

RUSSELL FIRE-RESCUE STATION

May 4, 2011

Chairman James Dickinson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Trustees James Mueller and Kristina Port were present. Mr. Dickinson welcomed guests Chief Carroll and Mr. Layne.

The Pledge was said.

REGULAR TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES: *Mr. Mueller made the motion to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on April 20, 2011, as presented. Ms. Port seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

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

MONTHLY REPORTS: *Ms. Port made the motion to accept the March 2011 monthly departmental reports from the Fire & Zoning departments. Mr. Mueller seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

ROAD DEPT - SALT CONTRACT: *Mr. Layne reported that he used 150 tons more salt than normal through the winter. The Township paid approximately \$55.60 per ton for road salt last year. Mr. Layne suggests purchasing the salt through ODOT again this year. He had no troubles with the arrangement and recommends the ODOT contract again. Mr. Mueller made the motion to authorize Geraldine Heck to act as agent in the name of Russell Township to participate in the Ohio Department of Transportation's Contract 18 for Sodium Chloride (Rock Salt). Ms. Port seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

ROAD DEPT: RESOLUTION 2011-5 TO PURCHASE SALT FROM ODOT: *Mr. Mueller made the motion to approve Resolution 2011-5, agreeing to the purchase of road salt from the Ohio Department of Transportation, and authorizing the Fiscal Officer under the 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.*

FISCAL OFFICER: *Ms. Heck is currently working on the Budget. She expressed concern for the future of the General Fund. A recent publication addressed the topic of cutbacks in government finances. The Local Government Fund may be reduced 25% and then 25% again the next year. Ms. Heck estimates that this could be a reduction of about \$100,000 for Russell Township.*

COMMENTS WERE TAKEN FROM THE PUBLIC

ROAD DEPARTMENT - ROAD IMPROVEMENTS BID OPENING: *Four bids for the Road Improvement Project were opened and Mr. Layne reviewed them briefly. Everything appeared to be in order. Ms. Port made the motion to forward the bids received for the Improvement of Various Roads in Russell Township to the County Engineer for his approval. Mr. Mueller seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

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CT CONSULTANTS: Tim Lannon, professional engineer from CT Consultants, made a presentation to the Trustees on his study of the waste water situation at the intersection of State Routes 306 and 87. He explained that in the course of his research Mr. Lannon met with the Geauga County Engineer and with representatives from NOACA. Mr. Lannon explained that the Waste Water Facility off of Russell Lane has only enough capacity for the service area at the intersection of State Route 87 and S.R. 306 to be included. Mr. Lannon identified two options for the Trustees to consider. The first option is to proceed independently with a sewer that serves the township owned properties and connects to the existing manhole on SR 87. The cost estimate for this option is approximately \$150,000.00. The second option is to participate in a joint project that serves the township properties and the other property owners. The cost estimate to the Township for this option is approximately \$182,000.00. For this option alternate funding sources are available through the County. Mr. Lannon explained that the proposed extension of sewers has limitations. The existing 208 Plan is a limitation on the sewers. Not all the commercial properties have joined the 208 Plan. The County and Township would have veto powers over regular additions to the 208 Plan. Another limitation is the existing waste water treatment facility. It is at 95% capacity with the inclusion of this project. The facility is also built in a floodplain and is difficult to expand. The Township has veto power over the expansion. CT Consultants' recommendation is to engage in a joint project. The combined effort allows for grant funding and low interest or zero interest funding. Mr. Dickinson asked if there are technological alternatives to a sewer. Mr. Lannon explained that a small package plant would have a single pipe discharging to a receiving stream. The County and the EPA frown on this approach, and no receiving stream exists in this case. Communal plants are also frowned upon by the County and the EPA. The 208 Plan has goals and policies, and communal plants are against policy. Mr. Dickinson asked if there was a way to place contractual limitations on the sewer project. The policy of the County is not to expand without Township approval. Mr. Lannon stated that he had never heard of a contractual limitation. Mr. Mueller stated that the McFarland Waste Water Treatment Plant was expanded twice after it was built. The capacity is 25% higher than when it was built. The increased capacity was achieved through technological improvements without increasing the footprint. Mr. Lannon explained that this was done because McFarland had trouble servicing the area that had been promised sanitary facilities. Mr. Mueller asked if a contractual agreement could be made to take up even the last 5% of plant capacity. Ms. Port expressed her preference for the joint project which is inclusive of both the Township and the business owners. She sees more cost sharing with the joint project. Mr. Lannon explained that the existing properties were built with the understanding that sewers would be made available. The property owners can privately petition the County for sewers as they have an immediate need and problem. Ms. Heck asked about the grant funds that may be available. Grant funds are available through Geauga County from the Ohio Public Works Commission to replace septic systems with sewers. The Ohio EPA offers long term, low interest loans for property owners. Mr. Dickinson

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thanked Mr. Lannon for the good and concise study. Mr. Dickinson plans to invite Mr. Gerry Morgan to a Trustees meeting to discuss this further.

CARLO PROPERTY: Ms. Port met with resident Frank Carlo about his complaints of water in his yard. Mr. Bob Griesmer, from the Geauga Soil and Water Conservation District, was also in attendance. The recommendation for Mr. Carlo is to install a small swale to channel water from his backyard to the catch basin. Mr. Griesmer will write a report on the runoff.

Mr. Carlo also has a drainage issue in his front yard. Years ago grading work was done and a drainage pipe was incorrectly installed without a permit. The water has nowhere to go from the road. In the past Mr. Carlo has promised to remove the pipe and restore the ditch. A normal ditch will help drainage on Hitching Post and on Corral Circle. Mr. Layne will submit a letter to the Trustees about Mr. Carlo's front drainage.

NOPEC: Mrs. Heck has received information about the NOPEC grant. The grant agreement needs to be reviewed carefully before it is submitted. Questions exist over the conditions under which the grant money must be returned.

TIME-WARNER: Resident Ron Beach made a brief presentation to the Trustees about the Time-Warner fiber situation. Mr. Beach found that a fiber line runs from the Administration Building to the Road Department. There may be a line to the old Fire Station but Time-Warner cannot find record of it. Time-Warner agreed to install the fiber but not to lighting the fiber. Mr. Dickinson insisted that Time-Warner is obligated to running fiber to two other buildings. He suggested suing the company in small claims court over this situation. Having lit fiber between the Township buildings would enable: improved emailing and communication, employees to video conferences, video monitoring of Township facilities, a single internet presence, and access of computer applications from home and other locations. It was suggested that another firm could be engaged to install the fiber. The Police Station should be the hub since it is manned continuously. The Police Department computer system can be protected with a firewall for security. The budget for this project and for future maintenance costs is the franchise fee money that the Township collects. Ms. Port got cost estimates for this project and recommends proceeding. Mr. Dickinson asked if the cost is worth the benefit. Mr. Beach stated that the Township can be better than it currently is. Costs can be decreased in the future by optimizing handsets and trunk lines.

COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT: Mr. Robert Weisdack, Health Commissioner, sent a letter to the Trustees asking for financial support of \$500.00 or more for the community health assessment. Mr. Mueller explained that the Health District is receiving pledges and matching grants to support the project. By performing the health assessment the Health District is in a better position to receive grant money. Support from the Townships also ensures that the Health District will not have to tap into the inside millage that the Township currently receives. The Health District has a higher priority and can have the inside millage taken from

