

RUSSELL FIRE-RESCUE STATION

MARCH 2, 2011

The Township Fiscal Officer called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Trustees Jim Dickinson, Jim Mueller, and Kristina Port were present.

The Pledge was said.

**SPECIAL TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES:** *Mr. Mueller made the motion to accept the minutes of the Special Meeting held on February 2, 2011, as presented. Ms. Port seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

**SPECIAL TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES:** *Mr. Mueller made the motion to accept the minutes of the Special Meeting held on February 5, 2011, as presented. Ms. Port seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

**REGULAR TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES:** *Ms. Port made the motion to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on February 23, 2011, as presented. Mr. Mueller seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

**MONTHLY REPORTS:** *Mr. Mueller made the motion to acknowledge receipt of the February 2011 monthly departmental reports from the Fire, Police, Maintenance, Road, & Zoning departments. Ms. Port seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

**FISCAL OFFICER:** *Mrs. Heck, Township Fiscal Officer, is out of the office briefly for medical reasons. She is reported to be doing well and is in touch with the office and Township employees. Best wishes to Mrs. Heck for a speedy recovery.*

**RUMPKE WASTE & RECYCLING SERVICES:** *Mr. Rich Chandler of Rumpke Waste & Recycling Services explained that as of March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011 Rumpke had purchased Landmark Disposal Ltd. Recently Rumpke also purchased the Norton environmental transfer station. They are excited to join the community. Rumpke has approximately 40 employees, 30 routes, and 10,000 commercial and residential accounts. All front load commercial trucks are brand new although they are not used in Russell Township. In Russell, the drivers and trucks will be those used by Landmark previously.*

**COMMENTS WERE TAKEN FROM THE PUBLIC**

**RESOLUTION TO ENGAGE CT CONSULTANTS:** *Ms. Port has reservations about the resolution to engage CT Consultants. She sent the resolution to the County Prosecutor's Office for review. Ms. Port explained that anything to do with the roads, trucks, and axle weights should go through the County. Mr. Mueller explained that there is a limited menu of things to do. CT Consultants can do a study, get numbers, and tell the Township what the options are. Mr. Mueller wants first hand data generated. Mr. Dickinson agreed to wait to see what the County Prosecutor's Office has to say.*

**ROAD PROJECTS 2011:** *Ms. Port moved to approve Resolution 2011-3, a Resolution of Convenience and Necessity for the Improvement of Various Roads, which authorizes the Geauga County Engineer to prepare engineering plans for the*

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*improvement of Fox Hollow Drive (TR328), Martingale Lane (TR553), Hitching Post Lane (TR554), Top Rail Lane (TR555), Corral Circle (TR556), Sleepy Hollow Drive (TR589), Hunters Hollow (TR758), Trappers Trail (TR759), Deerfoot Trail (TR760), Buckland Trail (TR823), Antelope Run (TR824), and Lanes End Drive (TR825). Mr. Mueller seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

**GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT PROJECTS:** Mr. Tom Curtin, Director of the Geauga County Park District, updated the Trustees on the projects being done by the Park District. Mr. Curtin presented maps of Geauga County showing the increase in developed land since 1975. Mr. Curtin presented information about Orchard Hills Park in Chester Township which was previously a golf course. The Park District is reforesting and planting in the new park. Wetlands are being created by removing ponds. Features that are being worked on at Orchard Hills are a sledding hill, the entrance drive, and cross country skiing trails. Western Reserve Land Conservancy helped to obtain two million dollars of funding. The Geauga Park District is now developing Observatory Park in Montville Township. It is located one mile south of Route 6, on Clay Street. No taxpayer money is being used at Observatory Park. The Park District still needs one million dollars. They have already raised 1.3 million dollars. The goal is to get students excited about the sciences. The Geauga Park District intends to reduce reliance on tax levies and increase their endowment fund. In 2012, there will be a renewal levy on the ballot. Hunting continues at The West Woods and other county parks. The number of deer culled versus the number of deer still in the parks will continue to be analyzed. The goal is 10 deer per square mile. Mr. Dickinson stated that communication about hunting from the Geauga Park District to residents is of key importance. Mr. Dickinson also inquired about the status of bridle trails at the parks. Mr. Curtin explained that the park is looking for opportunities to link parks. Granting a trail easement does not subject land owners to liability and nuisances. Two individuals are currently considering donations of trail easements to the Geauga Park District.

