

RUSHCREEK TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES
BOARD MEETING
06/07/2017

Hart Van Horn, Chairman called the Rushcreek Township Trustees Board meeting to order at 7:00pm. In the past the Pledge of Allegiance was dedicated to the military who defend this nation and the law enforcement who protect our freedoms. On this night the Pledge was dedicated to Mr. Marvin Scott Moyer, Connie's husband, who passed away on May 26th. Mr. Moyer served in the military defending our nation and was an officer with Lancaster Police Department who paid the ultimate price defending his community. 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

Charles & Barb Hockman, Tracy Shahan, Mary Hoffman, Earl Lehman, Chad Ashbaugh

Bid Opening

The following ad was placed in the Fairfield and Eastern Edition of the Towne Crier along with placed on the website: *The Rushcreek Township Board of Trustees is now accepting sealed bids for the purchase of a Single Axle Dump Truck in good working condition with a Minimum Bid of \$3,000. Sealed Bids will be opened at 7:00 p.m. at the Township Office on June 7, 2017. Regular mail/hand delivery at P.O. Box 88, 213 Marietta St., Bremen OH 43107. Title rendered upon receipt of certified check. Truck specifications - 1995 Chevrolet Kodiak, 189,590 miles, air brakes, 3116 Caterpillar Engine, Six speed manual transmission, Single Axle w/Dump Bed, Roll-Gate Spreader, Side mounted tool box. Contact info 740-569-7181 Ext #11. Can be seen at above address. Photo on township website, rushcreektwp.org*

The mailbox was checked with one bid opened from David Sartin, 1734 Leonard Rd., Baltimore in the amount of \$3,600.00. Dave made a motion to sell the 1995 Kodiak to Mr. Sartin in the amount of \$3,600.00 and Bill seconded the motion. Roll Call: Hart, aye; Dave, aye; Bill, aye. Connie will notify Mr. Sartin and make arrangements for the transfer.

Minutes

The minutes of the May 17th Regular 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 #342-2017 – #376-2017 and Warrants #40712 - #40734 in the amounts of \$29,024.48 were presented to the Trustees for signatures along with the May Bank Reconciliation. Dave made a motion to pay the bills and Bill seconded the motion. Roll Call: Hart, aye; Dave, aye; Bill, aye.

Road Superintendent Hintz presented the Board with a list of expenditures for the next period in the amount of \$13,700.00. Bill made a motion to approve the list of expenditures and Dave seconded the motion. Roll Call: Hart, aye; Dave, aye; Bill, aye.

Hart asked Doug the following questions:

Q: Is the Durapatch ready to be used? A: Yes we are cold patching now, once that is completed we will be using the Durapatch with the emulsion to seal the patchwork. Q: What are these culverts for that are listed on your request? A: Two large culverts for roads that will be reimbursed under the force account program.

Trustee Van Horn stated his concern that the emulsion money was approved for the Durapatcher several weeks ago, but it had not been used even though it had been promised. Cold patching is more expensive to do the same work.

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

Business

Chief Will Duvall reported the following:

- Runs during the last pay period: 22 EMS including 11 transports and 3 fire runs.
- Attended the County Chief's meeting at Greenfield Township.
- The firehouse renovation project is progressing with all contractors. VFP has finished the sprinkler system until Seifert completes the ceiling.

Hart asked Chief the following questions:

Q: Could he explain an email received from the HazMat team. A: An email was received from the Fairfield County HazMat Team that they are having a shortage of personnel. It only has 4 of the 10 personnel needed to maintain its classification for the county. Our fire department has provided volunteer staffing when it can. Q: Are there any in-house staffing issues? A: Bremen Rushcreek Fire Department staffing has improved and schedules are well filled. The Village pool is not open due to a certified staffing shortage – the BRFD made itself available to provide training in CPR/First Aid.

