

RUSHCREEK TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES
BOARD MEETING
10/07/15

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

Caroline McCandlish, Richard McCandlish, Ray Stemen

Minutes

The minutes of the September 16th Regular Meeting and the September 30th 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. Hart 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 #569-2015 – #607-2015 and Warrants #40046 - 40070 in the amounts of \$29,468.68 along with the September 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.

Discussion was held regarding Loan Payment #701575237 for the 2013 Medic. Payment is due on October 15th in the amount of \$7,272.82 Principal and \$175.17 Interest. Hart made a motion to moved \$670.09 from 2191-830-830 to 2191-820-820 and apply the amount towards the principal of Loan #701575237 which is for Medic 541 and Dave seconded the motion. Roll Call: Hart, aye; Dave, aye; Bill, aye. Since the payment is due prior to the next meeting, each Trustee will be notified that the payment and purchase order is available for signatures.

Business

Chief Will Duvall reported the following:

- An employee is currently attending Grant Paramedic-OhioHealth EMS classes with a tuition fee of \$4,759.00. A letter was presented requesting financial aid for the tuition fee stressing any amount would be greatly appreciated. After reviewing the Trustees agreed that they needed to research and review current policies as they did not believe there is policy or procedure applicable to this request. The Chief was directed to advise the employee that the request is being considered for action at a later meeting.
- Third quarter cumulative hours report was presented. One employee's hours will need closely monitored.
- Permission requested to send ladder truck to Sugar Grove for the Ron McCrady funeral who was a 50 year member in the fire service contributing to Rushcreek Township mutual aide. Permission was granted.
- Pumpkins arrived for the Pumpkin Walk scheduled for Saturday October 17th. Pumpkin carving at the fire house Thursday & Friday from 6-8pm.
- Bremen Elementary first grade classes toured the fire house as a field trip.
- The road department and fire department personnel driver's abstract paperwork has been returned with the exception of eight. The paperwork was mailed to those individuals with a self-addressed stamp envelope. The Trustees discussed the matter and concluded that Drivers Abstracts are a condition of employment. Therefore, all paperwork must be completed and at the Fiscal Officer's office by 8AM on October 19, 2015 in order to continue employment with Rushcreek Township.

Will presented the Trustees with a list of expenditures for the next period in the amount of \$4,700.00. 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: 14 squad which includes 8 transports and 8 fire.

Hart questioned Chief Duvall if the exterior building lights at the fire house were installed and functioning. Chief Duvall responded that both of the fixtures were installed however one unit needs wired which will be done within a short period of time.

Road Superintendent Bob Suer reported the following:

- The crew installed a new link on the backhoe rear bucket.
- Two new front tires were installed by the crew on the 5425 tractor.
- Repaired two flat tires on the 5425 tractor while doing the fall mowing.
- Fall mowing is approximately 50% completed.

Bob presented the Trustees with a list of expenditures for the next period in the amount of \$1,470.00. Dave made a motion to approve the list of expenses and Hart seconded the motion. Roll Call: Dave, aye; Bill, aye; Hart, aye.

Bill stated that there was a meeting that he had been unable to attend so therefore he presented a letter from Walnut Township Trustees offering Rushcreek Township the opportunity to purchase emulsion for the Durapatcher at a price of \$2.30 per gallon. The Trustees agreed to review the information and consider the proposal at a later meeting.

Connie reported the following:

- No zoning permits have been issued since the last meeting.
- A check was received in amount of \$31,350.00 from Westfield Insurance for the Seifert Construction fire. Agency Fund #9002 was set up to handle this transaction under ORC 3929.86 (C)(D) and Rushcreek Township Resolution #2007-20.
- The October Grassroots Clippings was distributed to all members.
- A check was received from the rock salt settlement in the amount of \$500.00. Original purchases were made out of the Road Improvement Fund resulting in placing the money back into that fund. Proper documentation is attached to the receipt.
- Bremen Village Administrator was contacted to see if they were interested in purchasing our salt since we no longer have a need. Although Council President had stated they were interested, the Administrator stated that they have committed to the State to purchase so they would not be interested. The County was then contacted who agreed to purchase.
- The Fairfield County Engineer requested a motion from the board which included an approximate cost and quantity. The rock salt settlement receipt was given to the Trustees to examine amounts and purchase price paid. Understanding that the Township could only sell the salt to the county at our cost, records provided by the Fiscal Officer and the Road Superintendent were reviewed and calculations were then done. Hart made a motion to offer to sell to the Fairfield County Engineer's Department our salt supply at a cost of \$54.70 per ton with an approximate quantity of 125 tons. The County would be responsible to have the salt weighed at the local Feed Mill in order to obtain actual quantity. Dave seconded the motion. Roll Call: Hart, aye; Dave, aye; Bill, aye.
- Connie spoke with Medicount, the EMS billing company, and reminded them our yearly meeting is quickly approaching.
- State of Ohio Treasurer is offering online continuing education courses at a cost of \$100.00 which is now a requirement of the Fiscal Officer's position. Researching this option and will report at a later date.

