

RUSHCREEK TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES
BOARD MEETING
08/05/15

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; 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.

Visitor
Joel Denny

Minutes

The minutes of the July 15th Regular Meeting, July 31st Special Meeting, and August 5th Emergency 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.rushcreektwp.org

Treasurer's Report

EFT # 391-2015 – #460-2015 and Warrants #39972 - 39992 in the amounts of \$74,269.32 along with the July bank reconciliation 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.

Agenda Items

Dave – Changes in 2016 Dave advised he will walk a “straighter arrow for 2016 and plans on working with the Trustees, Road Superintendent, and Fire Chief closer.” Hart stated that since the election has not taken place yet it sounds like a campaign speech and please do not bring this into a township meeting.

Dave – Inspection of Avalon Road on August 1st. - Reported that he inspected Avalon Road on July 30th and then again on August 1st. He went to Bob's residence to discuss the progress. He also let Bob know that he was satisfied with the progress. Bill asked Bob when he was going to put the culverts in and Bob replied that his focus is on chip/seal preparation and that culverts will be installed as time/weather allows.

Business

Chief Will Duvall reported the following:

- Medic 541 was out of service due to electrical problems. Lines Auto Service finished repairs at a cost of \$1,164.89. When discussing it with Hart, it was determined to be part of the lightning damage claim earlier in the year. The insurance company (PERSO) agreed to process the damage as part of the original claim. All Trustees were notified since repair amount exceeded expenditure requested.
- The tornado siren at the fire department is not working so Fairfield County EMA has been notified and will evaluate. Bill reported that the siren on Houck Road is operating.
- Our personnel is utilizing the new hose tester evaluating the hoses for service ability.
- Captain Beery and Lt. Kline have been deployed as of last Friday to the wildfires in California for approximately two weeks.
- Chief attended the Fairfield County Fire Chief Association meeting on July 29th.
- The Medicount data problem has been rectified again. It appears that the data was not being received from Emergidata. Hart stated he is noting a pattern - when Chief Duvall contacted Medicount the run data went from 0 runs to 26 runs within a day, when the Fiscal Officer contacts Medicount about missing deposit information the data is found many times within the day. It appears as that Medicount must continually be monitored on our end, which is a burden on the customer when this company relies on their customer base for profit.

- August 4th was the Safety Council Meeting at the Eagles where the topic was marijuana in the workplace if legalized. Bill was unable to attend so Will attended on the Township's behalf. Will continued that there is a lot of debate on this issue.

Hart asked Will to explain the procedures on when an employee signs up to work and then does not show up or like the situation with the firefighters who have been deployed to fight wildfires. Hart has been told that many of the employees would work for free however it has been duly noted that when they can receive compensation elsewhere there are certain individuals who take off without arranging for substitutes and/or just do not show up. Will responded that we have an unspoken rule that if they do not show up the employee is to notify his superior however there is no policy in place at this time and this has been a consistent problem for years. Hart advised Will that this needs addressed and will help in any way possible in developing the policy and procedure. Hart then turned to Bill and asked Bill why he did not attend the meeting and Bill replied that his back hurt so he didn't get out of bed. He had taken a pain pill the night before therefore did not answer Will's telephone call. Hart stated that this is irresponsible and does not show a good role model to our personnel. How can we expect our employees to fulfill obligations when Bill, as the employer, does not step up to his commitment. Hart continued that before Bill took those pills he should've called and found a replacement and then as a courtesy advised Chief Duvall.

Will presented the Trustees with a list of expenditures for the next period in the amount of \$3,700.00 however he requested that the \$500 miscellaneous item be reduced to \$250 with the remaining \$250 going towards uniforms. Hart made a motion to approve the list of expenses and Dave seconded the motion. Roll Call: Dave, aye; Bill, aye; Hart, aye. Runs reported during the pay period: 26 squad which includes 14 transports and 9 fire.

Road Superintendent Bob Suer reported the following:

- Working on preparing the roads for chip/seal and this will be the main priority for the next three weeks. The Durapatcher and cold mix are both being applied.
- Trustees Hart Van Horn and Dave Myers have completed berm cutting of the weeds on all township roads.
- The crew has worked on Avalon Road which is now open but not completed.
- There has been much talk about the radio license renewal which expired on July 12, 2015. Dave responded that he has tried his best to get the license. Bob informed the Board that the radio license file has detailed instructions from former Trustee Ed Pool on how to handle including contact information and Dave has provided a license to post for compliance Dave promised to keep trying.
- Part of the expenditure request includes emulsion and #8 stone for chip/seal. The work session scheduled for August 12th will determine the necessary material needed. The request submitted does not include dust mats.
- For the last two months the required safety training classes have not been handled by Trustee Dave Myers as promised. July's class was provided at the last minute by Road Superintendent. Bob stated he does not have time during chip/seal season to prepare the classwork. Dave advised that the computer disk he got did not work and thought that Hart was going to purchase another computer. Hart responded that Dave did not specify a computer request. However Hart can take over this project, too, if Dave won't. Hart also indicated that there are safety training books and pamphlets in the Roads Office available for immediate use. Connie reminded Dave that Kelly from our Risk Management Program had stated that they had a nice library of information. Hart reminded Dave this is another incident where he is relying on our employees to handle his duties as a trustee. Dave said he would try harder.

