

RUSSELL FIRE-RESCUE DEPARTMENT

July 21, 2010

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

The Pledge was said.

**MINUTES:** *Mr. Dickinson moved to accept the minutes of July 7th, 2010, as amended. Ms. Port seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

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

**POLICE DEPARTMENT:** Chief Carroll stated that additional funds had become available under the COPS Grant and he has resubmitted his application for funding. The 2010 Ford Explorer has been placed in service.

Chief Carroll introduced Sergeant Randy Bialosky and explained that Sgt. Bialosky is an expert in accident investigation, also works for VEG, and can address any questions the Trustees have about the situation at Music Street and State Route 306. Sgt. Bialosky has studied the sight distances, view obstructions, traffic counts, and accidents at the intersection. He noted that the drivers involved in accidents there are all from the area. They are familiar with the road and take the route on a regular basis.

Sgt. Bialosky believes the accidents at S.R. 306 and Music St. are not an issue of stop signs unseen. They are caused by human error, people in a hurry. In 2001, three fatalities occurred at the intersection. The accident involved a highly intoxicated male driving over 65 miles per hour. In 2010, another accident involved alcohol and marijuana, and a speed of 53 miles per hour. Sgt. Bialosky stated that a light will not prevent these types of accidents. What will help is for people to raise their awareness and be vigilant. There is plenty of sight distance at this location. The hill crest 1000 feet to the north near Rescue Village is a recipe for disaster. By installing a light to help avoid failure to yield accidents, the result could be an increase in rear-end accidents with serious injuries. Sgt. Bialosky recommends asking the State to do the traffic survey. Mr. Dickinson explained that the intersection already has high reflectivity signs. Mr. Mueller asked if it is possible to install a signal that would act as a regular traffic signal for the morning and evening rush hours and then blink yellow for the other 22 hours of the day. Chief Carroll has already requested the traffic count survey from the State. He explained that the State will not allow an intersection to have both a regular signal and the flashing LED signal. Mr. Mueller expressed his appreciation for the analysis by Sergeant Randy Bialosky. Chief Carroll will report on the results of the State's survey in the future.

Chief Carroll reported that he has spoken to the resident who was concerned about the theft of flowers from her grandfather's grave. Chief Carroll also spoke to other parties regarding the theft. He said the police are at the

RUSSELL FIRE-RESCUE DEPARTMENT

July 21, 2010

cemetery as often as possible in order to prevent this kind of activity.

**OLD FIRE STATION USE:** Chief Carroll recommends that a storage building be placed on site at the Police Department and Fire Department in the future. For the immediate term, Chief Carroll has the need to store the VEG trailer and the speed trailer. He is also interested in having a secure evidence bay for the temporary storage of a car or truck. The Police Department needs to have quick access to their equipment. The Fire Department can provide plenty of notice for when they need to access their stored equipment. The Fire Department is interested in storing 2 fourteen foot trailers and some lumber. The four existing bays are 63 feet long in the Old Fire Station. Three of the bays are drive-thru bays. Mr. Mueller suggested that the Fire Dept and the Police Department may each need one full bay, and that Maintenance Superintendent Jack Gallagher will have to be consulted. Mr. Mueller estimated that for \$10,000.00 secure fencing and a camera system could be installed. Ms. Heck asked what a pole barn on the Bus Garage slab would cost.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** Chief Frazier reported that he received a \$2,500.00 grant from the Division of Public Safety. He said funding was down. Previously his department had received \$8,000.00 grants from the Division of Public Safety.

The Fire Department participated in the gasoline tanker roll-over in Newbury. The Department received a \$6,000.00 reimbursement. Russell was the first mutual aid team on site. Russell Fire-Rescue got to foam the site.

Swift Water team and the HazMat team did a service exchange recently. The regional team arrived in 9 minutes. Fifty two people were involved. No one got wet, and no one got hurt. Chief Frazier said this was impressive and he is very proud of his department.

