

RUSSELL TOWN HALL

January 23, 2008

Chairman James Dickinson called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Trustees Jim Mueller and Kristina Port were present. Mr. Dickinson welcomed guests, and Zoning Inspector Ric Machnics.

**MINUTES:** *Mr. Mueller made the motion to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2008, meeting as presented. Ms. Port seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

**MONTHLY REPORTS:** *Mr. Mueller made the motion to accept the December 2007, monthly department reports. Ms. Port seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Comments were taken from the public.

**STUDY OF CURRENT POLICE STATION FACILITY:** Mr. Dickinson explained that last November Mr. Studen had asked Larsen Architects and the J. Dixon Co. for a proposal to make an assessment of the existing Russell Police Station building, since it will be vacant after the Police Dept. moves out. Mr. Dickinson read a letter dated November 19<sup>th</sup> with the assessment proposal. Ms. Port said she has toured the building and spoken to people about the building. She knows there are structural problems and the building needs an A.D.A. upgrade. She would like to have another proposal. She spoke with the foreman from Hummel Construction and he will contact Eric Hummel. Mr. Mueller said he doesn't want to leave the building vacant. He wants to know if the building is structurally sound and how much it will cost to bring it up to code. Mr. Machnics said that being in the construction business a construction company is probably not geared for that type of work. There are companies that specialize in that type of work. Mr. Machnics will check the "blue book" and give the Trustees some names. Mr. Mueller asked that if possible the names be Geauga County people.

**CHAGRIN RIVER WATERSHED PARTNERS:** For many years Russell Township has been a member of the Chagrin River Watershed Partners. This group is a good resource and has saved the Township a great deal of money in consultant fees. *Mr. Mueller made the motion to approve the payment of the annual dues to the Chagrin River Watershed Partners for an amount of \$3,213.32. Ms. Port seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

**TOWN HALL USE:** *Ms. Port made the motion to grant permission for the Deer Lake Homeowners' Association to use the Town Hall on Tuesday, March 25, 2008, subject to Township rules and regulations. Mr. Mueller seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

**ROAD DEPT. GARAGE PARKING LOT USE:** A request has been received for the Rescue Village to use the Road Dept. Parking Lot for overflow parking for an event to be held on June 21, 2008. Since this is a Saturday night it should not interfere with Township business. Liability and setting a precedent for community use of township property was discussed. The Board members said they agreed that each request for Township property use would have to be made on a case-by-case decision.

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*Mr. Mueller made the motion to grant permission for Rescue Village to use the Road Department Garage Parking Lot on Saturday, June 21, 2008, subject to Township rules and regulations. Ms. Port seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

**ZONING AMENDMENT 2007-04:** *Ms. Port made the motion to open the Public Hearing on Zoning Amendment 2007-04. Mr. Mueller seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

The public hearing opened at 7:35 p.m. Mr. Dickinson said that the Zoning Commission had been working on this amendment for many months. This will amend section 4 of the Zoning Resolution by adding a new section 4.16 Riparian Setbacks. There will be three categories: headwater streams that drain less than one-half square miles will have the setback reduced to 25 ft. from the present 30 ft., creeks and streams that drain greater than one-half square mile up to 20 square miles will have 75 ft. set-backs and rivers that drain more than 20 square miles will have 120 ft. set-backs.

Rick Snyder, Chairman of the Zoning Commission presented a fact sheet on this amendment. See attachment to minutes.

Kyle Dreyfuss-Wells said flood plains have specific standards on the state level. The Ohio E.P.A. Phase II standards control storm water management on construction sites.

Mr. Snyder said Bainbridge Township has a Riparian Setback amendment and has had 7-variance requests, 6 were granted. Auburn Township has had a riparian setback amendment for three years and had no variance requests.

Public comment was taken from Howard Shanker who felt the riparian setback size should be increased so water run-off is slowed. Mr. Shanker said a wide riparian area would hold back more water. He also felt that many residents were affected and should know what is happening. Mr. Snyder said that the data for stream run-off couldn't justify the present 30-foot requirement.

Ben Sustin commented that when the Geauga Park District took down the dam that sent millions of tons of silt down Silver Creek. This can happen because some groups are exempt from the rules.

Ms. Port asked if 25-foot setbacks are consistent with other Townships. Ms. Dreyfuss-Wells said data supports the 25 ft. setback and this is the county's recommendation.

Mr. Dickinson suggested that a comma be removed between the words new and landscaping on page 5, section F part 4.

There being no further comments, *Ms. Port made the motion to close the Public Hearing on Zoning Amendment 2007-04. Mr. Mueller seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The public hearing closed at 8:29 p.m.*

*Mr. Mueller moved to adopt with modifications amendment 2007-4, Section 4.16 Riparian Setbacks. Ms. Port seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

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**TELISYS:** Mr. Dickinson explained that Mr. Shoemaker, President of Telisys Communications Consultants, had made a presentation last summer for a technology feasibility study. The Board had taken no action and now Mr. Shoemaker was present to again present his study. Mr. Dickinson said he had talked to the Chagrin Falls Village Administrator and they were pleased with the results of Telisys study for the village.

Telisys is an independent consulting service. They would conduct a holistic study of the Township's total voice/data telecommunications systems and costs. This would be a two-month study.

Ms. Port was concerned that there was not a great deal of long distance phone use and departments do not utilize in facility phones to communicate. Also she questioned whether there was money in the present budget to accommodate this study.

The Fiscal Officer was concerned that the Township has some expensive and urgent projects this year and whether the Township should spend the money on this project at this time.

Mr. Dickinson was interested in functionality and reliability. Mr. Mueller felt the Township could save money and lease new equipment. Mr. Shoemaker estimated he could save the Township thirty to forty percent on the phone bills in a year. Mr. Dickinson asked Mr. Shoemaker to have an updated agreement for the next meeting.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** The next regular Trustees' meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 6. Mr. Dickinson proposed that the location of the next Trustees meeting be changed to the Fire-Rescue Dept. meeting room and the other Trustees agreed.

Ms. Port reported on her attendance at the Geauga Park District meeting held at the West Wood Park where there was an update on the Geauga County Parks. Ms. Port also attended the West Geauga District Communication Committee meeting. Westwoods Elementary School has been named a School of Distinction by the Ohio Department of Education.

Mr. Mueller suggested that some recognition be given to Lucia Nash for her granting of a Conservation Easement on her property. He feels it is a wonderful thing for the Township and she deserves some credit.

There is a vacancy on the Zoning Commission and the Trustees are taking applications for the position.

**PURCHASE ORDERS:** were approved for:

Number	Purpose	Amount
35-2008	Knox Boxes and Hardware	\$ 2,260.00
36-2008	Property Tax	3,306.20
37-2008	BWC-Risk MGMT. Consultants	8,600.00

## TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES

REGULAR

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38-2008	Additional Telephone and Data Installation	480.00
39-2008	Antivirus Software	2,980.00
40-2008	Firehouse Software	950.00
41-2008	Internet Server	99.37
42-2008	Dead Animal Pickup	225.00
43-2008	Re-design Existing Website	1,000.00
44-2008	Rubbish Pick up	2,454.85
45-2008	Cell Phones	113.38
46-2008	Ambulance Billing Service	7,000.00
47-2008	Non-Terminal Agency Fee	600.00

Bills were approved as presented and drawn for same.

Upon the motion of Ms. Port and seconded by Mr. Mueller the meeting was adjourned at 9:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

James Dickinson, Chairman

Gerri Heck, Fiscal Officer