

RUSSELL TOWN HALL

OCTOBER 17, 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, Police Chief Tim Carroll and Fire Chief John Frazier to the meeting.

MINUTES: *Mr. Mueller made the motion to approve the minutes of the October 3, 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.*

FIRE DEPARTMENT - Chief Frazier had nothing to add to his monthly report.

POLICE DEPARTMENT - VEG/VERCOG COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

AGREEMENT: Chief Carroll asked the Trustees if they had any questions regarding a copy of the By-Laws of the Valley Enforce Group (VEG), previously sent to the Trustees for review. Chief Carroll explained that changes to the By-Laws are expected. Especially, a change is necessary to include the new VERCOG title. Mr. Dickinson asked when the first meeting of VERCOG is scheduled, and Chief Carroll said the meeting is planned for mid-November. Chief Carroll said it is necessary for the Township to appoint a Trustee, and an alternate Trustee, to serve as representatives for the Township at VEG/VERCOG meetings.

Mr. Studen made the motion to appoint Mr. Mueller as the Township representative to the Valley Enforcement Group/Valley Enforcement Regional Council of Governments. Mr. Mueller seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Mueller made the motion to appoint Mr. Dickinson as the Township representative - alternate - to the Valley Enforcement Group/Valley Enforcement Regional County of Governments. Mr. Studen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

TRICK OR TREAT HOURS: Mr. Dickinson announced that the Police Chief set the Trick or Treat hours for Wednesday, October 31, 2007, from 6:00 until 8:00 p.m.

FISCAL OFFICER - INSURANCE: Mr. Dickinson explained that during the Trustees' meeting held on September 19, the Trustees approved the annual renewal of the insurance policy for the Township in September 2007. He said that during that meeting, Mr. Mueller requested that Mrs. Heck investigate the cost to increase the Umbrella Liability Limit from two-million dollars to five-million dollars. During the Trustees' meeting on October 3, 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: \$2,043.00 per year. Mr. Mueller said he felt the premium increase is well worth the increase in insurance coverage. Mr. Studen said he felt 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

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what other townships in the area are choosing for liability coverage. Mrs. Heck agreed to call Mr. Sutton. Mr. Dickinson read aloud, a letter Mrs. Heck presented to the Trustees, from Ben Sutton, Jr., of Sutton Insurance Agency, Inc. Mr. Sutton stated that he reviewed the situations of various public entities who are involved with Sutton Insurance Agency, Inc., as well as other public entities within Ohio, who are not clients of Sutton Insurance Agency, Inc. Mr. Sutton listed a few claims that he is aware of in the past few years, and stated that although large claims are few and far between, they are devastating to the entities involved. Mrs. Heck read to the Trustees, the different increase in coverage amounts available, along with the cost of each increase of coverage, to the Trustees. *Mr. Mueller made the motion to approve the increase of the Umbrella Liability limit to \$4,000,000 (in lieu of \$1,000,000), with Fireman's Fund, on the annual insurance policy, as submitted by Sutton Insurance Agency for an additional amount of \$2,043.00 for a period from October 1, 2007 to October 1, 2008. Mr. Studen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

POLICE STATION - UPDATE: Mr. Studen reported that the exterior brick work and roof are nearly completed. The date stone and the sandstone name plate are installed. The water, gas and electric lines are almost complete. The site development is nearly complete. The contractor plans to pave in late October. Windows should be installed by the end of October. The door frames have arrived and the garage doors should arrive soon. Work on the interior of the building has begun. Mr. Mueller commented that he thought the bricks on the Police Station match the Fire-Rescue Station quite well. Chief Carroll said the officers are happy to see the progress thus far.

CERTIFIED TRAINING FOR HOUSE BILL 9 - PUBLIC RECORDS BILL:

Mr. Dickinson explained that certified training for House Bill 9 is required for elected officials, or their appropriate designees, in order to enhance the officials' knowledge of the duty to provide access to public records as required by section 149.43 of the Revised Code. Mrs. Heck said she and three clerical workers are scheduled to attend a training session that will be held, at no cost, on Wednesday, October 24, 2007, at Notre Dame Educational Center. Mr. Dickinson asked Mrs. Heck if she would act as the designee for the Trustees and Mrs. Heck accepted. *Mr. Mueller moved to approve Gerri Heck, Fiscal Officer, to attend the Ohio Attorney General's Certified Training for elected officials per House Bill 9 - the Public Records Bill, on Wednesday October 24, 2007, at Notre Dame Educational Center, in Munson, Ohio. Mr. Studen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

