

RUSSELL TOWN HALL

January 13, 2009

The Township Fiscal Officer called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. Trustees Jim Dickinson, Jim Mueller and Kristina Port were present.

The pledge was said.

REORGANIZATION: The Township Fiscal Officer asked for nominations for Chairman for the year 2009. *Mr. Mueller nominated Mr. Dickinson for Chairman of the Russell Township Board of Trustees for the year 2009. Ms. Port seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

Ms. Port nominated Trustee Port for Vice-Chairman of the Russell Township Board of Trustees for the year 2009. Mr. Dickinson seconded the motion. The vote was Mr. Mueller no, Ms. Port yes and Mr. Dickinson no.

Mr. Mueller nominated Trustee Mueller for Vice-Chairman and Mr. Dickinson seconded the motion. The vote was Mr. Mueller yes, Ms. Port abstain and Mr. Dickinson yes.

MINUTES: *Mr. Mueller made the motion to approve the minutes of the December 17, 2008, meeting as presented. Ms. Port seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

MINUTES: *Mr. Mueller made the motion to approve the minutes of the special December 26, 2008, meeting as presented. Ms. Port seconded the motion and the vote was Mr. Mueller abstain, Ms. Port yes, and Mr. Dickinson yes.*

ROAD DEPT.: Road Superintendent Gene Layne reported that the Road Department has been busy because of the recent snowstorms. The Trustees asked about the salt supply. Mr. Layne said he thinks Russell Township has an adequate supply. The Township has an opportunity to purchase 200 tons of road salt from O.D.O.T. The cost would be considerably more than the salt purchased from the County Engineer and would only be used if absolutely necessary. **RESOLUTION 2009-1 TO PURCHASE SALT FROM ODOT:** *Mr. Mueller made the motion to approve Resolution 2009-1, agreeing to appropriate \$15,000 for the purchase of road salt from the Ohio Department of Transportation, and authorizing the Fiscal Officer under a requisition of the Director of Transportation to pay the cost and expense of the road salt purchase. Ms. Port seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

ROAD PROJECTS: Per the Trustees request Mr. Layne has added three more projects to the list of County Engineer assisted projects for 2009. The roads added to the list are Stonehedge Drive, Sweetbriar Lane and the Hodgedale Estates: Thornapple, Woodsway, and West Ridge Roads. **2009 ROAD PROJECTS:** *Mr. Mueller made the motion to add three additional road projects to the list presented to the County Engineer for estimates. The additional projects are the cement stabilization and repaving of Stonehedge Drive, the repaving of Sweetbriar Lane, and the repaving of Hodgedale Estates (Thornapple, Woodsway, and Westridge). Mr. Layne was excused from the meeting at 7:15 p.m. because of snowplowing duties.*

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MAINTENANCE DEPT.: Mr. Gallagher reported that all the hazardous materials had been removed from the old Police Station building. The building is now being used by the Fire Department and Police Department for training exercises. Weather permitting the building should be taken down within the next three weeks. Mr. Gallagher was excused from the meeting.

Mr. Dickinson announced that NOACA had offered to provide a ride share sign for the old BP property. There still are some questions about operating a parking lot.

HEALTH INSURANCE: Mr. Dickinson explained the Township does provide Health insurance for its full-time employees. Every year the Township investigates insurance carriers for pricing. They have found that there are only a few carriers and insurance brokers have submitted proposals from the carriers. Each carrier is about the same price. Insurance brokers Sean Sprouse of Burnham and Flowers and Cindy Bowman and Frank Spinelli of the Oswald Companies were present. The H.R.A. plans were discussed. The Township has had a good "experience rate" with this plan.

Mr. Sprouse, the present insurance broker, said Russell Township has a good experience rate

Mr. Sprouse said that Burnham and Flowers specializes in insuring municipalities. The Township has worked with this agency for seven years. Presently the Township has United Health Care as a carrier and the Township is at the best level with this carrier. The employees have not abused this plan. Mr. Sprouse's recommendation was to stay with United Health Care and the H.R.A. plan.