**WASTE WATER PROJECT:** Mr. Dave Paulitsch explained that he has received an offer for the purchase of his property at 8490 Kinsman Road. The offer came from Dr. Chipps, of Silvercreek Veterinary Clinic. Mr. Paulitsch wants to know the status of sewers on the north and south sides of Route 87. Mr. Paulitsch has been told by the Ohio EPA that the current waste water system at his building is not acceptable for veterinary use. The EPA wants a new system or commitment from the Township Trustees. Mr. Paulitsch stated that while the landowners could not commit to a private project, the Route 87 landowners would participate in a waste water project with assessments from the County. Mr. Dickinson explained that the Trustees could not get the property owners to buy in to the project. The project did not proceed with private ownership, and the Township was told they may not front the money to fund the project. Mr. Mueller stated that the Trustees had already voted to install a force pressure line on the south side of Route 87. Mr. Mueller has discussed the issue of a sewer district with bond counsel from Squire, Sanders, and Dempsey, LLC. Mr. Mueller said it would cost approximately twenty to thirty thousand dollars in

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fees. A legal vehicle is needed to process the funds for upkeep and maintenance in future years. Mr. Mueller explained that there are new sophisticated systems that meet the requirements of the smaller footprint properties on the north side of Route 87. Mr. Mueller suggested that the Trustees move ahead with a forced pressure line to solve Township property problems. Ms. Port has been in communication with Mr. George Hess, of Hess & Associates Engineering, and Mr. Charles Allen, of the Ohio EPA. Her concern is that Dr. Chipps may leave the Township if she doesn't receive a favorable response. Ms. Port is interested in proceeding with a gravity sewer on the north side of Route 87 where the properties are most affected. The Township could bore under Route 87 to connect to the line. Ms. Port explained that no pump station is needed. If the pump station and force main system is chosen and if the old fire station lot was to be sold, then the old fire station lot would be required to have its own septic system. Ms. Port referenced the letter from Geauga County Department of Water Resources dated September 10, 2010. Ms. Port recommends that Geauga County take over the project with assessments over years. She asked the other Trustees to explain their objections to gravity sewers. Mr. Mueller responded that his objection was the difficulty in getting every landowner to sign deed restrictions. *Ms. Port made the motion to accept the Hess engineering proposal to put a gravity sewer line on the north side of Route 87 to address the options of business owners and the Township property. There being no second, the motion failed.* The Trustees and residents discussed hiring a consultant to address the needs of the Township and the landowners in the 208 Plan. *Mr. Dickinson made the motion to authorize the Chair to spend up to \$7,000.00 to hire a consultant to deliver the options for a waste water treatment plan at the corner of Routes 87 and 306 within the existing 208 District. Mr. Mueller seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

**BRIAR HILL FURNACE:** Ms. Port discussed alternatives to purchasing a new oil furnace for Briar Hill. She said the heat has not been needed in the building for the last 5 months. She recommends converting to a gas furnace. She will get an estimate for gas and a payback estimate.

**NOPEC ENERGY GRANT:** Ms. Port obtained an estimate for insulating the Town Hall. The cost estimate was \$8,575.00 and the payoff estimate was 7 years. NOPEC has a meeting in the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of April. Grant money will be awarded again in May.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** The next regular Trustees' meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, March 16th, in the Russell Township Fire-Rescue Department.

**PURCHASE ORDERS:**

60-2011 Oil furnace Briar Hill	\$ 3,100.00
61-2011 One Stop Energy Services	\$ 4,875.00

Bills were approved as presented and drawn for same.

*Upon the motion of Mr. Mueller and seconded by Ms. Port the meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.*

James Dickinson, Chairman

Gerri Heck, Fiscal Officer  
Recorded by: M. Palmer