

RUSSELL FIRE-RESCUE STATION

OCTOBER 3, 2012

Chairman James Dickinson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Trustees Jim Mueller and Justin Madden were present. Chief Frazier was also present.

MINUTES: *Mr. Mueller made the motion to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on September 19, 2012, as presented. Mr. Madden seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

MONTHLY REPORTS: *Mr. Mueller made the motion to acknowledge receipt of the September 2012 monthly departmental reports from the Fire, Police, Road, and Zoning departments. Mr. Madden seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

FRACK FREE GEAUGA: Ms. Jessica Shaner, representing Frack Free Geauga, requested the Trustees support for a non-binding, symbolic resolution asking that local control of drilling be returned to the Townships from the General Assembly. She read a prepared statement and explained that ODNR regulations are insufficient to protect local communities. Mr. Dickinson and Ms. Shaner discussed House Bill 315 and the severance tax. Mr. Dickinson suggested giving an increased severance tax not to the whole state of Ohio, but to the local communities that have the brine pumped and trucked away on their local roads. Mr. Madden is concerned about who will pay for investigation if the local governments gain control of drilling again. Mr. Mueller said the Ohio EPA should investigate and inspect. Further discussion of the resolution presented by Ms. Shaner will be placed on the next meeting agenda.

MENTAL HEALTH & RECOVERY SERVICES LEVY: Mr. David Boyle, CEO of Ravenwood Mental Health Center, requested support for two levies on the November ballot. One levy is a renewal of a 0.5 mill levy. It will generate income for the Mental Health Board but does not cause any tax increase. The second levy is a new 0.25 mill levy that will generate new income for the County Board of Mental Health & Recovery Services through a tax increase. Mr. Boyle cites declining budgets and significant increases in demand for services as the reason for the levies on the ballot. He explains that the tragedy at Chardon High School is not the reason for the levies, but did result in an increase in ongoing services. Since 2009 Mr. Boyle has observed increased requests for services particularly by middle aged residents. Depression, suicidal feelings, foreclosures, and loss of careers are the common causes.

GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT LEVY: Mr. John Leech, Geauga Park District Commissioner, explained that the Geauga Park District has 2 levies expiring in 2012. One levy will be allowed to expire. The second levy will be replaced. In total the expiring levy and the replacement levy will result in a 16% drop in tax money going to the Geauga Park District. The Geauga Park District's mission is to preserve land. The levy money will be used not to buy new land as in the past, but to build trails, maintain facilities, and open more parks. If the levy is not passed in November, the GPD will cut back on maintenance and staff. The Geauga Park District has 19 parks in Geauga, approximately 9,500 acres of land, and 56 miles of trails. The GPD aids school curricula by providing science education programs to schools and the

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Nature Scopes program for 5th graders.

OTARMA INSURANCE: Jim deLuca, Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority, has not yet provided information on new deductible options or a loss history review. Mrs. Heck is concerned that changing to a \$5000.00 deductible could hit some departments hard. The departments are paying modest annual premiums. The premium payment was submitted and coverage is continuous. This issue will be placed on the next meeting agenda.

BOND REFUNDING: All paperwork is complete for the bond refunding. The transaction closes on October 9th. It is expected that approximately \$115,000.00 will go back to the Russell taxpayers.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

TRUSTEE GOALS 2013: This issue will be tabled until the next regular meeting.

LAKE ERIE PROTECTION FUND: Mr. Madden expressed his appreciation for the services of Amy Brennan and the Chagrin River Watershed Partners. A \$15,000.00 grant has been awarded to Russell Township from the Lake Erie Protection Fund to be applied to the Griswold Creek streambank stabilization project. Mrs. Brennan and the CRWP were instrumental in acquiring the grant. The LEPF funds are not gained from Russell taxpayers. The LEPF is funded by the sale of Lake Erie motor vehicle license plates.