Bill stated that Wendall Coleman who lives on Sacred Heart Road stopped out to the shop and complimented the Township for a job well done on the roads. He also advised Bob regarding his availability for two weeks, starting with 8/24 to help with chip/seal he would be committed to Foltz's Auction the week of September 7th. Hart stated that he had already taken vacation days to help in the township and would need to review his schedule as to when he was available for the chip seal project.

Bob presented the Trustees with a list of expenditures for the next period in the amount of \$61,180.00. 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:

- The following zoning permits have been issued since the last meeting: Rick Clark, 3980 Durbin Road – storage building; Darwin Howdysshell, 395 Logan Thornville Rd – Roof over existing concrete pad in front of building.
- At the July 15th meeting the Board authorized the Fiscal Officer to rollover the CD that was maturing at the best possible rate. The following interest rates were obtained: Bremen Bank – 17 months @ .75%, Fairfield National Bank – 2 years @ .45%, Citizens Bank – 18 months @ .31%. Therefore the CD was placed with Bremen Bank for 17 months at an interest rate of .75%.
- A thank you note was received for the fire department from Mr. & Mrs. Lones. Copies distributed.
- The following ad was placed on the website and Towne Crier: Rushcreek Township Trustees will hold a work session at 7am on August 12th at the Township office, 213 Marietta Street. The purpose of the work session is to discuss the chip/seal project and purchase options for the truck and snow removal equipment.
- The August 2015 Grassroots Clippings was distributed.
- The Fiscal Officer, Trustees, and Fire Chief met with the Fairfield County Budget Commission on August 3, 2015 at 11:05am to go over Rushcreek Township 2016 Proposed Budget. The Budget Commission approved the 2016 Budget.
- Another Certificate of Deposit matures August 12, 2015 with Bremen Bank in the amount of \$75,000.00. Since the rates have just been obtained, Connie recommended the Trustee rollover this Certificate of Deposit.

At this time the Trustees decided to discuss the gas leak at the fire house. Trustee Van Horn passed out the minutes of the emergency meeting so those present could understand what had taken place. Since the Emergency Meeting, the plumber has confirmed the seriousness of the leak. The gas has been shut-off for safety purposes. However, the fire department is an emergency service provider and therefore needs to be prepared for emergencies. Since electric back-up generator requires natural gas, the Township is being compromised. Without a source of gas the department does not have the ability to function at it's optimal capacity during a community emergency or disaster. The plumbers findings; there are numerous gas line connections inside the fire house that have been in use for many years that are inappropriate and should have never been used for safe operation; outside there are gas service line connections that are out of code compliance or more than 10 years. Hart gave the examples that hard threaded pipe connections that are currently underground have a high potential for leaks and breaks during the seasonal freeze/thaw cycles. Inside, the connections use waterline parts and other fixtures not safety rated for gas line use. The plumber was authorized to make minimum repairs in order to leak test the entire system, however no additional work was authorized until an estimate is provided. Hart stated the job will probably be in excess of \$10,000 and could escalate quickly based on the plumber's findings after leak testing. Connie recommended that with such uncertainty and the seriousness of the situation the Trustees declare a State of Emergency. She continued that we should request an Amended Certificate from the Auditor for an amount that would without doubt cover the problem. Hart made a motion for a Declaration of a State of Emergency for Rushcreek Township and Dave seconded the motion. Roll Call: Hart, aye; Bill, aye; Dave, aye. Connie advised she will follow the proper protocol of notification. Hart made a motion to request an Amended Certificate from the Auditor in the amount of \$20,000.00 for the Fire Fund to be utilized for repairs and maintenance of the building for this emergency situation. Dave seconded the motion. Roll Call: Hart, aye; Dave, aye; Bill, aye.

- Hart then asked Connie for her recommendation on the Certificate of Deposit that matures on August 12, 2015 since this emergency has risen. Connie responded that the certificate of deposit money is pooled money and we have funding available in the checking account and money market accounts. Based upon Connie's recommendation, Bill made a motion to rollover the Certificate of Deposit in the amount of \$75,000 with the Bremen Bank for a 17 month term and Hart seconded the motion. Roll Call: Hart, aye; Bill, aye; Dave, aye.

