

RUSSELL FIRE-RESCUE DEPARTMENT

May 19, 2010

Chairman James Mueller called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Trustees James Dickinson and Kristina Port were present. Mr. Mueller welcomed guests, and department heads Chief Carroll and Chief Frazier.

The Pledge was said.

MINUTES: *Mr. Dickinson moved to accept the minutes of May 5, 2010, as presented. Ms. Port seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

MONTHLY REPORTS: *Ms. Port moved to accept the April, 2010 monthly departmental reports from the Fire, Maintenance, Police, Road, and Zoning Departments. Mr. Dickinson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Recently the department received Mobile Display Terminals from the County. So far the MDTs work great. There is excellent reception with Verizon. The one touch dispatch and mapping of all calls in the county is helpful. Mapping helps with mutual aid calls that are difficult to locate. The MDTs have been operational for 1 ½ months. They are on all the Fire Department vehicles.

POLICE DEPARTMENT - RADIO PURCHASE: Chief Carroll reported that currently the Township is using an analog radio system. In 2011 Geauga County is switching to a digital system. The parts for the current system are obsolete and cannot be replaced. This technology change has been coming for 3 or 4 years. The department has applied for grants but has been unsuccessful. Very recently Chief Carroll was offered a group purchase price for digital radios through Spaulding. The state bid price for the radios equals \$59,000.00. Spaulding offered the radios for approximately \$40,000.00. There is little time to prepare for this regional group purchase. However, the Township has been budgeting and putting money aside for the switch to digital radios. The Police Department has enough money for this purchase. Mrs. Heck budgeted \$60,000 and due to the group purchase offer the cost is only approximately \$46,000.00. Ms. Port questioned the number of radios needed for the department. Chief Carroll explained that he needs radios for each officer in case all are called out due to a catastrophe. Chief Carroll originally estimated a need for 10 portable radios. Now he would like to purchase all 12 because the price is so good. Chief Carroll has needed all officers on duty and wants each officer to have communication. Mr. Dickinson mentioned that during the budget hearings a phase-in of portable radios had been discussed. Mrs. Heck explained that when she and Chief Carroll were budgeting for the radios they thought the price would be much higher. Chief Carroll would like to have a portable radio for each officer, a mobile radio in each vehicle, and two in the Police Station (one radio in front and one in the duty room.) Mrs. Heck recommends buying all the radios at the same time for compatibility of parts and ease of use. Federal grants are very hard to receive. *Mr. Dickinson made the motion to authorize the purchase of Motorola digital radios from Spaulding Communications in conjunction with the Geauga County group purchase for \$46,000.00, at the recommendation of the Police Chief. Mr. Mueller seconded the motion. The vote was Mr. Dickinson yes,*

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Ms. Port no, Mr. Mueller yes.

FIRE DEPARTMENT - RADIO PURCHASE: Chief Frazier explained that next year the Township will be competing with almost all of the other Fire Departments in Geauga County for Federal grant money. While their radio button set-up is different from the Police Department, the Fire Department radios can communicate with any Police and Fire Department, the EMA, the Sheriff's Department, and any school bus. The Fire Dept. radios are set up so that they can be operated with 1 button to accommodate a gloved hand. Spaulding Communications is the exclusive provider of the Motorola radio software package for the region. The offer from Spaulding has been extended through the end of May and is the same offer for both the Police and Fire Departments. The Fire Department has \$50,000.00 in the Fire Levy fund and \$20,000.00 in the General Fund designated for digital radios. The Police Department does not need the \$20,000.00 that Mrs. Heck designated for them in the General Fund. This General Fund money could be applied toward the Fire Department radios. Mrs. Heck has \$90,000.00 available for digital radios for Fire. Additional funds could possibly be gained by using money from the Fire Department Motor Vehicle Fund. Chief Frazier has estimated that his department will need a total of 30 portable radios that go with the individual breathing apparatus and 10 mobile radios to outfit the 10 Fire vehicles. No Cuyahoga County eastern suburbs are available to co-apply for grants. The large Hillcrest area group received a grant. Chagrin is not going to 800 mhz. Chester and Newbury have been turned down multiple times for grants. They are going ahead and buying radios under this group purchase offer. Lake County converted approximately 4 years ago. Mr. Mueller feels this is a good opportunity. He sees \$90,000.00 in the budget for radios and would like to spend the money to equip the Fire Department while taking advantage of the good price. Ms. Port suggested spending \$70,000.00 for 10 mobile radios and 16 portables. Mr. Mueller sees a benefit to purchasing all the radios at once. At the end of 2011 all radios will be digital. *Mr. Mueller made the motion to authorize the purchase of Motorola digital radios from Spaulding Communications in conjunction with the Geauga County group purchase for \$90,000.00. There was no second for the motion. Mr. Dickinson made the motion to authorize the purchase of Motorola digital radios from Spaulding Communications in conjunction with the Geauga County group purchase for \$50,000.00. There was no second for the motion. Ms. Port made the motion to authorize the purchase of Motorola digital radios from Spaulding Communications in conjunction with the Geauga County group purchase for \$70,000.00. Mr. Mueller seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

IT/COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY: Ms. Port is meeting with representatives from Time-Warner and Russell resident Mr. Ron Beach. Ms. Port is interested in learning what it will cost to light up the fiber and who will have control of the fiber.

