

RUSSELL TOWN HALL

January 11, 2007

The Township Fiscal Officer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Trustees Jim Dickinson, Jim Mueller and Greg Studen were present.

REORGANIZATION: The Township Fiscal Officer asked for nominations for Chairman for the year 2007. *Mr. Studen nominated Mr. Dickinson for Chairman of the Russell Township Board of Trustees for the year 2007. Mr. Mueller seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

Mr. Mueller nominated Mr. Studen for Vice-Chairman of the Russell Township Board of Trustees for the year 2007. Mr. Dickinson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

MINUTES: *Mr. Mueller moved to accept the minutes of December 6, 2006, as presented. Mr. Studen seconded the motion. The vote was Mr. Dickinson abstain, Mr. Mueller yes and Mr. Studen yes.*

MINUTES: *Mr. Mueller moved to accept the minutes of December 19, 2006, as presented. Mr. Dickinson seconded the motion. The vote was Mr. Dickinson yes, Mr. Mueller yes and Mr. Studen abstain.*

POLICE STATION UPDATE: Mr. Jim Dixon, Construction Manager, was present to give an update on the Police Station Project. He has had two meetings this week and is working on the drawings and specifications. Ninety-five percent of the work is completed. Next week he will review the build ability and have some firm cost estimates. He has also scheduled a meeting with the civil engineer. The construction of the Police Station and the demolition of the school are moving ahead on schedule. February 21 is the target date to present the specifications to the Trustees. They hope to advertise in March and have bids returned the end of March. The school take down would be as soon as the school year ends and construction would start approximately a month later. Mr. Dickinson asked Mr. Studen to continue to coordinate the project.

HEALTH INSURANCE: Mr. Sean Sprouse, employee benefits consultant with Burnham & Flower, was present. Mr. Sprouse said that Burnham & Flower has handled insurance for the Township for the last five or six years. They have a team of people that work with Townships. They have access to the top insurance carriers in the nation. The present health insurance plan can't be renewed, but there is a compatible plan. There would be an 11.5% premium increase. Last summer H.B. 66 was passed which allows Townships to participate in a HRA (Health Reimbursement Arrangement). Mr. Sprouse explained the two HRA plans he was proposing for the Township. United Health Care would administer the plan. The deductible would be raised, but the Township would pay the deductible for the employee. With this plan the Township would save about \$8,278 in premiums per month. *Mr. Mueller moved to approve the following Insurance coverage for Russell Township officials and full-time employees for the year 2007 and January 2008:*

RUSSELL TOWN HALL

January 11, 2007

*Medical/Hospitalization - United Health Care/plan RT-B
Life Insurance - United Health Care
Dental Insurance - Delta Dental
Vision Insurance - Vision Service Plan
Burham & Flower Co. proposes this plan in conjunction with the
Ohio Township Association. Mr. Studen seconded the motion and
it passed unanimously.*

PUBLIC HEARING: *Mr. Mueller made the motion to open the Public Hearing on the Zoning Amendment 2006-01. Mr. Studen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The public hearing opened at 7:46 p.m. Also present were Mr. Rick Snyder, Zoning Commission chairman, and Mr. Bruce Murphy, Zoning Commission Vice-Chairman. Mr. Snyder said this amendment was initiated by an application from the Pattie Group. They asked to have to have six parcels rezoned to a new zoning district called Limited Business. Three of the parcels have frontage on S.R. 306 and are currently zoned R-5. The other three parcels are currently zoned C-S and are located at the Northeast corner of S.R. 306 and Music Street. Two studies by NorthStar in 2001 and 2006 recommended that the Township consider rezoning the Northeast quadrant at State Route 306 and Music Street to Light Business District. A Light Business District would be a less intense use of the area.*

Mr. King, attorney for the Pattie Group, said there would be a reconfiguration of the business area and the township could require larger than the two-acre lots. Some items discussed were that this rezoning would move the operation to the north end away from the residential property on Music Street. More detailed and effective buffers would be required. The Light Business District would keep the permitted uses non-intensive. The Township could regulate on a case-by-case condition. The Pattie Group is restricted by the machinery size, and hours of operation.

Comments: Mr. Campbell asked what would happen to the property if the Pattie Group moved to another location. The reply was this could happen anytime and some of the area was being degraded from commercial to light business. Mr. Murphy said the Zoning Commission was very concerned with that issue, but in the light business district there would be less impact than in a commercial district. There is a limited retail use. Mr. Butters commented that similar uses would have to appear before the Zoning Board of Appeals. Mr. Butters was concerned about possible noise. Storage facilities had not been allowed because of the possible risk of noise. Mr. Dickinson said there was a risk. There being no further comments, *Mr. Mueller made and Mr. Studen seconded a motion to close the public hearing. The hearing was closed at 8:09 p.m.*

Mr. Mueller said he had had some reservations, but after reading over the amendment he feels there are safeguards and the Township still has some controls. Mr. Studen said he appreciated the work of the Zoning Commission and their co-operation with the applicant. This lessens high-density retail

RUSSELL TOWN HALL

January 11, 2007

and traffic. This is more effective zoning. Mr. Dickinson commented there is always a risk, but it might help the commercial areas that are languishing. **ZONING AMENDMENT 2006-01:** *Mr. Studen moved to accept the recommendation of the Zoning Commission and adopt amendment 2006-01, changing the zoning classification of property named in the proposed amendment to a new zoning district Limited Business Zone. Mr. Dickinson seconded the motion. Mr. Mueller said he would abstain from voting because Steve Pattie is a personal friend. The vote was Mr. Mueller abstain, Mr. Studen yes, and Mr. Dickinson yes. Mr. King said the Zoning Commission was extremely diligent and conscientious and put in a lot of effort looking out for the Township's interests.*

MONTHLY REPORTS: *Mr. Studen moved to acknowledge receipt of the December 2006, monthly department reports. Mr. Mueller seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

ROAD DEPT.: Road Department Superintendent Gene Layne reported that the department had taken possession of the new Gradall. An offer of \$8,000 for the old Gradall has been received from the Village of Gates Mills. The machine is seventeen years old and the trade-in offer was \$3,000. *Mr. Mueller made the motion to accept the recommendation of the Road Superintendent to sell the old Road Department Gradall to the Village of Gates Mills for an amount of \$8,000. Mr. Studen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

MAINTENANCE DEPT.: The Maintenance Department Superintendent was complimented on the holiday light display this year. Mr. Butters asked if the motor oil recycling could be run one month during the winter months.

