

RUSHCREEK TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES
BOARD MEETING
12/7/2016

Hart Van Horn, 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 Hart were: Dave Myers, Trustee; Bill Myers, Trustee; Connie Moyer, Fiscal Officer; Robert Suer, Road Superintendent; 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

Earl Lehman, Mary Hoffman, Tracy Shahan, Barb Hockman, John Seifert, Ray Stemen, Bill Cross, Steve Good, Pat Kelly, Chelsey Love, Ian Chilcote, Ken Hawkins

Chief Duvall advised all present that the flag was at half staff in honor of the 75th Anniversary of Pearl Harbor.

Bid Opening

The Bid Opening for the Fire House Renovation which was originally scheduled at 9am on November 30th was cancelled due to significant specification changes. The Bid Opening was changed to be held at the regular meeting of December 7, 2016 at 7pm. All advertisement and notifications were coordinated by Kelly Architectural Services. Since Pat Kelly is managing the project, the meeting was turned over to Mr. Kelly to conduct the bid opening. Mr. Kelly thanked all bidders and advised that ORC mandates how a bid opening is to be held and Rushcreek Township would be following the mandated code. The mailbox was checked. Each bid packet was opened with the attached bid sheet compiled. Mr. Kelly advised he would be taking the bid packets back to his office to review and a recommendation would be made to the Board of Trustees for their next regularly scheduled meeting on December 21, 2016.

Minutes

The minutes of the November 16th meeting were presented to the Trustees for approval. Dave 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. Hart seconded the motion. Roll Call: Dave, aye; Hart, aye; Bill, abstained due to being absent from the meeting.

Treasurer's Report

EFT #795-2016 – #828-2016 and Warrants #40504-40521 in the amounts of \$37,584.26 were presented to the Trustees for signatures along with the November bank reconciliation. Dave made a motion to pay the bills and Bill seconded the motion. Roll Call: Hart, aye; Dave, aye.

On December 21, 2016 three Certificate of Deposits from Citizens bank totaling \$500,000.00 matures and on December 29, 2016 a Certificate of Deposit matures from Bremen Bank in the amount of \$50,000.00. Hart made a motion to re-invest the monies with the institution(s) that will provide the best interest rates. Dave seconded the motion. Roll Call: Hart, aye; Dave, aye; Bill, aye.

Chief Duvall presented the Trustees with a list of expenditures for the next period in the amount of \$8,000.00. Bill made a motion to approve the list of expenses and Dave seconded the motion. Included in the list were tires for Medic 541, and heating core replacement on Engine 541. Roll Call: Dave, aye; Hart, aye, Bill, aye.

Road Superintendent Suer presented the Trustees with a list of expenditures for the next period in the amount of \$500.00 for emergency purposes only. Dave made a motion to approve the list of expenses and Bill seconded the motion. Roll Call: Dave, aye; Hart, aye, Bill, aye.

Business

Chief Will Duvall reported the following:

- Runs reported during the pay period: 23 squad which included 15 transports and 3 fire runs.
- Attended the Safety Meeting on December 6th with Bill Myers with the subject matter being

management and employee rights. A representative from the Fairfield County Labor Board was present.

- Held multiple site inspections with potential bidders on the renovation project.
- The FEMA Fire Grant was submitted and received on November 18th which was one day ahead of schedule. Hart advised the grant was well written and all Trustees thanked both Chief and Fiscal Officer for the extended work that was needed to make sure the entire packet was submitted correctly.

Road Superintendent Robert Suer reported the following:

- The last bank on the East side of Locust Grove Road was reshaped with a ditch installed. The project was seeded and mulched which now completes the entire project.
- Eleven trees were removed on the south side of Sacred Heart Road near the cemetery. Trees were trimmed near the McCandlish property on Marietta Road and Holliday Road.
- The storage bins are full with material to treat the roads during the winter season. There is enough material to complete the winter season which will be moved to the bins as supply depletes.
- Grading and applying stone to gravel roads as weather permits.
- In 2016 the Township has picked up approximately 170 tires along the roadway. In the past, the crew has transported the tires to Smetzer's Tire in Lancaster at a cost of \$4.00/passenger and \$5.00/light truck. Liberty Tire in Grove City was contacted for a price quote. They responded at \$2.00 a tire however \$6.00 with rims. Liberty Tire will handle all transportation from the Township to their facility. The Township has a few rimmed tires however the rims will be removed and sold for scrap. Liberty Tires will be contacted early next year to begin disposal of our stock. Chief Duvall advised that John Seifert has a business that charges by the ton to remove and Bob agreed to check into the matter.

Connie advised the Board that she has witnessed Mr. Suer preparing for his retirement by completing many projects in order for his replacement to be able to focus on learning the position. The Board thanked Mr. Suer for his attention to detail. Bob stated that at the last Board Meeting he announced his retirement. Since that time there has been several individuals approach him with rumors that he [Bob] got angry and quit which is simply not true. He is 66 years old and it is time to retire!

Connie reported the following:

- Two open positions are available to serve on the OTARMA Board of Directors filling a four-year term. OTARMA sent biographies for each candidate along with a ballot for Rushcreek Township Trustees to vote. The ballots will remain sealed until the OTARMA Annual Membership Meeting on Friday, January 27, 2017. After reviewing and discussing, the Trustees decided to vote for Nicholas Schwab and Marsha Funk.
- Attended a class on Tuesday December 6th by the State Auditor to meet the continuing education requirements. This was of no expense to the Township.