Road Superintendent Doug Hintz reported the following:

- Hauled grindings to Fairview, Thomas, Purvis, and South Bethel Roads for dust control.
- On Friday 5/19 the crew was called in to remove downed trees on Heyd and Rutter Hill Roads due to thunderstorms.
- All of our cemeteries were mowed and sprayed in preparation for Memorial Day weekend.
- Continuing to patch potholes on chip sealed roads throughout the township as time allows.
- Mowing is scheduled to begin on June 12th. All equipment has been serviced.
- The crew has installed one new driveway culvert and replaced an old one. Three culverts have been replaced under the following roads: Geneva School, South Sacred Heart, and Young with more culvert replacements scheduled as time allows. Local residents will be notified prior to closing roads. Hart asked how this was being done. Doug responded that a notice was typed up and placed at the affected landowner's home along with notice sent to Eagle Gazette and our website.
- The crew fixed wheel ruts on Purvis Rd. with cold mix. We are going to continue doing this on chip sealed roads throughout the township along with soft spots as material and time permits.

Hart asked Doug how the mowing is coming along and Doug responded that the crew has been working on the potholes and getting culverts and ditching however with the shortage of personnel things have been running behind schedule. Hart corrected that statement, that it is not actually a shortage of personnel because up until just 2 years ago, Rushcreek Township only had two employees and this was a planned absence. Although one of the personnel is off with Dave's help there are three workers. Hart also pointed out that both he and Bill have volunteered two months ago to help with mowing, a lot of the other townships are on their second mowing and we haven't started. He continued that in reviewing the personnel records it has been noted that we are continuing to mow the neighbor's private lot up to 6 times and this is not township property. There is no reason we should be mowing private property that does not belong to the township and ignoring our own road mowing. Hart advised again that this was private property and we should not be mowing and the Township insurance group (OTARMA) has advised that we should not be conducting any activities on private property, because it is not covered. Bill questioned where we will store the oil tanker. Hart said that the township has more property elsewhere, some newly purchased property. Hart continued that the fence project has been stalled for several months. He was not pleased that we were ordering large culverts without securing the property and protecting the taxpayer's resources. The township must protect this inventory. Also, work needs completed on Durbin Run and Pleasantview Roads, an unfinished project that was promised 4 years ago to improve the safety

of travel at that intersection. Hart reiterated the fact that we are taxpayer money and time mowing private property and providing fencing to private property when there are all kinds of work that needs completed for the greater good of the taxpayers at large.

Connie reported the following:

- The Village of Bremen submitted a \$10,000 bill for the water tap at the fire department. The invoice was turned over to the Prosecuting Attorney.
- On behalf of Rushcreek Township the Prosecuting Attorney answered Mary Hoffman's records request regarding the fire department's payroll records.
- The Prosecuting Attorney has a compact disk of the firehouse renovation project which includes Mary Hoffman's record request. He is reviewing the information and once completed will fulfill the request.

Charles Hockman. Rushcreek Township Representative on the Regional Planning Commission Board, presented his report which is attached at the end of the minutes.

Trustee Reports

Dave – Verified road & fire payroll, working with road crew on various projects, and held a monthly safety meeting.

Bill – The following zoning permits have been issued since the last meeting: Countrytyme Land – 6440 Tent Church – Accessory Bldg.; Jeff Mayhugh – 2551 Westpoint Rd. – Deck Expansion; Bill Gray – 9080 Sacred Heart – Restroom, well house, deck, and roof over camper. Bill continued that he is working on getting the board member positions filled. The road crew did a very good job on Bethel South after the heavy rains. After inspecting Township roads, the spray work completed earlier is very effective. Complaints have been received on the condition of the Recycle Trailer with debris being placed around the trailer in bags. The public is encouraged to be a little more housekeeping minded and clean-up after yourself and one another in order to keep this service. Hart asked that the record show thanks to Tracy Shahan for cleaning up the area during the Memorial Day weekend. While reviewing payroll, a question came up on Holiday Pay while on Leave. The Trustees agreed to hold the Holiday Pay until researched. During my Saturday duty, I reviewed the Employee Handbook and the Trustees Handbook. Past payroll records were reviewed dating April 16, 2014 through April 30, 2014 and it was found that Holiday Pay was not paid during Leave. Copies of these documents were given to Dave and Hart to view.

Discussion ensued on the Holiday pay. Dave advised he spoke with the County who we modeled our employee handbook after. The County's policy is that the employee must work the day before and after the holiday in order to receive the holiday. However, if there was prescheduled vacation then holiday pay would be granted. An employee would receive holiday pay if they were on sick leave. This statement was challenged because there was with no document of such a county policy and Dave's information could be outdated. Hart reminded the Board that Policy changes for one must be consistent for all. Chief Duvall was asked and he reminded the Board that he has asked for Holiday differential for only 5 days per year for Fire/EMS personnel. Hart said that this concurs with the need for more research and wanted to see documented precedent before considering a change in policy. After a lengthy discussion, the Trustees agreed to have the proper paperwork to review at the June 21st meeting before a decision would be made.