Sergeant Bialosky said the Police Department was satisfied with the health insurance. Having the employee pay for the drug cost up front forces the employee to look at prices.

Cindy Bowman and Frank Spinelli of the Oswald Companies presented the same programs. The Oswald Group is the largest independent insurance firm in Northeast Ohio. They agreed that the Township has made good utilization of the present insurance plan. They recommended Aetna Insurance. Aetna runs its policies on a calendar year as opposed to a policy year.

The Ashley Insurance Group sent a written proposal. This proposal was the same as the other Insurance Groups.

Mr. Mueller said since the employees were happy with the present plan, and the Township is saving money he felt they should stay with the same plan.

The Fiscal Officer said since the Township has had good experience with Burnham and Flowers and they specialize with municipalities she felt the Township should stay with the Burnham and Flower Insurance Group.

HEALTH INSURANCE RENEWAL: Mr. Mueller made the motion to approve the following Insurance coverage for Russell Township officials and full-time employees for the year 2009 and

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January 2010: Medical/Hospitalization - United Health Care/Plan 2A-B/RX-MM
Life Insurance - United Health Care
Dental Insurance - Delta Dental
Vision Insurance - Vision Services Plan
Burnham & Flower Company proposes this plan in conjunction with the Ohio Township Association. Mr. Dickinson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

POLICE DEPARTMENT DONATIONS: Mr. Mueller moved, based on the Fiscal Officer's recommendation, that the Board of Trustees accepts the Christmas donations of \$415.00 to the Police Department. Ms. Port seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

FIRE DEPARTMENT DONATIONS: Mr. Mueller moved, based on the Fiscal Officer's recommendation, that the Board of Trustees accepts the Christmas donations of \$500.00 to the Fire Department. Ms. Port seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Mueller made the motion to approve the use of the Christmas donations for the benefit of the Fire and Police Departments' staff at the discretion of the department heads. Ms. Port seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

GEAUGA COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT ADVISORY COUNCIL: Ms. Port made the motion to appoint Jim Mueller as the Township representative to the Health District Advisory Council. Mr. Mueller seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

WEST GEAUGA DISTRICT COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE: Ms. Port made the motion to appoint Kristina Port as the Township representative to the West Geauga School District Communications Committee. Mr. Mueller seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

CHAGRIN RIVER WATERSHED PARTNERS: Ms. Port made the motion to appoint Jim Dickinson as the Township representative to the Chagrin River Watershed Partners. Ms. Port seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Mueller made the motion to appoint Kristina Port as the alternate Township representative to the Chagrin River Watershed Partners. Ms. Port seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

STORM WATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM: Mr. Mueller made the motion to appoint Kristina Port as the Township representative to the Storm Water Management Program. Ms. Port seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

OHIO TOWNSHIP ASSOCIATION: Mr. Mueller made the motion to approve reasonable and necessary expenses not to exceed \$800 for Russell Township officials and employees to attend the Ohio Township Association convention in Columbus. Ms. Port seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

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ZONING DEPT.: Zoning Inspector Ric Machnics said he had nothing for the Trustees this evening. Mr. Dickinson asked Mr. Machnics to start putting together an agenda for the Zoning Workshop to be held on February 19th.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The next regular Trustees' meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 21st at 7:00 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: *Mr. Mueller made the motion to move into executive session for a discussion of personnel. Ms. Port seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

The meeting moved into executive session at 9:11 p.m. with Police Department Chief Tim Carroll and Sergeant Randy Bialosky. Upon the motion of Mr. Mueller and seconded by Ms. Port the meeting reconvened into regular session at 9:42 p.m.

PURCHASE ORDERS: **Please find attached a list of purchase orders and blanket certificates.**

Bills were approved as presented and drawn for same.

Upon the motion of Mr. Mueller and seconded by Ms. Port the meeting was adjourned at 9:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

James Dickinson, Chairman

Gerri Heck, Fiscal Officer