.

Connie read a statement which is attached at the end of the minutes.

Hart stated that he is working with the Ohio Treasurer's office to bring the program to Fairfield County. Sixty percent of the entities in Fairfield County have signed up for the program. To be objective, Hart contacted the Legislative Director at the Ohio Township Association, Heidi Fought at Connie's request. She informed him of her personal opinions on the program. They are a "mixed bag". Some of the concerns as Connie has stated. He complimented Connie for the impeccable way that she keeps the books in Rushcreek Township which is evidenced in repeated Audit reports. However, as a taxpayer he wishes to have access to the books through the Ohiocheckbook program.

Bill stated that when Lauren presented the program to the Board at the work session (2/22) Connie stated she had tried for several hours to get information on a water bill. While listening to the story he was thinking that this is just what people would be doing, nib-nosing. Where just picking up the phone and talking to a person would be the answer.

Dave stated that we have tried to provide the information to the public to the best of our abilities.

Hart read the entire Resolution then asked for a Roll Call vote: Dave, no; Bill, no; Hart, abstain due to his efforts to promote to the entire Fairfield County Ohio Township Association. Resolution #2017-08 Failed

Trustee Reports

Dave – Verified payroll; worked with the road crew on storm damage by cleaning culverts, tree trimming and removal. Attended the DAC meeting on March 6th where two new board members were approved, Brian Oliver and Doctor Kapetansky. Attended the annual County Engineer's meeting on March 6th. The in-house monthly safety meeting was held on March 9th. Attended the Tax Abatement meeting with his brother who will report later.

Bill – One permit was issued to Sharon Harring at 6715 Houck Road – porch replacement. The Variance Hearing for Michael Miller at 10455 McCullough Rd was held on March 8th and approved by the Board of Appeals. Those minutes have been posted on the website. Attended the annual County Engineer's meeting on March 6th with the other two Trustees and the Road Superintendent. At the Tax Abatement meeting which was held in the County Commissioners Hearing Room Westerman/Worthington was reviewed. Representing Westerman/Worthington was employee Todd Householder. It was reported that one year ago there were 121 employees and as of this year it is down to 89 with 6 positions being recalled. Last year drilling was down to 11 rigs and this year the number is 21 rigs. Abatement was granted which is a 75% abatement ending in the year 2019. This abatement makes it attractive for business to stay in our community.

Hart

- Moving ahead with employee evaluations in the fire department.
- Working with the Fire Chief in preliminary stages of Firehouse IT layout, furnishings, and revised budget for completion of the renovation project.
- Working with legal counsel with language on a variety of land use projects, code updates, conflict of interest policy updates and conduct procedures.
- I have been offered an opportunity in an oversight capacity to represent south central Ohio region to review township compliance in administrative code. It will be broad in the first two years, checking into funds use and operations in fire, roads and ancillary services. This will likely become an extension of the improvements that have been initiated here and in local townships in

recent years. Changes are making their way through the state and county levels. The townships across the state will be seeing them, too.

- There have been unfortunate disruptions and diversions of administration and elected officials in townships and villages across the state. Each instance of impropriety has been a loss to the taxpayer. Much of that is coming to an end. Rushcreek Township has already been identified as a place where we have identified problems and made those changes. Our initiative has been recognized in the most positive manner. More details should come towards the end of this year.
- The Fairfield County Ohio Township Association meeting will be held Saturday, March 18th starting with a tour of the Jail and Public Safety Complex followed by the business meeting at the Commissioners Hearing Room where a representative from the State Treasurer office will present the Ohiocheckbook program. Statehouse Representatives and Senator will be attending.
- Since last year, I have been working with the Ohio Township Association at the county level. Just yesterday, our government program director provided me with material for an orientation for prospective trustee candidates. There is a lacking and an express need for people entering public service to understand the skill sets and applications to be an effective trustee. As an outgoing Trustee, I plan to develop and recommend that Rushcreek Township will be sponsoring a Trustee Candidate Orientation, hopefully in June.

Rushcreek Township Representative on the Regional Planning Commission Charles Hockman attended the meeting on March 7th. Mr. Hockman's report is attached at the end of the minutes.

At 9:53am Bill made a motion to enter Executive Session under ORC 121.22(G)(1) to review resumes and consider employment. Dave seconded the motion. Roll Call: Hart, aye; Dave, aye; Bill, aye. Hart advised it is unknown at this time if there will be any business after Executive Session. Executive Session Ended: 10:45am.

Open Session began: 10:45am.

A Work Session was scheduled for Saturday, March 25th at the Township office, 213 Marietta Street, Bremen. The Work Session will begin at 10am and immediately go into Executive Session under ORC 121.22(G)(1). The purpose of the meeting is to review candidates and consider employment for the Zoning Inspector's position.

Meeting Adjourned: 10:47am.

Connie's statement read at the March 15th Board Meeting.

"Thank you for asking for my input which I have expressed to each of you individually. My opinion has not changed and as I have often heard from the Trustees it is not debatable.

