

RUSHCREEK TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES
BOARD MEETING
07/05/2017

Dave Myers, Vice-Chairman called the Rushcreek Township Trustees Board meeting to order at 7:01pm 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 Dave were: Bill Myers, Trustee; Connie Moyer, Fiscal Officer; Road Superintendent Doug Hintz; and Will Duvall, Fire Chief. Dave asked that all cell phones be muted along with all fire radios except the Chief and Road Superintendent. Trustee Van Horn was unable to attend.

Visitors

Chad Ashbaugh, Tracy Shahan, Mary Hoffman, Earl Lehman

Work Session

The following notice was placed on the website and sent to the Eagle Gazette on June 21st: *Rushcreek Township Trustees will hold a Special Meeting at 6:00pm on Friday, June 23rd. The meeting will be held at the Township office, 213 Marietta Street. The purpose of the meeting will be to review the OPEC membership. Following the Special Meeting the Trustees will immediately hold a Work Session with each Department Head to review their proposed 2018 budget.* The work session began at 6:15pm. Attendees were Dave Myers, Bill Myers, Hart Van Horn, Connie Moyer, Richard Campbell, Doug Hintz, Will Duvall, Chad Ashbaugh, and Earl Lehman. Each department head went over their proposed 2018 budget. Connie will prepare the budget and have the budget hearing advertised according to ORC. Meeting adjourned: 8:10pm.

Minutes

The minutes of the June 21st Regular Meeting and the June 23rd Special 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. Dave 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 #413-2017 - #445-2017 and Warrants #40756 - #40769 in the amounts of \$27,482.82 were presented to the Trustees for signatures along with the July Bank Reconciliation. Bill made a motion to pay the bills and Dave seconded the motion. Roll Call: Dave, aye; Bill, aye.

Road Superintendent Hintz presented the Board with a list of expenditures for the next period in the amount of \$7,000.00. Bill made a motion to approve the list of expenditures and Dave seconded the motion. Roll Call: Dave, aye; Bill, aye.

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

Purchase Order #21-2017 was presented for signatures.

Business

Chief Will Duvall reported the following:

- Runs during the last pay period: 23 EMS including 9 transports and 5 fire runs.
- A meeting is scheduled on July 7th with Medicount to review the EMS run billing.

Road Superintendent Doug Hintz reported the following:

- All mowing in the township has been completed
- Hauled a dump truck load of trash that was collected along township roads to the Transfer Station.
- Progress has been made on the fence around the township property.
- Trimmed some trees and brush on Turkey Run Road.
- Patched potholes and soft spots on Marietta Road between corporation limit and SR 37 with cold mix in preparation for chip sealing.
- Chip/Seal is planned for the 3rd week in August.
- Preparing to advertise for bids to haul grindings.

Connie reported the following:

- The proposed 2018 budget was delivered to the County Auditor. As a reminder, the budget hearing for the proposed 2018 budget is set for July 21, 2017 at 6pm at the township office. A hearing with the Fairfield County Budget Commission is set for Monday, August 7, 2017 at 11:05am in the Commissioners' Hearing Room, County Courthouse on the third floor.
- Balestra Harr & Scherer the independent public accountant firm handling the audit requested additional information therefore a modification agreement to extend the contract to September 30, 2017 was submitted to the Auditor of State.
- Received 2nd notice from the Village for the \$10,000 water tap invoice. If payment is not received by July 10th a 20% late fee will be added. The original invoice was taken to the Prosecuting Attorney back in May with follow-up between the Prosecuting Attorney and Trustee Van Horn.

Trustee Reports

Dave – Reviewed road and fire payroll, working with road crew as time allows on various projects, attended the quarterly District Advisory Council meeting, and held the June monthly safety meeting. Spoke with Amy Brown-Thompson from the Prosecuting Attorney's office about the real estate taxes on the Blosser Cemetery lots. She advised that we were responsible to pay the taxes which are due the 20th of July so a warrant was issued. Dave feels the Blosser Cemetery property needs to be sold or back to the original owner with an easement to the cemetery. Dave stated he will work on that project with the Prosecuting Attorney.

Bill – One permit was issued since the last meeting to Tyler Hostetter, 2255 Westpoint Rd – pool with a deck. Had Saturday duty on June 26th. Checked the road crews various projects. The crew is progressing well with all of the many different projects.

Hart – Fire Department Renovation - approximately 20 hours has been spent reviewing requests for change orders, invoices and work to reconcile project. a) Fire Sprinkler System completed to date stills needs inspection and detail of work recorded. b) General work progresses at a slower rate than expected billing needs to be reconciled prior to payment. Respective contractors have been contacted to provide required information. c) safe work practices are being monitored.

Property Sale/Purchase - Relative information has been forwarded onto county prosecutor's office for review of sale agreements to be made ready for future use - the Blosser Cemetery lots are the main concern in this effort. Connie and I have both been in contact with county offices on taxes for these properties.

Fairfield Federal has been contacted with a request to clean up property on 2780 Mt. Zwingli Rd. They will be dealing with the problem.

Report to the Board - OPEC-HC: Health Care funding:

Of the numerous emails that have been exchanged in the past few weeks over the Health Care Plans for public entities in the OPEC-HC, this will summarize and detail the current situation in the best manner.

It is imperative that best practice be applied in using tax dollars to provide Health Care Benefits to the employees of Rushcreek Township. In my opinion, past practice of the Rushcreek Board Trustees, dating back to 2011 through 2013, this has not been so. As such, the Board was enrolled in a membership agreement with the Ohio Public Entities Consortium (aka OPEC-HC) that locked in the township with few means to get out. As such, the cost of health care programs escalated unnecessarily and included, but limited to cover the deficit spending of the OPEC-HC while it has apparently been operated by board members with a direct conflict of interest. Such conflicts and malfeasance have cost Rushcreek Township over \$2,000 last year and we must now consider a \$15,000-\$20,000 deficit cost this coming year.

At my insistence a few months ago, we acted on measures that saved \$23,000 by changing the Health Care plans so that employees have coverage, that there is a shared cost and that the taxpayer money is spent with more prudence. However, there has been a trend to extend benefits without a policy base, double or triple load features (i.e. low deductible plus health savings plus full premium payments) that are not consistent with best practice employment standards within our own Township - this in itself creates further conflicts of interest where the unjustified costs will be a greater proportion than the funds needs to maintain our township. The \$23,000 saved this year may not be enough to cover expected increases in 2018.

Further analysis by all trustees, not just one and budget restraints are needed as we progress into finalizing a 2018 Budget for Rushcreek Township.

Noted: The OPEC-HC policy is for full time road department personnel.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:30pm.