

RUSSELL FIRE-RESCUE STATION

October 5, 2011

Chairman James Dickinson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Trustees James Mueller and Kristina Port was present. Mr. Dickinson welcomed guests and Maintenance Superintendent Jack Gallagher.

The Pledge was said.

**MINUTES:** The discussion of the September 21, 2011 minutes was tabled to the next meeting to be held on October 19, 2011.

**MONTHLY REPORTS:** *Mr. Mueller made the motion to acknowledge receipt of the September, 2011 monthly departmental reports from the Fire, Police, Maintenance, Road, & Zoning departments. Ms. Port seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

**FISCAL OFFICER:** Mrs. Heck reported that the cost for liability and property insurance came in just \$195.00 more than last year. The Township had one lawsuit and a small accident this year. *Mr. Mueller made the motion to approve the insurance from OTARMA. Ms. Port seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

**BUS GARAGE:** Mr. Dickinson provided an update to the Bus Garage situation. Mr. Podgurski, counsel to the West Geauga Board of Education, told Mr. Dickinson that the Township bought the building "as is" in 1999. The West Geauga School Board said they did not add any hazardous materials to the building. Therefore, there is no need for a survey. Mr. Podgurski offered the fuel tank in exchange for the survey. Mr. Dickinson stated that the fuel tank is affixed to the ground so it is Township property. It appears to Mr. Dickinson that the Township will need to hire an engineer to do the report on the Bus Garage building. Mr. Dickinson was told by Mr. Podgurski that if environmental problems are discovered, the School Board would not pay for them. Mr. Dickinson asked Mr. Podgurski why the School Board signed the lease. Ms. Port pointed out that the School Board made no attempts at improvements or upkeep on the building. She said there are spills on the concrete, broken vines and broken windows. Mr. Mueller is not inclined to sue for \$1,200.00. He wants the Township to do an immediate survey. If hazardous materials are found, then he recommends going after the School Board. The School Board was the only occupant of the building. Mr. Dickinson is interested to know whether the trailer is a fixture. Ms. Port proposed the idea of recouping the expenses of the survey by selling or auctioning the trailer. Mr. Mueller stated that the trailer would not be worth more than five hundred dollars. Mr. Gallagher suggested using the trailer for training by the Fire-Rescue Department. *Ms. Port made the motion to authorize up to two thousand dollars toward an environmental study of the above ground portions of the Bus Garage building. Mr. Mueller seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Mr. Gallagher has been collecting estimates for the environmental study.*

**NOPEC:** Mr. Dickinson read aloud the letter from Ms. Armstrong of Bricker and Eckler. The letter declined to agree to the Township's requests to amend the sample grant agreement, but

RUSSELL FIRE-RESCUE STATION

October 5, 2011

did not explain why NOPEC declined. The Township does not currently have any NOOPEC electric accounts. The Police Department has a NOPEC gas account. Ms. Port reported that Mr. Leigh Herington was stunned that the Township has COSE electric accounts and not NOPEC. The voters agreed to make Russell Township a NOPEC community, but the Township does not have an obligation to use NOPEC. Mr. Dickinson stated that Russell Township is not going to withdraw as a NOPEC community, but item 12 "c" in the grant agreement prevents the Township from entering into electric accounts other than NOPEC prior to 2019. An account change will occur in Russell Township in May of 2012. Ms. Port stated that the future COSE rate is likely to be more competitive than NOPEC. The Township should be given the same choices as the residents. The Township should not have to tie all the building accounts to NOPEC. Mr. Mueller suggested formally telling NOPEC about our other discount accounts. Mr. Dickinson suggested applying savings to the energy savings projects if better rates are received from the other accounts. Ms. Port will analyze possible savings and report on her findings at the next Trustee meeting.

**COMMENTS WERE TAKEN FROM THE PUBLIC**

**TRUSTEE GOALS FOR 2012:** Mr. Dickinson presented his draft of the 2012 Trustee Goals. Ms. Port expressed an interest in using students from Kent State University or Cleveland State University to prepare a master facilities plan for the Township. She also has a local architect that has researched this topic in the recent past. Mr. Dickinson suggests starting with the Department Heads and asking them what their departmental needs are. Next, Mr. Dickinson recommends studying the optimal use of existing facilities. Mrs. Heck objected to the idea of moving the Recycling Center to the former Bus Garage site. Mr. Mueller suggests focusing on additional storage for the Township. Mr. Dickinson will work on revising the draft for the next meeting.

**CONFERENCE APPROVAL:** *Mr. Mueller made the motion to approve reasonable and necessary expenses for Kristina Port to attend the EfficientGovNetwork Conference, October 13, 2011, in Akron, Ohio. Ms. Port seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

**CONFERENCE APPROVAL:** *Mr. Mueller made the motion to approve reasonable and necessary expenses for Rick Snyder & Bruce Murphy to attend the APA Cleveland Planning & Zoning Workshop, November 18, 2011, in Westlake, Ohio. Ms. Port seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

**ACCEPT DONATION:** *Mr. Mueller made the motion, based on the Fiscal Officer's recommendation, that the Board of Trustees accepts the \$1,500.00 donation to the Police Department. Ms. Port seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

*Mr. Mueller made the motion to approve the use of the \$1,500.00 donation for the Police Department at the discretion of the Police Chief. Ms. Port seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

RUSSELL FIRE-RESCUE STATION

October 5, 2011

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** The next regular Trustees' meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, October 19th, in the Russell Township Fire-Rescue Station.

Geauga Soil & Water Conservation District is hosting a workshop on household chemicals & green alternatives, October 27th.

Chagrin River Watershed Partners & ODNR are holding a Dam Safety Meeting on October 26<sup>th</sup>.

Halloween Trick-or-Treating will be Monday, October 31<sup>st</sup> from 5pm - 8pm.

**PURCHASE ORDERS:**

155-2011 Coxreels hose reels	\$ 1,919.70
156-2011 Restripe Admin parking lot	\$ 375.00
157-2011 Mobile data airtime	\$ 250.00
158-2011 Rollback	\$12,099.04
159-2011 New well & pump, replaces PO144	\$ 6,400.00
160-2011 Ambulance billing	\$ 987.00
161-2011 Parts for exhaust repair on #46	\$ 550.00

Bills were approved as presented and drawn for same.

*Upon the motion of Mr. Mueller and seconded by Ms. Port the meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.*

James Dickinson, Chairman

Gerri Heck, Fiscal Officer  
Recorded by: M. Palmer