Joel Denny, Rushcreek Township Representative on Regional Planning Commission gave a report which is attached at the end of the minutes.

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

- Liberty Township Trustee Randy Kemmerer provided Hart a copy of Liberty Township's agenda which was distributed. Connie stated that Randy had stopped by the office and advised that should his son Jake be elected, Rushcreek Township would have an agenda to follow.
- Two citizens on Durbin Run Road had advised that mailboxes were being destroyed by vandals.
- A draft letter was presented to the Board which was discussed at the last township meeting. The letter will be sent to Heidi Fought regarding our opposition on the Governor's veto of the force account line item on the State's Budget.
- Due to recent events with Rushcreek Township employee Tanner Kline, Hart Van Horn moved the adoption of Resolution #2015-11 which designates Ed Pool to conduct an investigation of claims of improper conduct and misconduct in office against Tanner Kline and to prepare the necessary charges, if any, against Kline. Bill Myers seconded the adoption. Roll Call: Hart, aye; Dave, aye; Bill, aye.
- Hart Van Horn moved the adoption of Resolution #2015-12 which suspends Tanner Kline until the next board meeting on August 19, 2015 during which time any charges that result from the investigation shall be heard pursuant to ORC733.36. Bill Myers seconded the adoption. Roll Call: Hart, aye; Dave, aye; Bill, aye.
- Connie was instructed to copy the Resolutions tonight and send both through electronic email and US Postal regular mail.
- Recently the Township received a check from Cyril-Scott for CPR training. Hart asked Dave and Bill if they could remember this discussion in the past. Dave stated that he believed in 2012 the Department had requested the Township provide instructor courses so that our personnel could supply training to both residents and businesses of the township. Bill concurred and stated that the instructors were not to charge for the class however there would be a minimal amount charged for the card. Hart advised that our local taxpayers paid for the instructor course(s), materials such as practice dummies, and possibly more. For fire department personnel to charge additional funds would be unfair when the taxpayers provided the education. This had been agreed upon as a "community service" and in looking through file cabinets at the fire department some anomalies have been found. A check dated July 6, 2015 made payable to Bremen Rushcreek Fire Association in the amount of \$50.00 with CPR in the memo line from Carmel Groce. In addition a bank bag with cash totaled \$85.70 was found in the file drawer with no explanation. Hart stated that ONLY the fiscal department should be handling money on any level. Hart advised he would contact Carmel Groce in order to find out what had taken place. Connie was instructed to deposit the money into the fire fund once Hart found out what was going on. Inappropriate handling of money along with going outside of the Trustees instructions on how to handle the CPR training will result in further investigation. Hart stated that with everything that has been uncovered to this point he presented the Board with a "Press Release" to be placed in our local newspaper that would advise the public if they had paid for a class to contact the Township for possible reimbursement. Hart made a motion to place the notice in both the Towne Crier and the Lancaster Eagle Gazette and Dave seconded the motion. Roll Call: Hart, aye; Dave, aye; Bill, aye.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:04pm

SIGNATURES ON FILE

FAIRFIELD COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT

Rushcreek Township Board of Trustees Meeting: 8/5/15

RPC Meeting: 8/4/15

RPC Representative: Joel Denny

Presentation by Fairfield County Engineer, Jeremiah Upp

- The RPC was presented with a list of some of the major road and bridge improvements within the county over the past year.

Subdivision Activity

- The RPC voted to approve 3 extensions of final plats of sections of new subdivisions in the Violet Township area off of OH Route 204.

Proposed Zoning Amendments

- The RPC voted to approve a recommendation to change the zoning of a plot of land on Short Road in Amanda Township. The recommendation would be to change the plot from an I-1 (Industrial) zone to a B-1 (Business) zone so that a Dollar General may be constructed.
- About 3 families were present to voice opposition to the zoning change.
- Even though the measure passed the RPC, I was one of 4 representatives that voted against the measure (2 representatives also abstained) for the following reasons:
 - The location of this proposed store did not seem to be appropriate for the store or the citizens/taxpayers that lived there:
 - Increased traffic on a rural road with families of small children
 - Bright light and increased noise “pollution”
 - Will not be connected to Amanda’s water or sewer systems
 - If a similar type store is planned for development on the other side of Amanda, those stores should be in similar and/or adjacent zoning areas to remain competitive
 - The increased road traffic on Short Road would necessitate major road improvements, which be at an increased cost for the township.
 - Water run-off already seems to be a concern with the site and the proposed plan could add to the problem.
 - The rezoning did not match up with the Future Land-Use Plan which called for the Village to eventually incorporate that area.
 - The RPC was not provided all of the facts, as one of the residents sent emails that were supposed to be included in the agenda packet, but were not included.