POLICE DEPT. VACATION BUYBACK: Sergeant Bialosky of the Police Department submitted a request for the Township to buy back the equivalent of 80 hours of vacation. Township policy is written to prevent employees from over-accumulating

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vacation hours. Mrs. Heck explained that the policy says that after 15 years Township employees are allowed to ask the Township to buy back up to 80 hours of vacation per year. Sergeant Bialosky has not been employed for 15 years. Chief Carroll explained that there is a benefit to buying back the vacation because the Township does not have to pay into PERS.

Ms. Port said the department heads need to monitor the accumulation of vacation hours. *Mr. Dickinson made the motion to approve payment for the equivalent of 80 hours of vacation for Sergeant Randy Bialosky of the Police Department. Ms. Port seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

FISCAL OFFICER: Ms. Heck reported that the paperwork for the Red Raider project was complete so that project will begin soon. Mrs. Heck is working on the budgets and will need to meet with the department heads soon.

COMMENTS WERE TAKEN FROM THE PUBLIC

UPPER CHAGRIN PRESERVE: Mr. Mueller reported that the Chagrin River Watershed Partners made an offer of funding assistance to the Russell Township Park Commission should the Upper Chagrin Preserve properties be transferred to them from the Township. Assistance was offered to help gain grants for pedestrian only trails and for barriers and signage to prevent ATV traffic. Ms. Port said she spoke to Amy Brennan and told her that since the Township was a member of the Chagrin River Watershed Partners that grant assistance should be available to the Township. Members of the Board object to opening the park to trails feeling the property should be left in a pristine condition. Mr. Dickinson quoted passages from the conservation easement on the property that is held by the Western Reserve Land Conservancy. He spoke of the natural values, the scenic, natural qualities, the native plants, and the need to preserve the area. Barriers can be erected to prevent illegal access. The Western Reserve Land Conservancy should take charge. Ms. Port expressed her fear that the Geauga Park District wants to create an "emerald necklace" system of trails in Geauga. She is concerned that if the Park Commission owned the Upper Chagrin Preserve property they would sell it to the Geauga Park District. It was stated that the Park Commission is not permitted to sell property. Ms. Port would like to see this in writing.

Recently, Pete McDonald, of the Western Reserve Land Conservancy, sent a draft of a letter for the Trustees to review. The letter is intended to clarify the permitted uses of the Upper Chagrin Preserve for the neighboring landowners.

The same letter was sent to the Park Commissioners as they own the adjoining land called the Upper Chagrin Preserve Addition.

Mr. Mueller explained that the Trustees have been custodians of the land for a number of years. He suggested that the Trustees have not done a good job and that the land should be transferred to the Russell Township Park Commission to maintain it better. Ms. Port said the Western Reserve Land Conservancy is supposed to monitor the park. Mr. Dickinson explained that currently the Trustees are in violation of the conservation easement on the Upper Chagrin Preserve. Ms.

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Port inquired as to deeding fees from Western Reserve Land Conservancy.

TOWNSHIP CLAMBAKE: Mr. Mueller suggests that the Township organize a community Clambake in September. The event may be held at Weigand's Lake Park. The Trustees will observe how the Memorial Weekend Community Open House at Weigand's Lake is attended and organized. The Russell Auxiliary Force may be invited to participate or sponsor the event. The topic will be discussed again after the Memorial Day event at Weigand's Lake.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The next regular Trustees' meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, June 2nd, in the Russell Township Fire-Rescue Department.

Russell Township Scrap Tire Collection, May 22, 8 a.m. until 2 p.m., 8 tire maximum, off the rim only, car or light truck tires. Russell residents only. No business or commercial drop off. Rain or shine.

Memorial Service, May 23, 3 p.m. until 5:00 p.m., Briar Hill Cemetery.

PURCHASE ORDERS: were approved for:

Number	Purpose	Amount
106-2010	Annual dues GSWCD	\$2,000.00
107-2010	Attorney fees, Laurel School	\$5,000.00
108-2010	1 st installment, service contract	\$2,897.50
109-2010	Ammo	\$1,892.00
110-2010	Windows, Road Dept Office	\$ 925.00
111-2010	Fire truck note int/principal	\$36,255.00
112-2010	Financial Audit 2008-2009	\$5,500.00
113-2010	Red Raider & Silvercreek Rd paving	\$457,051.00
114-2010	Pekin Road paving	\$50,000.00
115-2010	Lights for new pickup	\$396.00
116-2010	Removal, dead/hazardous trees Pekin	\$2,750.00
117-2010	Tire recycling	\$1,500.00

Bills were approved as presented and drawn for same.

Upon the motion of Mr. Dickinson and seconded by Ms. Port the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

James Mueller, Chairman

Gerri Heck, Fiscal Officer