PRESENTATION - VICKI CLARK, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF RAVENWOOD MENTAL HEALTH CENTER:

Vicki Clark, Associate Director of Ravenwood Mental Health Center, spoke regarding The Geauga County Board of Mental Health and Recovery Services. She explained that on November 6, 2007, voters from Geauga County will be asked to vote on a half mill mental health replacement levy. Ms. Clark explained the services offered

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by the Geauga County Board of Mental Health and Recovery Services, along with the many other service centers, and how it is vital to keep these services operating within Geauga County. She said the Mental Health Association does not only service residents, it is a strong lobbying agency. She said the Geauga County Board of Mental Health and Recovery Services, along with many other programs and centers in Geauga County, is responsible for counseling and assisting residents of all ages who are diagnosed with mental illness. Many services are available to help mentally ill people to become productive citizens. Ms. Clark urged those present to support and vote for Issue #31 on November 6. Mr. Dickinson said that many people don't understand the impact mental illness has on families. He said he feels the services offered in Geauga County are excellent and he hopes all the agencies are able to continue the necessary work that they provide. Mr. Studen, Mr. Mueller and Mrs. Heck agreed. Mr. Dickinson thanked Ms. Clark for speaking and Ms. Clark thanked the Trustees and the Fiscal Officer for giving her the opportunity to explain the services provided by the Geauga County Board of Mental Health and Recovery Services.

EXPIRATION OF ELECTRICAL RATE STABILIZATION: Mr. Studen said he recently attended a meeting organized by the Geauga County Community Improvement Corporation (Gauga County CIC), and Geauga County Community & Economic Development, regarding the expiration of electrical rate stabilization, starting January 1, 2009. Mr. Studen explained that as of January 1, 2009, the electrical rate stabilization program will expire. He said that with electrical rate stabilization, the rates charged by the electrical companies are monitored and approved by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO). After January 1, 2009, the electrical companies in Ohio will no longer be monitored by PUCO. This has taken place in other states. Electrical consumers in other states have experienced a dramatic increase in charges for electric service. During the meeting, Mr. Studen said the speaker, Michael Brakey, President and Founder of Brakey Consulting, Inc., told of the results of the deregulation in other states. Mr. Brakey predicts that this will have a large impact on everyone in Ohio. Residents, business owners and public entities most likely will experience an increase in what they currently pay for electrical services. Mr. Brakey suggested that elected officials contact their Senators and State Representatives to express their concerns about deregulation of electrical service. A discussion took place between the Trustees regarding writing a letter to the Senators and State Representatives, who represent the citizens of Russell Township, regarding the impending deregulation of electric service and the need to protect the consumers. Mr. Studen offered to draft a letter for review by Mr. Dickinson and Mr. Mueller.

Mr. Studen moved to grant permission for Hemlock Swim Association to use the Town Hall on Wednesday, October 24, 2007, from 7:00 until 9:00 p.m., subject to Township rules and regulations. Mr. Mueller seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

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COMMENTS WERE TAKEN FROM THE PUBLIC.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Mr. Dickinson announced the last used oil collection for 2007 will be held on Saturday, November 3, from 8:00 until 10:00 a.m., at the recycling center. After November 3, oil recycling will resume in spring 2008. The next regular Trustees' meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 7, at 7:00 p.m. at the Historic Town Hall.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: *Mr. Mueller made the motion to move into executive session for the purpose of employment and compensation of public employees. Mr. Studen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

The meeting moved into executive session at 7:48 p.m. with Fire Chief John Frazier. Mr. Mueller left the executive session at 8:40 p.m. because of illness.

Upon the motion of Mr. Studen and seconded by Mr. Dickinson, the meeting reconvened into regular session at 8:45 p.m.

PURCHASE ORDERS: were approved for:

Number	Purpose	Amount
204-2007	617 limestone	\$ 100.55
205-2007	Trash removal	\$ 23.00
206-2007	Water	\$ 8.00
207-2007	Concrete ingots (barrier walls)	\$ 1,520.00

Bills were approved as presented and drawn for same.

Upon the motion of Mr. Studen and seconded by Mr. Dickinson the meeting was adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

James Dickinson, Chairman

Gerri Heck, Fiscal Officer