Hart

- FD Renovation: Fire Sprinkler system is completed up to the next phase of general construction. He has called for an inspection which will be completed by Kelly Architecture.
- Safety concerns have been proactively addressed. Trustees and personnel are reminded that the firehouse is a construction zone, therefore hard hats and other personal protective gear is required.
- The State of Ohio continues to monitor and approve compliance with the work, plus issues permits as needed.

- The County has been very helpful and has responded on the Board's requests for the Blosser Cemetery plots. There are some problems here that will need addressed and covered in Executive Session.
- Recent OPEC funding report is very disturbing. Now over \$8 million deficit and members are being called upon to cover...this includes Rushcreek. Hart is in contact with other townships across the state. The collective is preparing to challenge non-member Board Members.
- Saturday, June 17th the County OTA meeting will be hosted by Liberty Township and will begin at 4pm.

Hart announced that the Board will go into three Executive Sessions in succession and stated the purpose of each session with the possibility that there could be business the end of the third session.

At 8:00pm Bill made a motion to go into Executive Session under ORC 121.22(G)(1) complaint against Elected officials and Hart seconded the motion. Roll Call: Hart, aye; Dave, aye; Bill, aye. Executive Session Ended: 8:26pm.

At 8:26pm Dave made a motion to go into Executive Session under ORC 121.22(G)(1) to consider compensation of public employees and Hart seconded the motion. Roll Call: Hart, aye; Dave, aye; Bill, aye. Executive Session Ended: 9:20pm.

At 9:20pm Hart made a motion to go into Executive Session under ORC 121.22(G)(2) for the purchase/sale of property and Dave seconded the motion. Roll Call: Hart, aye; Dave, aye; Bill, aye. Executive Session Ended: 9:36pm.

Dave thanked Earl Lehman for helping at the Sugar Hill cemetery on Bethel Road.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:37pm.

Fairfield County Regional Planning Commission Report

Rushcreek Twp. Board of Trustees Meeting 6-7-17

R.P.C. Meeting 6-6-17 Representative Charles Hockman

- President Bill Yapple gave his report and introduced Geoff Carabin. Geoff is the new Planner for the R.P.C. Even with Geoff on board, the staffing is still short but this should be temporary.
- Dennis Keller, Facilities Manager, for the new jail gave an update and presentation. He explained that over 15 yrs. ago the need was obvious for a new jail. With a rejected added tax by the voters, funding was a major problem. Dennis went on to thank the County Commissioners for prioritizing and coming up with the money, \$34.7 million, to complete the project. Not only is the 110,000 sq. ft. building a jail, but it also houses the 911 center, the Detective Bureau, Sheriff's office and 4 class rooms etc. Commissioner Dave Levacy stated they do not want revolving doors with the inmates. The goal is to get help for the offenders. Training and education is planned as part of our new jail facility. The jail was built at 345 Lincoln Ave instead of the Liberty Center because of being close to the court house with inmates being transported back and forth continually. The architects were told to design a complex that blended in with downtown Lancaster and did not look like a prison. It was designed for expansion with a third pod possible. The new capacity will house 384 inmates. June 17th is the ribbon cutting at 11:00. Tours are available after that until 2:00
- A variance was requested for the Spring Creek Subdivision in Violet Twp. and was voted on and approved with the recommendation of the Regulations Committee.
- Liberty Twp. Proposed some definition changes to their zoning text. Liberty Twp. also requested a change for 8 churches to be zoned PRB/CS (Planned Rural Business/Community Service) from R-R (Rural Residential). I asked what would happen if a church should close its doors and the property would be sold? Loudan Klein, our Executive Director, said the properties and parcels involved would then be re-evaluated as to usage. The change from R.R. was approved.
- Greenfield Twp. requested a .75 acre parcel at Rt. 33 and Coonpath to be changed from R.R. to I. (Industrial) for a gas regulator station for Columbia Gas Transmission. The areas around it are mostly already zoned Industrial. The request was voted on and passed.
- A 2018 Preliminary Budget Draft was presented for the R.P.C. in the amount of \$373,640.