

RUSHCREEK TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES  
BOARD MEETING  
04/02/2014

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; and Bob Suer, Road Superintendent. Bill asked that all cell phones be muted along with all fire radios except one.

Visitors

Loy Householder, Jordan Irwin, Ray Stemen, Brian Irwin, William Duvall, Rusty Conrad, Alicia Conrad, Todd Beery, Denise Beery, Scott Fetty, Tiffany Fetty, Tanner Kline, Kristen Fetty, Zach Irwin, Joe Walton, Chip Pritsel, Jason Parsley, Alexander Vogel, Damon Thaxton, Florence Hutchinson, Deputy Cruse.

Minutes

The minutes of the March 19<sup>th</sup> 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 Dave seconded the motion. Roll Call: Dave, yes; Bill, yes; Hart, aye. Hart made a motion to amend the motion to include approving the minutes and Dave seconded the motion. Roll Call: Dave, aye; Bill, aye; Hart, aye. Bill reminded everyone that the minutes are available upon request at the Fiscal Officer's office.

Treasurer's Report

EFT #150-2014 - 183-2014 and Warrants #39432-39455 in the amounts of \$44,550.67 were presented to the Trustees for signatures along with the March bank reconciliation. Dave made a motion to pay the bills and Hart seconded the motion. Roll Call: Hart, aye; Dave, aye; Bill, aye.

Then & Now Purchase Order #12-2014 was presented for signatures.

Business

Representing the fire department Bill reported the following:

- As the Trustee overseeing the department Bill stated he has been making daily visits to the fire department.
- Chief Joe Westenbarger ~~resigned for the purpose of retiring~~ <sup>RETIRED</sup> on Friday, March 28<sup>th</sup>. <sup>Chap 4116</sup> The Township appreciates his many years of service and dedication. He will be missed. The Trustees sent a press release to Towne Crier and Eagle Gazette on March 31st.
- Since there was very little notice of the change, temporary assignments were made until the Trustees could meet on duty assignments. The Board thanked Will Duvall, Brian Irwin, and Bill Molisee for handling operations these past few days.
- The Trustees will later in the meeting go into executive session, to determine assignments for an Acting Fire Chief and plans for permanent replacement.
- Once an Acting Chief is named, he will meet with the Administrative Trustee Hart Van Horn and Fiscal Officer to go over what is needed.

Will Duvall advised he was contacted by Lancaster Eagle Gazette requesting information on the suspension of an employee at the fire department. He stated that he informed the reporter that there had been a suspension however did not release any particulars. Will reported that the FEMA air packs and bottles had arrived. He stated that there was a need for an additional 20 bottles. He will check the expiration dates on the current bottles and report at a later date.

Brian Irwin presented the Board with the soft billing proposal and requested a future work session with the Trustees to discuss the proposal in detail. The Trustees advised they will review and set a work session in the future. Brian also reported that the State EMS grant had been submitted. Dee Mowry has not been contacted with regards to the Shriners Grant however; Linda Gleaves of Physi-Control stopped by the department and gave a demo of the LifePak 15.

A list of expenditures for the next period in the amount of \$2,270.00 was presented. Bill 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: 13 squad and 5 fire.

Representing the road department Dave reported the following:

- Patch sharp holes on chip seal roads using 9 ton of cold mix.
- Stumps are removed off the hill on Durbin Run Road. More ditch work done on Durbin Run at Cripps.
- Culverts marked for replacement on Purvis Road and McCullough Road for replacement.
- Avalon East was under water for a couple days due to the excellent work on a couple beavers blocking the spillway.
- An in-service with the Durapatcher is scheduled on April 9<sup>th</sup> at 8am rain or shine. Hocking Township was invited.

Bob presented the Trustees with a list of expenditures for the next period in the amount of \$9,525.12. Dave made a motion to approve the list of expenses and Bill seconded the motion. Roll Call: Dave, aye; Bill, aye; Hart, aye.

Dave Myers reported that he and Bob Suer reviewed and evaluated applications that were received for the Temporary Road Crew Member Position. The final candidate was reviewed, interviewed, and selected for approval. Dave moved to approve and hire Mr. John Farmer of Bremen, OH to be employed by the Road Department under the supervision of Bob Suer, Road Superintendent at \$15 per hour. Hart seconded the motion. Roll Call: Dave, aye; Hart, aye, Bill abstained; he advised he was unaware of details. Employment will be subject to the necessary background checks and completion of employment forms.