Trustee Reports

Dave – Reviewed payroll and assisted with site preparation on 127 Mulberry Street property.

Bill – Attended Safety Council Meeting and discussed with Road Superintendent on grading various roads and the parking lot plan. The following Variance Hearings have been scheduled beginning at 7pm on December 14th at the Township Hall: Jadon Hershberger – setback; and Dava Greenlee – tiny house.

Hart – An ad was sent to the Towne Crier, various government entities, and the website with regards to replacing the Road Superintendent position. The job description is “click here” on the website. All questions should be directed to Robert Suer with wages to be determined by experience and qualifications. It is the Board's intention to have the position filled by January 1st. The Fairfield County Ohio Township banquet is scheduled to be held at Stanberry School in Lancaster on Sunday, December 11th. A letter was received from the Village of Bremen. They have conceded there is no alley located between 213 Marietta Street and 127 Mulberry Street. However, an offer was made to purchase a portion of this land from the Township. The Board will go into Executive Session later to discuss the offer.

INVESTIGATIONS - Hart reported that there are ongoing activities and investigations in the Township to correct unethical behavior. Some objectives were to look into improprieties and corrupt behavior. Many have been uncovered and have been stopped or the individuals responsible have had their employment terminated. The general public believes there is no prosecution after a two year period however that applies to when the information is discovered not when the crime was committed.

FRAUDULENT ACTIVITY & REPARATION - Hart presented documented evidence in large print and images. To recap what has been found: CPR training was being given by personnel with the personnel using Township equipment and billing the individuals on fictitious letterhead. Some of those names were identified in the documents. The personnel would then keep the money collected instead of turning the finances back to the fire fund from which Rushcreek Township taxpayers provided the funds. Eight to ten individuals were using fire department equipment and conducting eight to ten classes per year with estimated revenue of \$90,000.00 annually. This action is inappropriate, unethical, and currently under investigation. It is the full intention of the Board of Trustees to offer these classes at no cost to our residents once this matter gets settled. Companies and individuals who were cheated out of this opportunity have been offered a payback. The Board of Trustees gave employees involved in these inappropriate and unethical activities an opportunity to attend ethic training. At least 3 employees resigning instead of taking the necessary steps required to maintain their employment. This does not mean that they are exempt from civil or criminal prosecution.

CORRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR - Recently an article was in the Lancaster Eagle Gazette on Mr. Ricky Hoffman which included allegations against Mr. Van Horn and the Trustees of the Board. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Hart stated, "Mr. Ricky Hoffman was NOT a victim and he will NOT receive an apology. In fact, the overall operation and integrity has significantly improved since Mr. Hoffman left."

Hart pointed out that the overall operation and integrity of the Fire Department has improved with the removal of the Fire Chief and Assistant Fire Chief and replaced with Chief Duvall. Hart was accused taking actions based on hearsay and rumor and Mr. Hoffman was unfairly implicated, therefore, "collateral damage". Hart made it clear, that his [Hart's] actions have been and continue to be base on factual evidence and he pointedly focused on those directly involved or otherwise responsible, including Mr. Hoffman for misuse of authority, diversion of funds, misuse of funds and sexual improprieties.

Hart provided documented evidence in large print for all to see - Mr. Ricky Hoffman held the position of Assistant Fire Chief of Bremen-Rushcreek Fire Department and was in charge of providing training to the members. Working approximately 20 hours per month he failed to conduct ANY training for a solid year. However he was going on trips at the taxpayer's expense. A computer forensic analysis was done by Interhack Corp. A few of the 175 pages of entries were read which were listed from the computer assigned to Mr. Ricky Hoffman and the training computer for which Assistant Chief Ricky Hoffman was responsible to provide the training. All entries were made with Mr. Hoffman's specific password. Many entries to the Ohio Fire Training site, however No Training was given, many adult pornographic sites were shown that skater stripping, topless skier, child raped, purchasing REO Speedwagon tickets using an American Express card with an account connected to Ticket Master. Upon one occasion there was a fire run that the Mr. Hoffman did not go on while on duty but the computer site was still connected to pornographic material. As an Assistant Fire Chief Mr. Ricky Hoffman was personally and professionally responsible by his own precedent. This is exactly why there will be no apology from Rushcreek Township Board of Trustees - Mr. Ricky Hoffman is NOT a victim.

Connie advised for clarification, the Township does not own the American Express Account used. It can be traced back specifically to Mr. Hoffman.

At 8:22pm, Hart made a motion that the Trustees enter into Executive Session under ORC 121.22(G)(2) property sale and Bill seconded the motion. The Chief and Road Superintendent were invited to attend. Roll Call: Hart, aye; Dave, aye; Bill aye. Executive Session Ended: 8:50pm.

Open Session Began: 8:51pm. Dave Myers made a motion to not accept the Village of Bremen's offer to purchase any property from the Township and Hart Van Horn seconded the motion. Roll Call: Hart, aye;

Dave, aye; Bill, aye. A letter will be prepared with a copy to the Prosecuting Attorney advising Bremen Village of the decision and request the fence permit be issued forthwith.

At 8:54pm, Bill made a motion to enter Executive Session under ORC 121.22(G)(1) to consider employment appointment and Dave seconded the motion. The Chief was invited to attend. Roll Call: Hart, aye; Dave, aye; Bill, aye. Executive Session Ended: 9:30pm.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:31pm.