Ohiocheckbook, purchased from a California company, is a program in its second year and has cost the taxpayers up to 2.7 million dollars according to several published news articles. Ohiocheckbook only publishes the entity's expenditures not revenue.

In 2015 I asked the Trustees permission to post Rushcreek Township's annual financial reports on our Township's website. Permission was granted. 2016 financial reports were also posted. Financial reports on our website not only show the expenditures but it also includes revenue which gives the entire financial report. The cost of our website is approximately \$900 a year and includes far more than our financial information.

Last year one of our local residents requested detailed financials for two and one-half years. Although at the time it seemed overwhelming because of the hundreds of pages, it was a learning experience for me. One of my main concerns was how to handle the details on the receipt records because of patient information on the EMS run billing and HIPPA privacy. Between myself and the Prosecuting Attorney who redacted that information, I believe this was provided in approximately three weeks, hundreds of pages. Again, I want to stress it was a learning experience.

*Ohiocheckbook opens our records up to the **world**. I am dedicated to my constituents and have never had a problem opening my office and explaining any of our finances. However, that dedication is to my constituents not Out of State telemarketers and arm chair surfers searching for ways to make money off of our taxpayers using scams and internet hacking. The State Auditor is concerned about internet scams, hacking, and malware.*

I personally have tried to obtain information on the Ohiocheckbook site. Opinion - It is not as user friendly as presented.

Rushcreek Township Trustees have the authority to mandate our records be placed on the State Treasurer's site. This is not required by the Ohio Revised Code. Again this program is only in it's second year. At this time, I humbly ask that the Board not support this action."

Charlie Hockman began by thanking the Trustees for the appointment of the Rushcreek Township Representative on the Regional Planning Commission. He stated that Hart Van Horn agreed to continue as the alternate should he be unable to attend.

Regional Planning Commission Meeting 3-7-17

As presented by Rushcreek Township Representative Charles Hockman

2016 Summarized Annual Report

- The Annual Report shows interesting demographic data. From 2000-2010 county population increased from 122,759 to 146,156. This 19% increase is 4th among Ohio's 88 counties. In 2015 the county population was 151,408. In 2020 it is projected to be a population of 169,540. In 2030 it is projected to have a population of 201,010. In 1990 our population was 103,461. More information can be obtained at www.co.fairfield.oh.us/rpc.
- Of the 13 townships, Rushcreek, Pleasant, Richland, and Berne show the biggest percentage of low to moderate income households. Block grants utilize this income data. In 2016 the county received \$193,000 from the Office of Community Development in the form of a block grant. Those funds were directed towards waterline improvements for the village of Thurston, street improvements for Fairfield Beach and new tornado sirens for the Rushville area. The county also got a \$500,000-dollar Neighborhood Revitalization Program grant in 2016. That is for park, sidewalk, street and drainage improvements for Fairfield Beach.
- In 2016, RPC hired Reveille, a consultant from Bowling Green Ohio to assist us with our long range, 10-15-year planning. One way Reveille does this is through resident surveys via the internet. To date some 800 surveys have been completed. On the Fairfield County RPC website, there are 3 surveys. The 1st is the Connected Community Program Survey. It asks questions about broadband internet service for the community. The 2nd survey is of extreme importance and is the Comprehensive Plan Survey. It is for the 15-year plan for development and land use. The 3rd survey is the Fairfield County Farmland Survey. The Fairfield County RPC and Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission definitely need our input. Mr. Hockman encouraged everyone present to please go onto the website and complete these surveys.
- The RPC staff supports the Local Food Council. The Council was created in 2012 to help promote the goals of Fairfield Growing such as educating the public on local food matters and promoting local food production. Lancaster Fresh Market Inc. was created in 2015 and partnered with the Fairfield County Land Bank to acquire the former Lancaster Hardware building. In 2016 the non-profit opened the doors of the Keller Market House, a local food market and business incubator. Hart commented that Lynn Schultz of Shultz Farms in Rushcreek Township serves on the Board and was instrumental in the development of this program.
- The RPC Active Transportation Committee continues to be active and was involved with the US-33 and Winchester Road/Carroll project in 2016 and is currently working with MORPC (Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission) on state wide transportation improvement programs.
- There were a total of 6 plats recorded in 2016 for Fairfield County. It totaled 218 lots on 123 acres. Minor sub-divisions totaled 150 lot splits, 55 of these were less than 5 acres. Any alterations or additions to a recorded plat will require a re-plat. The Executive Director of the RPC shall determine if it is a Type 1 or Type 2. Type 1 creates new lot lines or addition lots etc. Type 2 includes creation or removal of any easements and removals of lot lines. An example would be turning 2 lots into 1. Type 1 re-plats cost \$3,000 and Type 2 re-plats cost \$1,500. This is an extremely abbreviated explanation of Plats. More information is available on the website.
- Holly asks zoning inspectors to let RPC know if any commercial permits are requested.
- Agenda Actions to be taken: Complete the Comprehensive Plan Survey for the 15-year County Development and Land Use along with the other two surveys. The website to complete these at is <http://www.co.fairfield.oh.us/rpc/>.