Connie reported the following:

- No permits have been issued since the last meeting.
- Notification was received from Bureau of Workers' Compensation of an audit of our books from January 1, 2012 – December 31, 2013. Paperwork has been submitted and we are waiting on a scheduled meeting.
- A letter was received from a local citizen Tracy Shahan and was distributed to the Trustees and road department. She complimented the road crew for the hard work that has been done during the harsh winter. She requested a written list of priority roads scheduled for repair and pot holes to be fixed, and suggested the Township have a website or link listing the Trustees contact information, as well as meeting information and other pertinent information.
- The Trustees, Fiscal Officer, and Road Superintendent met with the County Engineer on March 28<sup>th</sup> for the annual trustee meeting. OPWC culvert project CQX11 has been completed and the Township is holding the retainage in the amount of \$7,045.81 until the County advises to release payment to the contractor. One of the culverts on Graffis has needed repairs which the County provided man hours and materials at no cost to the Township. Other culverts that were replaced have settled. The County agreed to do an on-site inspection to determine if additional materials will be required. Borah Hill has a lot of construction traffic going into Hide-A-Way Hills which damages road surface. The County was asked if we could have a reduced weight limit on the hill section only. They responded that ORC does not allow restricted weight limits, only during freezing/thawing season which usually runs February 2<sup>nd</sup> to April 15<sup>th</sup>. The Township agreed to provide our extra storage bin during the winter months for the County usage. A contract will be forthcoming and approved by both entities. The 2014 Motor Vehicle Allocation was set in the amount of \$8,510.00 with a \$1,315.99 2013 carryover. Thus, total funds available for 2014 are \$9,825.99. All projects must be reviewed and approved before they are started with the force account law applying, \$5,000/mile for construction or reconstruction of a township road and \$15,000 for maintenance and repair of road.
- Bremen Village Administrator Doug Hockman sent a newsletter to the residents of the community which was distributed to the Trustees and attached to the minutes. Paragraph #4 states. Part of the rationale is that Dollar General and Outback Drive Thru already sell packaged sales and when the Sunoco moves up to the corner beside Dollar General they too will sell packaged sales.

The Village is looking at annexation or a Joint Economic Development District with the Township so they can take advantage of income tax revenues. If the Village passes and the Route 37/Route 664 interchange becomes part of the Village then the existing licenses the businesses hold will be protected by the Village vote. Each Trustee stated they had not been contacted by the Village regarding the Annexation or Joint Economic Development District. The Township Trustees advised those in attendance and the public that various points and comments in the letter were in error and may be misleading. Hart advised he will contact either the Mayor or Doug for further information and correction.

- The April Grassroots Clippings was distributed to all members.

The public was advised that the Board needed to go into Executive Session with the public being invited back when the regular meeting resumed.

At 7:26pm, Bill made a motion to enter Executive Session under ORC 121.22(G)(1) for a personnel issue to discuss appointing an Acting Chief and Hart seconded the motion. Roll Call: Hart, aye; Bill, aye; Dave, aye. Executive Session Ended: 8:22pm.

At 8:23pm, Dave made a motion to enter Executive Session under ORC 121.22(G)(1) for a personnel issue to discuss appointing an Acting Chief. Will Duvall & Brian Irwin were called in to join the executive session. Bill seconded the motion. Roll Call: Hart, aye; Bill, aye; Dave, aye. Executive Session Ended: 9:10pm.

The public was invited back with the meeting reconvening at 9:13pm.

Hart Van Horn made a motion to appoint Will Duvall as Acting Chief and Brian Irwin as Assistant Acting Chief with Dave Myers seconding the motion. Roll Call: Bill, aye; Dave, aye; Hart, aye.

Hart moved with a substitution motion to amend to approve wage changes for the Acting Chief position to be increased by 3.00/hr. and the Acting Assistant Chief position to be increased to \$1.50/hr. respectively over current pay wages of the appointees effective April 1, 2014. Seconded by Dave. Roll Call: Hart aye; Dave, aye; Bill, aye. Hart moved to approve substitute motion to approve Acting Chief Will Duvall and Acting Assistant Chief Brian Irwin with wage changes as amended, seconded by Dave.. Roll Call: Hart aye; Dave, aye; Bill, aye.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:20 pm