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

- Governor Kasich signed updated laws on December 19, 2014 that will become active January 1, 2016. O.U.P.S. is holding Excavator Seminars which will provide valuable information on the most current updates to Ohio's Revised Code for safe digging practices. Several classes are scheduled around the state with the closest being November 10th in Grove City. There is no charge for the class. The paperwork was turned over to Bob to see if this would be beneficial for him to attend. Bob reviewed and responded that he would like to attend. Therefore Hart made a motion to approve mileage for Bob to attend the OUPS class on November 10th and Dave seconded the motion. Roll Call: Hart, aye; Bill, aye; Dave, aye.

- As part of Community Service it is important to the Van Horn family to support the 4H Program. Therefore, livestock is purchased from the Fairfield County Fair in order to support the children in Rushcreek Township. Hart will be supporting the program, again this year, under his title of Trustee on behalf of Rushcreek Township, the other trustees concurred. Purchases are made each year whether he is running as a candidate or not and encouraged the other Trustees to also support our Junior Fair participants.
- Hart has been working on Force Account paperwork, because a Trustee is needed for this process. Bob had reported that Dave, as Trustee overseeing Roads, has not helped in the activity.
- Several complaints have been received on use of easements in Rushcreek Township. Two of those complaints were brought to the Township by Dave Myers and his in-laws, both property owners on either side of Holiday Road adjacent to Bremen Road. Each complained about political signs in the easement and claiming ownership and control of the land to the center of the roads, then removed one or more signs from those areas. Hart stated that these complaints are similar to others, where property owners have attempted to control Township and County easements to claim landfill, timber cut for removal and other activities of road improvement and maintenance – therefore, these complaints cannot set precedent over the Township's authority over the roads and its ability to maintain the roads for the greater good. Hart further stated that there is policy criteria for the Township's authority for the control of the roads which is extended to the Township Road Superintendent by the Trustees resolution – and this should be reinforced with a form letter of notice to be used for these complaints or challenges to the Township's authority.
- The Trustees concurred, but Dave Myers refused to sign the letter and have it sent to his in-laws. Dave also challenged easement policy of the Township and disagreed with the extent of its authority and said that signs could not be put in the easement and right of way. Bill also contested the use of political signs in the easement/right of way. Hart responded with photos (taken just prior to the meeting) of Dave Myer's political re-election campaign sign located at the Holiday/Bremen intersection – the photo clearly showed that Dave's sign was in the right of way, and was the closest sign to the pavement – demonstrating that Dave is abusing his position with a conflict of interest with his in-laws and taking undue advantage of his current position as a trustee to move/remove the signs of the other Township Trustee candidates, Jacob Kemmerer and Joel Denny. The Kemmerer Family had already reported that they had contacted the Fairfield County Engineer's office for clarity and permission to place signs in the right of way.
- A visitor in attendance complained that too much time was being taken to talk about signs and the subject was petty. Hart agreed and further stated that the Myer's brothers were misdirecting the discussion away from the more important objective of preventing precedent that conflicts with the Township's authority and ability to maintain the roads. Dave responded that he did not know of the Township or County policy to allow political signs in the easements – Dave was challenged by Hart that after serving as a Trustee for 10 years, Dave should know these basic policies and Dave must stop imposing his position to prevent equal treatment of all persons. The discussion ended with the agreement that a letter would be written for response to these types of complaints, reaffirming the Township's extent of easements and its authority to control their use, Dave being the only dissenting opinion.

Joel Denny, Rushcreek Township Representative on the Regional Planning Commission was unable to attend however his report is attached at the end of the minutes.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:25pm

SIGNATURES ON FILE

FAIRFIELD COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT

Rushcreek Township Board of Trustees Meeting: 10/7/15

RPC Meeting: 10/6/15

RPC Representative: Joel Denny

Presentation by James Mako on a New U.S. Census Bureau Website

- U.S. Census Bureau has a good website that gets tons of data from Decennial censuses and the American Community Survey (ACS), which is an ongoing survey that provides data every year giving communities the current info they need to plan and provide services. Survey data help determines how more than \$400 billion in federal & state grants.
- ACS surveys about 3 million people on a yearly basis.
- The U.S. Census Bureau is good, but tends to be user-unfriendly. A private foundation created a site called censusreporter.org (to find and make census data easier for users. The website is much more user-friendly.
- [Censusreport.org](http://censusreport.org) is a good resource for municipalities to find and make census data easier for users to understand what census data can tell them.

Subdivision Activity

- The Heather Lake Section 1 subdivision is located on the east side of Amanda Northern Road in Bloom Township. The property owner wanted to split the property into 4 separate lots amounting to 12.87 acres with on-site water and septic systems proposed.
- The RPC voted to give the existing Homeowners Association of the subdivision the status of “Injuriouslly Affected” according to Section 711.24 of the Ohio Revised Code since the proposed re-plat affects all lot owners within the subdivision since it creates 4 additional lots that could have impact on this subdivision. This change in status gives the Homeowners Association within this subdivision the right to sign the re-plat.
- The RPC then voted to approve the proposed re-plat, depending on the Subdivision Regulations Committee’s conditions.