NOPEC: Residents have asked recently for advice on the NOPEC offer of a 7 year contract offering price stability for electric rates. The Trustees cannot promise what the electric rates will do in the future.

SCOTT PROPERTY: Residents on Hemlock Point Road have called with complaints about the burned property on the street. Chief Frazier spoke with the Building Commissioner from Geauga County. He described the process necessary to gain an inspection and ruling on the stability, safety, and habitability of the structure. If the inspection proves it necessary, the Township Trustees may tear down the building and charge the expenses against the tax duplicate. A letter requesting a County inspection of the property will be drafted.

FISCAL OFFICER RESIGNATION: Mrs. Heck submitted a letter to the Trustees announcing her intention to retire effective January 31, 2013. Mr. Dickinson expressed the sadness he felt upon receipt of the letter. He stated that Mrs. Heck's knowledge is extraordinary. The bond rating and credit rating of the Township is testament to Mrs. Heck's skill. The Trustees accept with regret Mrs. Heck's resignation effective January 31, 2013.

ASST. TO THE FISCAL OFFICER: Mrs. Baker submitted a letter to the Trustees regarding her employment plans which Mrs. Heck read aloud. Effective January 31, 2013, Mrs. Baker has asked to work part-time in Administration at her current job, and

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part-time for the Russell Fire Department. Chief Frazier welcomes the assistance. Mrs. Baker suggested that she work part-time in the Administration job for 1 year at which point she will continue to work part-time only for the Fire Department. It is necessary to replace both the Fiscal Officer and the Assistant to the Fiscal Officer. Mr. Dickinson will consult with the Prosecutor's Office to confirm the process for filling the Fiscal Officer vacancy.

PLANNING & ZONING WORKSHOP: *Mr. Madden made the motion to approve reasonable and necessary expenses for one member of the Zoning Commission to attend the 2012 Planning and Zoning Workshop, sponsored by the American Planning Association, in Cleveland, on November 16, 2012. Mr. Mueller seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

REQUEST FOR USE OF TOWNSHIP PROPERTIES: *Mr. Mueller made the motion to grant permission for the Historical Society to use Briar Hill and the Town Hall on October 17, 2012, subject to Township rules and regulations. Mr. Madden seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The next regular Trustees' meeting will be held at 7 p.m., Wednesday, October 17th in the Russell Township Fire-Rescue Department.

PURCHASE ORDERS: were approved for:

Number	Purpose	Amount
152-2012	New oil pan, fuel tank	\$ 1,650.00
153-2012	Plow blades, bolts, guards	2,400.00
154-2012	Park's share of Rollback	12,180.43
155-2012	Twp insurance premium	29,960.00
156-2012	Vehicle repair	1,295.10
157-2012	Cruiser repair	884.85
158-2012	Laminate maps	321.00
159-2012	Fire Officer II registration	2,000.00
160-2012	Equip rental, Harmony Falls	3,670.00
161-2012	Tires, mount & balance	1,199.60
162-2012	Repair Fire gear, damaged Calley La.	5,609.00
163-2012	Sentralok USB parts, shipping	2,220.00
164-2012	Repair HVAC, install/prog comp	42,830.00

Bills were approved as presented and drawn for same.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: *Mr. Madden made the motion to move into executive session to consider the appointment and compensation of a public employee pursuant to O.R.C. 121.22(G)(1). Mr. Mueller seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

The meeting moved into executive session at 8:15 p.m.

Mr. Mueller made the motion to return to regular session. Mr. Madden seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The meeting moved into regular session at 8:21 p.m.

ON-CALL PARAMEDIC: *Mr. Mueller made the motion to hire Mr. Drew Mastrangelo as an on-call paramedic/firefighter pending the completion of all paperwork with the Fiscal Officer. Mr.*

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Madden seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Mueller made the motion to adjourn. Mr. Madden seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

James Dickinson, Chairman

Gerri Heck, Fiscal Officer
Recorded by: M. Palmer