The Region Two Collapse Rescue team is active. They attended the Millbury Class 4 tornado which left a trail of damage 7 miles long. The team also responded to the sauerkraut factory roof collapse that occurred in Fremont recently.

HB 357 opens up the ability for government entities to form partnerships with private companies. It helps small townships avoid the financial hardship caused by the costs of emergency resources. Chief Frazier explained that no one is responsible for the expenses for the first eight hours.

Some members of the Russell Fire-Rescue Dept. are participating in the Region Two drill in Ravenna during the first weekend in August. Local, County, and State assets will be participating in the drill.

The 2003 ambulance is back from being repainted. It is now getting its semi-annual maintenance work and will be ready on Wednesday.

VERCOG may be interested in having the 1990 Ford F350 for their accident unit equipment. The current Accident Investigation Unit trailer carries expensive, shock sensitive equipment and bounces a lot on the road. If the Ford was

RUSSELL FIRE-RESCUE DEPARTMENT

July 21, 2010

available the investigators could get out of the bad weather and perform their calculations in the ambulance. Chief Frazier said the ambulance has no Blue Book value. There is no Geauga County market. Its only value is as scrap metal. Chief Frazier feels it has a greater value to Russell for the VERCOG group to have it. Mr. Mueller asked if the Township should just donate it. Mr. Dickinson and Ms. Port saw a price of \$1,500, for example, as offsetting or reimbursing the expense of the Township's annual dues to VERCOG. The next VERCOG meeting is in September. Chief Carroll offered to arrange for a special meeting if necessary.

**FISCAL OFFICER: INTERFUND TRANSFER REQUEST:** *Mr. Dickinson made the motion to approve the following transfer in the Police Fund: \$15,000.00 to 2081-210-323 Vehicle Repair from 2081-760-740-0970 Machinery Equipment & Furniture. Mr. Mueller seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

**RESOLUTION 2010-14:** *The Township has control over how it spends the money that is inside the 10 mill limit. Over the 10 mill limit the money has to be allocated to a particular fund. Mr. Mueller made the motion to approve Resolution 2010-14, declaring it necessary to levy a tax in excess of the ten mill limitation. Mr. Dickinson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

**COMMENTS WERE TAKEN FROM THE PUBLIC**

**SINGLE WASTE HAULER:** Mr. Mueller described the discussion held at the pre-bid meeting for the Single Waste Hauler proposal. He made some changes to the bid document based on the good suggestions of some of the haulers. By allowing alternatives to be offered to the basic proposal, some leeway was given to the hauling company bidders. The revisions discussed at the pre-bid meeting were sent to every company that attended. Universal offered two different kinds of backdoor services, a small truck service and a walkup service. J&J Refuse offered a single person alternative, and offered a no curbside recycling alternative. Envision suggested a 4 day alternative, comingled recyclables, and no bag service. Waste Management offered the least number of deviations from what was proposed. Their bid was the lowest cost per month at \$15.97. Waste Management proposed a 2 truck option with trash collection every week and recycling collected every other week. The lowest cost is not the only important factor. Mr. Dickinson explained that the choice of hauler must fit the needs of most of Russell residents. The bag option is essential. A backyard collection option is also required. The goals are to reduce the amount of material going to landfills, to cut down on the use of the recycling center, and to save money. The proposal reflects a lower cost and increased convenience. It was explained that a 2 day week causes more wear and tear on the roads. One bidder proposed a 4 day collection week. Some yard waste is included in the proposal. The goal, however, is to increase composting awareness. Manure hauling is not included in the proposal.

Envision was favored in some respects. They appear to cause the greatest amount of recyclables and the least number of trips on local roads. But, they are approximately \$5.00 more

RUSSELL FIRE-RESCUE DEPARTMENT

July 21, 2010

per month.

Ms. Port objected to the proposal because she says it is against free enterprise. She prefers resident choice be maintained. She said that Townships have a different tax structure and a different model of government than the haulers are accustomed to dealing with. She said J& J Refuse at least had Township experience. She said the recycling center is a boon to our community and that the Township did not need to duplicate the effort with curbside recycling. She pointed out that no senior discount was offered.

