

RUSSELL FIRE-RESCUE STATION

SEPTEMBER 1, 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, and department heads Jack Gallagher, Gene Layne, and Ric Machnics.

The Pledge was said.

MEETING MINUTES: *Mr. Dickinson made the motion to accept the minutes of August 18, 2010, as amended. Ms. Port seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

MONTHLY REPORTS: *Mr. Mueller made the motion to acknowledge receipt of the August 2010, monthly departmental reports from the Police, Road, and Zoning Departments. Ms. Port seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

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

DEPARTMENT HEAD MEETING SCHEDULE: Kristina Port suggested that the Trustees consider a schedule change for meeting attendance by the department heads. Her concern is that the Trustees accept reports without being able to ask questions. She feels that the department heads should come to the second meeting of the month. Ric Machnics suggested that the Trustees contact the department heads with their questions so that they may be researched and addressed. Mr. Dickinson explained that the schedule is set so as to cut down on the burden of attending meetings. Ms. Port asked the Trustees to consider a schedule change and discuss it at the next meeting.

ROAD DEPARTMENT: Mr. Layne reported that it had been a busy summer for the Road Department. The paving of Red Raider and Hemlock Hills was completed. Mr. Layne is satisfied with the improvements and said the jobs were very well done. Mr. Al Klauss, Hemlock Hills Homeowners Association representative, thanked Gene Layne and the Township for the good work and funding of the paving project in Hemlock Hills.

ROAD DEPT. PEKIN ROAD: On the Pekin Road paving project Mr. Layne does request some additional improvements. At the swale on the hill, seven catch basins need to be raised, the paving needs to be leveled out, and a curb is needed on the north side. Mr. Dickinson explained that the additional work is not in the specifications. Ms. Port said a change order needed to be created. Mr. Mueller explained that County Engineer Bob Phillips said that the job was under the estimate, but Mr. Layne said there is no money left. The Township would bear the cost of the work. It is estimated to cost about \$24,000. Ronyak could do the job before they leave the site. Mr. Layne does not want to go into winter with the road in its current condition. The invoice for Pekin Road will be attended to at the next meeting after some clarification is provided regarding the reimbursement amount from Newbury Township. *Mr. Dickinson made the motion to authorize the Road Superintendent to arrange for road improvements to Pekin Road (Russell Twp Rd 144) for an amount*

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up to \$24,999.00. Ms. Port seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT: NOPEC GRANT: Mr. Gallagher explained that he had brought four candidates in to discuss the NOPEC grant application and project. After working with the four candidates, Mr. Gallagher would like to hire Hess Engineering. The grant application for the \$50,000 is due February 28, 2011. It is a simple grant application, and the project can be accomplished in stages. Mr. Gallagher identified project improvements that can be done in different categories. He explained that the project can be done with vendors but a grant administrator could help with the application process and with oversight of the projects. Ms. Port replied that others are spending 10% on project management but the Township doesn't have to do this. Mr. Gallagher wants to turn this project over to Kristina Port because she wants to handle it in a completely different way. Ms. Port said she does not want to insert Hess Engineering as the project manager. She will take on the responsibility of project manager.

MAINTENANCE DEPT: PAPER SHREDDING: Chester Trustee Mike Joyce contacted Mr. Gallagher about the two townships sharing the costs of a paper shredding event. Chester Twp estimated the costs at \$550 for a three hour event with no workers included. Russell already has a paper shredding date set for October for \$325 with two paid workers.

ZONING DEPARTMENT: Mr. Machnics reported that applications and permits were increasing. It is Russell Townships turn to host the Zoning Inspector's Meeting in October. Mr. Machnics requested that money be approved to pay for refreshments. *Mr. Dickinson moved to approve up to \$150.00 for the purchase of refreshments for the Geauga County Zoning Inspector's Meeting to be hosted by Russell Township in October. Ms. Port seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

ZONING DEPT: ROGERS BZA VARIANCE: Mr. Machnics explained that Russell resident Peter Rogers is appealing to the Board of Zoning Appeals for several variances. He is bringing several professionals to substantiate his case. Residents are following this case and are upset. The Trustees may consider hiring legal representation to address the concerns of neighbors. Concerns are of increased water runoff and increased traffic. Nearby residents have flooding basements. One resident put in drainage and he still has issues. Mr. Mueller suggested inviting the County Prosecutor and Mr. Dave Dietrich from the County Planning Commission to the next hearing. He suggested that Mr. Dietrich could explain the precedents that this issue can set. Mr. Machnics explained that the Trustees have to make the decision of who to invite. Ms. Port asked if the Township's insurance company could be involved to reimburse costs, and if the Township could get legal counsel under the insurance plan to uphold Zoning. Mr. Dickinson explained that the County Prosecutor represents the BZA, it does not represent the Trustees. *Ms. Port made the motion to seek legal counsel for representation at the BZA hearing for Rogers' variance application on behalf of the Township with costs up to \$3,000.00. Mr. Dickinson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

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FISCAL OFFICER: *Mr. Dickinson made the motion to approve Resolution 2010-15: a resolution accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the Budget Commission and authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the County Auditor. Ms. Port seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

COMMENTS WERE TAKEN FROM THE PUBLIC

SINGLE WASTE HAULER CONTRACT: The Trustees discussed details and suggested revisions to the hauler contract at length. It was suggested that a Special Meeting was needed to rework the details of the contract. A Special Meeting will be held on Saturday, September 4th, at 10 am at the Russell Township Fire-Rescue Department.

