

RUSSELL TOWN HALL

OCTOBER 3, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Chairman James Dickinson. Trustees Jim Mueller and Greg Studen were present. Mr. Dickinson announced that Jayne Paullin was recording notes for the minutes, along with Fiscal Officer Gerri Heck. Mr. Dickinson welcomed guests, Maintenance Superintendent Jack Gallagher, Road Superintendent Gene Layne, Zoning Inspector Ric Machnics and Police Chief Tim Carroll to the meeting.

**MINUTES:** *Mr. Mueller made the motion to approve the minutes of the September 5, 2007 meeting, as presented. Mr. Studen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

**MONTHLY REPORTS:** *Mr. Studen made the motion to accept the September 2007, monthly reports. Mr. Mueller seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

**ROAD DEPARTMENT** - Road Superintendent Gene Layne had nothing to add to his monthly report.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT - VEG COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS AGREEMENT:**

Chief Carroll asked the Trustees if they had any questions regarding an agreement for the formation of the Valley Enforcement Group Council of Governments (VERCOG). Chief Carroll said that Rebecca Schlag, Assistant Geauga County Prosecutor, reviewed the Agreement and her "Approval as to Form" has been received. Mr. Dickinson explained that this is a regional group which would allow the Valley Enforcement Group (VEG) to have property and equipment in its name. Mr. Dickinson also explained that VEG is a group of municipalities who have joined together to share in training, personnel and equipment. Mr. Mueller asked if a date has been set for VERCOG to begin. Chief Carroll said the projected date for starting VERCOG is November 2007, pending the approval of the formation of the VERCOG Council by the current communities that are members. *Mr. Mueller made the motion to approve the "Agreement Establishing the Valley Enforcement Regional Council of Governments (VERCOG) for the Supervision and Control of the Valley Enforcement Group (VEG)" allowing VERCOG to acquire and own police equipment and other property, to be utilized by all participating members and allow the formal supervision of VEG, a group formed for the mutual interchange of police personnel and police equipment within the Chagrin Valley. Mr. Studen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

**MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT** - Maintenance Superintendent Jack Gallagher reported that Vince Gambino has asked permission to attend welding skills training, in various applications, on October 8 through 12, at Lincoln Electric. This training is offered at no charge to members of the Collapse Search & Rescue Team. Vince is a member of the Russell Fire-Rescue Department, and a member of the Collapse Search & Rescue Team. He requested to attend this training because he will be able to utilize this training to assist him with his Maintenance Department duties as well as for the Fire-Rescue Department. Mr. Gallagher said the welders that are used during the training class are the same as the welder the Township owns.

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**FORMER BP STATION - UPDATE:** Mr. Mueller told Mr. Gallagher that he is pleased with the landscaping work done at the former BP Station property. Mr. Gallagher said he plans to have trees planted on the property later in the fall, after the mounds of dirt settle.

**ZONING DEPARTMENT:** Zoning Inspector Ric Machnics said he had nothing to add to his monthly report.

**OHIO PLANNING CONFERENCE (OPC) - WORKSHOP:** The OPC 2007 Planning & Zoning Workshop will be held in November this year. This workshop provides education for zoning board members. A request was received for approval for two to attend this workshop. *Mr. Mueller moved to approve the reasonable and necessary expenses, not to exceed \$250.00, for two people to attend the Ohio Planning Conference (OPC) workshop on Friday, November 9, 2007, in Westlake, Ohio. Mr. Studen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

**FORMER SHELL STATION - UPDATE:** Mr. Studen was asked to report recent events regarding the former Shell Station. Mr. Studen explained that prospective owners have talked to Ric Machnics, about what type of business they would like to start on the property, versus what they are allowed to do, within our zoning regulations. Mr. Studen explained that our zoning regulations do not allow food preparation. He said the Circle K store is selling items that may not be permitted with our current zoning regulations. However, their services and products may be considered beneficial to many within our Township. The Zoning Commission has agreed to investigate what the prospective owners of the Shell Station would like to do, versus what is allowed by the Township zoning regulations. Mr. Machnics, explained that the Zoning Commission's investigation will provide the Township with an actual "definition" of the term "food service".

**CURBSIDE COLLECTION:** Mr. Gallagher reported that the curbside collection is going well. He has received calls from residents who are pleased with the collection. Mr. Gallagher said he felt the Geauga County Department on Aging did a fine job offering assistance to senior citizens who were unable to place their unwanted items near the curbside. Residents north of State Route 87, and residents who reside on the north side of 87, are to have their curbside trash picked up by this Friday, October 5. Residents south of State Route 87, and residents who reside on the south side of State Route 87, are scheduled for their curbside collection to begin October 8, 2007.