Mr. Dickinson pointed out that no other residential hauler would be permitted in the Township. Under the Ohio Revised Code, other haulers can be fined.

Mr. Mueller added that the larger purchasing power has provided additional hauling services while cutting costs approximately 35%. He believes that most residents are already Waste Management customers.

Ms. Port said the bid document was too random. She wants more discussion of the comingling container cost versus free recycling at the center and the lower weight truck option.

*Mr. Dickinson moved that the Single Waste Hauler Project be awarded to Waste Management because they had the lowest and best bid. Mr. Mueller seconded the motion. The vote was Mr. Dickinson Yes, Ms. Port No, Mr. Mueller Yes.*

**GAS SUPPLIER:** Ms. Port presented information about the gas contract for the Fire Department. Because the Fire Department is a high volume user the building is ineligible for the NOPEC rate which is capped at 500 mcf per year. Ms. Port recommends the fixed winter rate offered through COSE which is tied to the NYMEX rate plus adders. Chief Frazier agreed that this rate looked like a good choice. *Ms. Port made the motion to approve a fixed winter NYMEX rate gas contract with COSE-Integrays at the rate of 5.77 plus adders for the Fire-Rescue Station. Mr. Dickinson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

**USE OF TOWN HALL:** *Ms. Port moved to grant permission for Russell Historical Society to use the Town Hall on Saturday, October 16, 2010, subject to Township rules and regulations. Mr. Dickinson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

**GEAUGA COUNTY SAFETY COUNCIL:** Ms. Port reported that the Geauga County Safety Council is having a membership drive. Membership could provide savings from the Ohio Bureau of Workers Compensation through group ratings. Because the Township is already group rated there is no apparent benefit or gain to Russell.

**HI-REFLECTIVITY SIGNS:** Mr. Mueller reported that Bob Phillips is looking for four volunteer Townships to participate in a grant program that would provide 100% funding for high-reflectivity street signs. Mr. Mueller wanted to know if Gene Layne is interested and if he has the manpower to install the signs. Participation could mean a savings of several thousand dollars to the Township.

RUSSELL FIRE-RESCUE DEPARTMENT

July 21, 2010

Switchover to the new signs has to be done by 2013.

**HB 393:** Mr. Dickinson noted that HB 393 regarding Nuisance Abatements is worth reading. He says it is interesting in that Townships are given more authority.

**NEOTA SUMMER CONFERENCE:** Ms. Port asked if she could attend the Ohio Township Association's summer conference to be held in Stark County on August 6, 2010. *Mr. Dickinson made the motion to approve up to \$60.00 to allow Ms. Port to attend the NEOTA conference on August 6, 2010. Mr. Mueller seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

**RIVENDELL STEWARDSHIP FUNDS:** The Township Trustees are to receive \$500.00 when each lot in the Rivendell Subdivision is sold. The money is for stewardship and is to be used "to defend protected property." Ms. Heck has created a separate line item in the General Fund for the money.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** The next regular Trustees' meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, August 4th, in the Russell Township Fire-Rescue Department.

Dines Road is closed as of June 1<sup>st</sup> between S.R. 306 and Caves Road. It is expected to be closed for 60 days for bridge replacement.

Pekin Road is closed east of Watt Road.

The Hemlock Hills area paving project will be starting very soon.

**PURCHASE ORDERS:** were approved for:

Number	Purpose	Amount
134-2010	National Universal Gold (foam)	\$2,139.00
135-2010	New sign, Bob Hall Field	\$1,750.00
136-2010	OTA Group rating service fee	\$5,329.00

Bills were approved as presented and drawn for same.

*Upon the motion of Ms. Port and seconded by Mr. Dickinson the meeting was adjourned at 9:13 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

James Mueller, Chairman

Gerri Heck, Fiscal Officer