HEMLOCK HILLS SEWER PERMISSIVE STATUS: MARTY WINSTON: Mr. Winston explained that he does not represent Hemlock Hills. He has engaged in an engineering level discussion with the hope of solving a problem. He hopes to solve a problem without full scale sewers and without weakening Township Zoning. Mr. Winston proposes a hybrid system that has not been used in this state. It involves tanks to hold solid waste and a drip system to carry grey water to a facility that is similar to the McFarland plant. The plant he proposes for Hemlock Hills is the same technology as McFarland but a much smaller scale. Mr. Winston says he consulted with Gerry Morgan, from Water Resources, and with Chip Hess, of Hess Engineering. Mr. Morgan and Mr. Hess were not in attendance. Mr. Winston explained that his plan would require a change in the 208 Plan. Hemlock Hills would have to gain Sewer Permissive status. The estimate for property owners was suggested to be just over \$100.00 per month, or approximately \$1,400.00 per year. Mr. Winston based his estimate on 20 year assessments and rolled in operating costs. He said some costs could be offset by grant money. Mr. Winston asked Senator Tim Grendell to run interference with the EPA. Ms. Port said the Niehaus bill takes effect on September 17, 2010. Mr. Al Klauss, representative from Hemlock Hills Homeowners Association, asked what was required of Hemlock Hills for the residents to get included in the 208 Plan. He explained that while he personally would like sewers, residents who had new septic systems and residents who had systems that wouldn't fail for 10 to 15 years did not want sewers. Mr. Klauss asked if there were grants to subsidize the costs. The Homeowners Association was told to consult with Mr. Gerry Morgan to determine the necessary steps if a need for inclusion in the 208 Plan was identified.

BELLE VERNON FLOODING: Resident Penny Young has been in contact with Mr. Layne about the flooding of her basement during the excessive rain on Memorial Day this year. She explained that she objected to the two houses downstream from her property whose ditches were piped and filled. Mr. Layne inspected the ditches and found that the neighboring ditch is an older installation and is not done well. The second house down has a pipe exposed. The ditch work was done without permits and is not to code. Pipes restrict the flow of water. Mr. Layne would not have issued permits for the ditch work had they been requested. The pipes are not deep enough

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and swales hold more water. Mr. Layne needs Trustee approval to remove the pipes. Mrs. Young's neighbor is agreeable to having the work done. The property owners of the second house away refuse to participate voluntarily. Mr. Layne offered to do all the work at no cost to the homeowners. He has written letters of explanation to the residents. The Township has the authority to do this work in the road right-of-way. Mrs. Young wants both ditches cleared out. The Township will agree to clean out the immediate neighbors ditch at this time and see how the drainage situation improves.

AMBULANCE DONATION: Chief Carroll offered follow-up information to the ambulance donation discussion held at a previous meeting. He reported that VERCOG would like to accept the donation of the 1990 Russell Fire-Rescue ambulance. However, they could not lower dues based on a donation as that would set a bad precedent for other donations. Ms. Port understood that dues were dues and could not be negotiated. But, she explained that selling the ambulance to VERCOG for the scrap value of \$1,500.00 could have covered some of the Township's dues expense. Mr. Mueller recommended donating the ambulance. Mr. Dickinson explained that the donation would help the community. Chief Carroll added that the donation would increase the safety of Township police officers. *Mr. Dickinson made the motion to donate the 1990 ambulance to VERCOG for the use of the Valley Enforcement Group. Mr. Mueller seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.* Ms. Port said she did not intend to pay to refurbish the ambulance, and she hoped the Township's dues would not increase.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: A Special Meeting to further discuss the hauler contract will be held on September 4, 2010 in the Russell Township Fire-Rescue Department.

The next regular Trustees' meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, September 15, in the Russell Township Fire-Rescue Department.

PURCHASE ORDERS: were approved for:

Number	Purpose	Amount
142-2010	Learn not to burn & supplies	\$ 827.00
143-2010	Pekin Hill catch basins & ditch	\$24,885.00

Bills were approved as presented and drawn for same.

Upon the motion of Mr. Dickinson and seconded by Mr. Mueller, the meeting was adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

James Mueller, Chairman

Gerri Heck, Fiscal Officer