

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

MinuteTOWNSHIP TRUSTEES

REGULAR

Meeting

DAYTON LEGAL BLANK, INC., FORM NO. 10148

Held at RUSSELL FIRE-RESCUE STATION

July 3, 2013 20

Chairman Dickinson called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM. Trustee Justin Madden was present. Trustee James Mueller was excused due to prior commitments. Also present was Fiscal Officer Charles Walder and Fire Chief John Frazier.

Mr. Madden made the motion to accept the minutes of the Special Meeting held on June 12, 2013, as presented. Mr. Dickinson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Madden made the motion to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on June 19, 2013, as presented. Mr. Dickinson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS: *Mr. Madden made the motion to acknowledge receipt of the 2nd Quarter 2013 reports from the Fire, Police, Maintenance, Road, and Zoning departments. Mr. Dickinson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

FISCAL OFFICER'S REPORT: Mr. Walder reported that the levies were submitted to the county and that he received information that the state of Ohio's new budget indicated that the state will no longer subsidize the 12.5% rollback on real estate tax to taxpayers. While this does not affect the monetary distribution for townships, it will put the 12.5% burden on the taxpayer. This bill only affects new levy money. As such, Mr. Walder indicated that it may be beneficial to pull and reevaluate the 1.5 mil General Fund Levy next year as passing the other levies is more vital to the Township at this time.

Mr. Walder reported that a delay was announced for penalties and reporting requirements from the Affordable Care Act until 2015. This delay allows the Township another year to put in place proper procedure and to reevaluate how to fund the costs the Act imposes.

SEWER PROJECT: Mr. Dickinson stated that the county is expecting to start construction on the sewer project after Labor Day. Mr. Walder reported that the Township will likely put costs on a tax bill for funding of the project. The Township is also expecting a large refund from the Bureau of Workers' Compensation that will fund part of the project's connection fee. He requested the cost estimate of the project with and without lift station adders.

4:40 PM: PUBLIC HEARING, 2014 BUDGET: *Mr. Madden made the motion to open the public hearing on the proposed budget for the year 2014. Mr. Dickinson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

Mr. Dickinson reported that the Township has lost much of its revenue and that reallocation of cost centers of specific departments from the General Fund back to the specific departments is necessary for an accurate evaluation of expenditures and revenue from each department. Mr. Walder reported that through the proposed levies for the Police, Roads, and Cemetery, each department will become separately funded rather than supplemented out of the General fund.

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Mr. Walder reported that notice of the 2014 budget ran in the newspaper and copies were also available in the administration building.

PUBLIC COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED.

Mr. Madden made the motion to close the public hearing on the proposed budget for the year 2014. Mr. Dickinson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The Public Hearing closed at 4:50 PM.

Mr. Madden made the motion to approve the proposed budget for the year 2014. Mr. Dickinson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

WATERLINE EXTENSION: It was requested that the Trustees consider a waterline extension to provide water service to the Reed residence on County Line Road. The waterline would only be used for personal consumption and use by the Reed family. Mr. Kenneth J. Fisher Esquire stated that it was protocol and respect to come to the Trustees for consideration of this matter. *Mr. Madden moved to accept the recommendations of Gerry Morgan, of the Geauga County Water Resources Department, and present no objection to the waterline extension from its present location at 14401 County Line Road, Russell Township, permanent parcel number 26-203300 subject to the deed restrictions contained in the October 19, 2012 letter from Kenneth J. Fisher. Mr. Dickinson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

TRAIL PATROLLING: Mr. Dickinson reported that patrolling is needed for the Township property in the Upper Chagrin Preserve as there have been many recent violations to the Township's agreement to "preserve, protect, and maintain" the land. The Ohio Horseman's Council has volunteered to do such patrolling on horseback. Kathryn Sickling of the Ohio Horseman's Council stated that the riders would ensure the trails are safe and would be the eyes and ears of the Township. Violations and issues would be reported to the police department and the group would strive to be passive in operation rather than confrontational. Mr. Dickinson reported that he has drafted a letter to the Land Conservancy regarding the possible compaction of soil issue that may arise from horses as well as requesting explicit definitions of restricted access to the land. Mr. Madden asked what the Ohio Horseman's Council's expectations were regarding injuries. Ms. Sickling stated that the group could put together a hold-harmless agreement that explicitly states Russell Township would not be liable for any injuries that may occur while they are on patrol. Mr. Madden indicated that he would like to cover all aspects of legalities before agreeing. Pedestrian access to the park was also requested.

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AUTOMATIC WITHDRAWAL FOR UTILITY BILLS: Mr. Walder reported that it may be beneficial to the Township to utilize automatic withdrawal payments for utility bills and payroll off-set checks as these are expenditures that must be paid every month and are non-negotiable. Most of these also incur late fees if paid late due to the poor timing of Trustee meetings and lack of timely signatures for the checks. Mr. Walder stated for security, each party would be specifically named for the account and would only be approved by name. Mr. Madden stated that he would prefer to only approve automatic payment to the companies that enforce late fees. Mr. Walder said he would revise the list of vendors to include only those with late fees.

WATER TESTING: A test of the water at the Administration Building will be conducted by West Geauga High School student members of the Lexus EcoChallenge team. The testing will be done using the Geauga County Health Department's new gas chromatograph.

PRESS RELEASE: A press release was drafted highlighting important information pertaining to the state and Township funding. Mr. Madden indicated that it is accurate and precise and should be sent out immediately. Mr. Dickinson inquired whether it was overloading people with information. Mr. Madden suggested that the Town Hall meetings will be essential to help clear up any confusion that the press release may entail. Mr. Walder recommended keeping July 24th as the date for the first of the series of Town Hall meetings.

REQUEST FOR USE OF TOWN HALL: *Mr. Madden made the motion to grant permission for the Chagrin River Watershed Partners to use the Town Hall on July 30, 2013 from 7 PM - 9:30 PM, pending the receipt of the Hold Harmless Agreement, and subject to the Township rules and regulations. Mr. Dickinson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

PURCHASE ORDERS AND BILLS WERE APPROVED AS ATTACHED.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The Independence Day Parade is 11 AM from St. Anselm to West Geauga High School.

The next regular Trustees' meeting will be held at 7 PM Wednesday, July 17th, in the Russell Township Fire-Rescue Department.

Recycling Events: Russell Used Motor Oil Collection: Scheduled for July 13th, 8 AM - 10 AM due to holiday.

E-Waste Collection" July 20th, 9 AM - Noon, Merritt Rd., Chardon. **(No Television Sets).**

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Minutes of TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES

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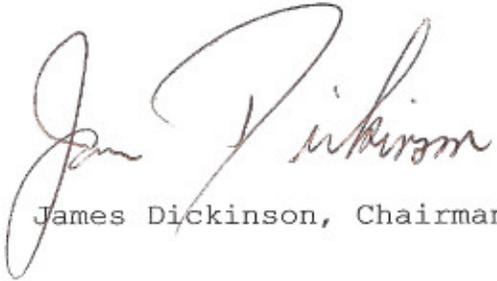
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Mr. Madden made the motion to adjourn. Mr. Dickinson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 6 PM.



James Dickinson, Chairman



Charles Walder, Fiscal Officer

Recorded by: B. Milite