

RUSSELL TWP FIRE-RESCUE STATION

September 2, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman James Dickinson. Trustees James Mueller and Kristina Port were present.

Mr. Dickinson welcomed guests and department heads Mr. Ric Machnics, Mr. Jack Gallagher, and Mr. Gene Layne to the meeting.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

**MINUTES:** *Mr. Mueller made the motion to approve the minutes of the August 19, 2009 Regular Trustee's meeting as presented. Ms. Port seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

**MINUTES:** *Mr. Mueller made the motion to approve the minutes of the August 26, 2009 Special Trustee's meeting as amended. Ms. Port seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

**MONTHLY REPORTS:** *Mr. Mueller moved to acknowledge receipt of the August 2009 monthly departmental reports from the Road, Maintenance, Police, and Zoning departments. Ms. Port seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

**MONTHLY REPORTS:** *Ms. Port moved to accept the July 2009 monthly departmental reports from the Fire department. Mr. Mueller seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

**MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT:** Mr. Gallagher reported that the curbside collection event that takes place in October may be performed for less money than two years ago. The collection will be held the first two full weeks of October. Collections are tentatively set for October 5<sup>th</sup> for the area north of S.R. 87, and October 12<sup>th</sup> for the area south of S.R. 87. If a mailing is to be sent out to Russell residents it must go out as soon as possible so as to give residents time to prepare for the collection. Information about the website opt-in will be included in the mailing. The October 10<sup>th</sup> drive-thru flu shot clinic will also be included in the mailing if space can be made available. *Mr. Mueller moved to appropriate up to \$15,000.00 to create and send a mailing to the residents and to hire Waste Management to perform a curbside refuse collection in October. Mr. Dickinson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

Mr. Gallagher reported that he had done some research on the three waste haulers in the area. He discovered that Landmark does not recycle paper and cardboard because it gets soiled when it is included in the mixed waste. Landmark wants paper and cardboard to go to a fuel pellet manufacturing facility. Mr. Dickinson will accept the invitation to tour Landmark's facility.

**MANNIK & SMITH:** Mannik and Smith prepared a second as-built survey of the pond and found that the pond still does not comply with the design plan. The pond rim was found to be approximately 8 inches low. Easton is said to have used an incorrect datum elevation reading. Justen Musick approached Geauga Soil and Water Conservation District with a potential alternative to raising the top height 8 inches. The proposed

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alternative was a modification to the concrete outlet structure. Soil and Water rejected the proposed modification saying that changing holes in the outlet structure would overwhelm the 12" pipe. Clay will have to be put on top to cap the dike.

**ROAD DEPARTMENT:** Mr. Gene Layne reported that the cement stabilization projects have begun. The paving projects are slated to begin later this month. It is expected that the projects will take until the end of October.

Mr. Layne was asked to get proposals for a survey of the Hackamore Woods easement. Trustees requested that it be staked and that a permanent monument be installed.

Mr. Layne has not heard from Chagrin Falls regarding the Coy Lane snow plowing request. Mr. Dickinson will contact Mayor Brick again to ask if Chagrin Falls would consider snow plowing Coy Lane.

**ZONING DEPARTMENT:** Mr. Machnics reported that new housing starts are down from last year.

**FISCAL OFFICER:** Ms. Heck reported on the Township's insurance. The Township's insurance rate will stay the same. Any change in premium will be based on the reevaluation of buildings and equipment.

**BUS GARAGE:** Dr. Anthony Podojil is interested in attending a meeting of the Board of Trustees. The new bus garage for the West Geauga school system will be ready next summer. The Metzenbaum School and West Geauga have entered into a lease.

**BRIAR HILL CHURCH:** *Ms. Port moved to grant permission for the local seniors group "55 and Better" to use the Briar Hill Church on September 10, 2009, subject to Township rules and regulations. Mr. Mueller seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

Mr. Dickinson said he had done some research on the organ at the Briar Hill Church. It is in need of repair. He recommended that the Organ Historical Society and the Reed Organ Society be consulted. The president of the Reed Organ Society lives in Mogadore, Ohio. The organ is an historic instrument and should be repaired.

**WASTE WATER PROJECT:** Mr. Dickinson has been in touch with Mr. Hess about the current status of the waste water project in the center of Russell. Mr. Dickinson is hoping that Mr. Hess and Mr. Paulitsch will take the lead on the project.