**POLICE STATION - UPDATE:** Mr. Studen reported that the outside brick work has been started. The roof should be started next week. The water, gas and electric lines are almost complete. The site development is nearly complete. The contractor plans to pave in November. Mr. Studen is pleased with Hummel Construction. Mr. Mueller asked if the grass seed has started to grow and he said it is beneficial for preventing future erosion if the grass has a start prior to the cold weather. Mr. Studen said the grass has started to grow. Mr. Dickinson asked if the building will be enclosed before the snow begins to fall. Mr. Studen said that if everything goes on schedule, as planned, the building will be enclosed when the

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snow starts. Chief Carroll said that during a recent hard rainfall, he visited the Hitching Post Lane area where the easement work was performed. He said the two property owners, in the area of the easement, did not have any standing water.

**FISCAL OFFICER - INSURANCE:** Mr. Dickinson explained that during the last meeting, the Trustees approved the annual renewal of the insurance policy for the Township. He said that during the last meeting, Mr. Mueller requested that Mrs. Heck investigate the cost to increase the Umbrella Liability Limit from two-million dollars to five-million dollars. Mrs. Heck said the quotation received from Sutton Insurance Agency, Inc. to increase the Umbrella Liability limit to \$4,000,000 (in lieu of \$1,000,000) on the renewal policy with Fireman's Fund is: \$2,793.00 per year. Mr. Mueller said he feels the increase is well worth the increase in insurance coverage. Mr. Studen said he feels we should ask our insurance agent, Mr. Sutton, what his opinion is of an insurance coverage increase. He also feels that we may want to ask Mr. Sutton what other townships in the area are choosing for liability coverage. Mrs. Heck agreed to call Mr. Sutton and Mr. Dickinson announced that the Trustees would add this issue to the agenda for the next regular Trustees' meeting.

**RESOLUTION: THE LAKE-GEAUGA RED RIBBON COMMITTEE, NATIONAL RED RIBBON CELEBRATION, RED RIBBON WEEK:** The Lake-Geauga Red Ribbon committee, the local group of the National Red Ribbon Celebration, requested that the Trustees pass a resolution to support the efforts of the committee, especially during Red Ribbon Week, October 21-28, 2007. Red Ribbon Week demonstrates intolerance for drugs in our schools and communities and celebrates a drug-free lifestyle for our youth. The year the theme is "Dream it. Be it. Drug-free". Red ribbons will be distributed to school children of Lake and Geauga Counties. The resolutions sent to the Lake-Geauga Center will be on display at all the Red Ribbon Week events. *Mr. Mueller moved to approve Resolution 2007-16: A resolution to declare October 21 through October 28, 2007 as Red Ribbon Week. Mr. Studen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

**COMMENTS WERE TAKEN FROM THE PUBLIC.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Mr. Dickinson announced the Curbside Collection, is in progress for residents north of State Route 87, and for those who live on the north side of State Route 87. Collection will begin on Monday, October 8, at 6:00 a.m. for Township residents south of State Route 87, and for those who live on the south side of State Route 87. The oil recycling program will be held on Saturday, October 3, 2007, from 8:00 until 10:00 a.m., at the Township Recycling Center. The next regular Trustees' meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 17, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. at the Historic Town Hall. Training for House Bill 9, Public Records Bill, will be held on October 24, 2007, from 2:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** *Mr. Studen made the motion to move into executive session for the purpose of collective bargaining and the employment and compensation of public employees. Mr.*

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*Mueller seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

The meeting moved into executive session at 8:02 p.m. with Police Department Chief Carroll.

Upon the motion of Mr. Studen and seconded by Mr. Mueller the meeting reconvened into regular session at 8:59 p.m.

**COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT:** *Mr. Studen made the motion to approve and sign an agreement between Russell Township and the Ohio Patrolman's Benevolent Association (Patrol Officer Unit), which will terminate June 30, 2010. Mr. Mueller seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

*Mr. Studen made the motion to approve and sign an agreement between Russell Township and the Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association (Sergeant's Unit), which will terminate June 30, 2010. Mr. Mueller seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

Both agreements were signed by the members of the Board of Trustees.

*Mr. Studen made the motion that Police Sergeant Randy Bialosky be paid an additional eighty hours of accumulated vacation time per his request of September 25, 2007. Mr. Mueller seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

**PURCHASE ORDERS:** were approved for:

Number	Purpose	Amount
198-2007	Labor and shop supplies to install equipment lighting in 4389	\$ 2,150.00
199-2007	Parts for 4389	\$ 1,774.20
200-2007	Replace guardrail by culvert on Stillwater	\$ 1,574.00
201-2007	Park share of real property rollback dist	\$ 10,449.56
202-2007	Turn on school signal for School year 07-08	\$ 137.50
203-2007	Supplement PO 140-07 S/H and part substitution	\$ 61.43

Bills were approved as presented and drawn for same.

Upon the motion of Mr. Studen and seconded by Mr. Mueller the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

James Dickinson, Chairman

Gerri Heck, Fiscal Officer