FIRE RESCUE DEPT.: Chief Frazier reported that the department had been busy assisting neighboring communities over the New Year season.

DONATIONS: *Mr. Mueller made the motion based on the Fiscal Officer's recommendation and consultation with the Assistant County Prosecutor, that the Board of Trustees accepts the Christmas donations of \$ 550 to the Fire Department. Mr. Studen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Mr. Mueller made the motion to approve the use of the Christmas donations to purchase refreshment supplies for the Fire Department. Mr. Studen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

DONATION: *Mr. Mueller made the motion based on the Fiscal Officer's recommendation and consultation with the Assistant County Prosecutor, that the Board of Trustees accepts a donation of \$75 to the Maintenance Department. Mr. Studen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Mr. Studen made the motion to approve the use of the \$75 donation to purchase refreshment supplies for the Maintenance Department. Mr. Mueller seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

RUSSELL TOWN HALL

January 11, 2007

POLICE DEPT.: Chief Carroll thanked the people who made donations to the Police Department. **DONATIONS:** *Mr. Mueller made the motion based on the Fiscal Officer's recommendation and consultation with the Assistant County Prosecutor, that the Board of Trustees accepts the Christmas donations of \$ 1,650 to the Police Department. Mr. Studen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

Chief Carroll reported that Sergeant Bialosky and Officer Lillish were instrumental in arresting four suspects in connection with a string of burglaries. On January 2nd Sergeant Bialosky led a team that apprehended three juveniles vandalizing vehicle windshields. Mr. Studen said it is good that people know there is a Police Force on site pursuing these types of things.

PERSONNEL POLICY CHANGE: *Mr. Mueller made the motion to approve the change to section 5.14 Uniform Allowance to the Personnel Policy. Mr. Studen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

CAVES ROAD: An amount of \$10,000 was held back because of an issue with a driveway apron on Caves Road. After conferring with the Geauga County Engineer and the County Prosecutor the Township cannot do anything about a problem off the road right-of-way. *Mr. Studen moved to approve payment of \$10,000 to Ronyak Paving. This is the final payment for the Caves Road project. Mr. Mueller seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

CLOUT 2007 MEMBERSHIP: The Coalition of Large Ohio Urban Townships is a group formed to represent the more urbanized townships. They have conferences, send out newsletters and represent the larger township's interests. *Mr. Mueller made the motion to approve the payment of the annual dues to the Coalition of Large Ohio Urban Townships (CLOUT) for an amount of \$200. Mr. Studen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

HEALTH DISTRICT ADVISORY COUNCIL: *Mr. Studen made the motion to appoint Jim Mueller as the Township representative to the Health District Advisory Council. Mr. Dickinson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

WEST GEAUGA DISTRICT COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE: This group meets once a month with School Superintendent Dr. Podojil and other school personnel in an attempt to improve communication between the school and the community. Mr. Dickinson said he would like to be on this committee as he has children that attend the West Geauga Schools. *Mr. Mueller made the motion to appoint Jim Dickinson as the Township representative to the West Geauga District Communications Committee. Mr. Studen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

CHAGRIN RIVER WATERSHED PARTNERS: The dues this year are a one

RUSSELL TOWN HALL

January 11, 2007

percent increase in an attempt to keep up with inflation. The staff does come out and work with township residents with water problems. They help the Township keep in compliance with the Phase 2 Storm Water Management Practices requirements. *Mr. Studen made the motion to approve the payment of annual dues to the Chagrin River Watershed Partners for an amount of \$3,181.50. Mr. Mueller seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

Mr. Mueller moved to appoint Greg Studen as the Township representative to the Chagrin River Watershed Partners. Mr. Dickinson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Studen said he would continue to monitor the Phase 2 Storm Water compliance.

COMMENTS WERE TAKEN FROM THE PUBLIC.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The next regular Trustees' meeting will be Wednesday, January 24, 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 discussing the compensation and employment of a public employee. Mr. Studen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The meeting moved into executive session at 9:14 p.m. with Police Department Chief Carroll and Sergeant Bialosky and reconvened into regular session at 9:35 p.m.*

HIRING: PART-TIME OFFICER: *Mr. Mueller made the motion based on Police Chief Carroll's recommendation: to hire Thomas Swaidner as a part-time police officer and constable with the Russell Township Police Department. The conditions of employment are as follows: The official starting date to be January 12, 2007, based upon completion of applicable paperwork with the Russell Township Fiscal Officer's Office. A one-year probation period will be from the official starting date. Pay scale will be at the starting level on the part-time wage schedule. Equipment to be provided by the Russell Police Department as required pursuant to the agreement between Russell Township and the Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association. Mr. Studen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

Officer Swaidner was sworn in and welcomed to the Police Department.

PURCHASE ORDERS: See attached list.

Bills were approved as presented and drawn for same.

Upon motion by Mr. Mueller and seconded by Mr. Studen the meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES

REGULAR

RUSSELL TOWN HALL

January 11, 2007

Jim Dickinson, Chairman

Gerri Heck, Fiscal Officer