**ASM:** The Trustees have been asked to respond to a questionnaire about the impact of the ASM property on the surrounding area. The questionnaire is part of an application for tax credits that is being submitted to the Ohio Department of Development. The ASM building was built in 1959 and needs some rehabilitation. Mr. Michael Chesler, of The Chesler Group, is working with ASM to obtain the income tax credits. Mr. Stan Theobald would appreciate the assistance of the Trustees. The credits are not related to

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property taxes and do not affect the Township or County receipts.

**COMMENTS WERE TAKEN FROM THE PUBLIC**

**GAS UTILITY:** Ms. Port is looking into the rates of gas suppliers once again. She is interested in the cost savings of the Ohio DAS program. Ms. Port explained that the Township departments have a longstanding history of wide variability in the prices they pay for gas. Stephanie Everhart of the E-Group will look at the usage charges and the Township accounts. Ms. Everhart will get in touch with Ms. Port with the results. Ms. Port explained that the State of Ohio does not use fixed rate accounts anymore because the taxpayers get angry when the state overpays. Ms. Port is interested in COSE. She reports that COSE has a good rate, database capabilities, trend reporting, and allows for electronic payments. For these services, a fee of 0.5% is billed on the invoice.

**SQUIRE, SANDERS, and DEMPSEY:** Ms. Port inquired why Squire, Sanders, and Dempsey could not just reduce their bill and accept the appropriated funds. It was explained that the attorney was necessary and that the County Prosecutor's Office will not perform these services. The document that Squire, Sanders, and Dempsey wrote needed to be tailored to the Township's needs. *Mr. Mueller moved to approve an additional sum of \$220.00 to compensate the firm of Squire, Sanders and Dempsey for their assistance with the preparation and review of legal documents related to the tax anticipation notes for the road paving project. Ms. Port seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

**SINGLE WASTE HAULER PROJECT:** The recent public meeting for the single waste-hauler issue was discussed. Mr. Mueller suggested that, based on what he learned from the haulers who attended the meeting, he would like to recommend some changes to the proposal. Mr. Mueller would like to change the term of the contract from one year with a 2 year extension to a 3 year contract with a 90 day cancellation clause. He would also like to specify the style of trucks that would collect the waste and recycling. Ms. Port recommends that the Township focus on trash collection and not on recycling. She advocates keeping the recycling center in operation. Mr. Mueller explained that lots of communities have curbside recycling. His intention is to increase recycling in Russell. Cancelling curbside recycling would knock out the environmental savings. Mr. Mueller explained that the haulers want a straight shot through the Township with no recycling. Mr. Dickinson intends to accept Landmark's offer of a facility tour. Mr. Gallagher recommended that the Trustee's speak with representatives from the Geauga-Trumbull Solid Waste Management District. He maintains that paper and cardboard will not be accepted by recycling facilities if it is put in a mixed use truck. Mr. Dickinson explained that some residents are very interested in maintaining their backyard pick-up option. Universal Hauling will order new trucks in order to be able to offer recycling and bid on the Russell proposal. Mr. Mueller suggested that one way to speed the collection process would be to specify that two

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workers be assigned to each truck. Mr. Dickinson wants to sit down with the haulers again. Ms. Port wants to allow residents to opt-out of the curbside recycling and keep the Township recycling center in operation.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** The next regular Trustees' meeting will be held at 7 p.m., Wednesday, September 16, 2009 in the Russell Township Fire-Rescue Department.

On September 9<sup>th</sup> all Geauga County residents are invited to an educational program at the Town Hall. The program is entitled "Are You Water Well and Septic System Savvy?"

**PURCHASE ORDERS:** were approved for:

Number	Purpose	Amount
151-2009	Repair to the Asphalt @ Admin Bldg	\$ 2,026.99
152-2009	Replace rear springs on #42	1,700.00
153-2009	Cement stabilizat/asphalt repair	340,490.00
154-2009	Asphalt repaving	515,177.50
155-2009	E-newsletter, list server, website	7,500.00

Bills were approved as presented and drawn for same.

Upon the motion of Mr. Mueller and seconded by Ms. Port the meeting was adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

James Dickinson  
Chairman  
Board of Trustees

Melissa Palmer  
Administrative Secretary