

RUSSELL TOWN HALL

October 19,

2023

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm. Trustees Rambo, Port, and Mueller were present. The Board Administrator Melissa Palmer and Fiscal Officer Karen Walder were also present.

Pledge of Allegiance was said.

MINUTES: *Ms. Port made the motion to accept the minutes of the Special Meeting held on September 28, 2023, as presented. Mr. Mueller seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

QUARTERLY REPORTS: *Mr. Mueller made the motion to accept the 3^d Quarter 2023 departmental reports from the Fire, Police, Road, Facilities, & Zoning departments. Ms. Port seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

NEW SQUAD: PROPOSED LEASING 2 FINANCING: *Mr. Mueller made the motion to authorize the Request to Proceed with Leasing 2 toward lease finalizing for a new Ford F-550 Ambulance for an amount financed of \$307,377.00, at rate of 5.87%, for a 5-year term, per the lease purchase agreement dated October 20, 2023. Ms. Port seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

AUTHORIZED SIGNATORY: AMBULANCE FINANCING: *Mr. Mueller made the motion to authorize Fiscal Officer Karen Walder to sign the Leasing 2 Lease Purchase Agreement, Addendum to Lease Purchase Agreement, credit forms, and to provide requested financial information relevant to consummating the Lease-Purchase Agreement for the Ford F-550 ambulance. Ms. Port seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

AMBULANCE: ADDENDUM: *Ms. Port made the motion to approve Contract Addendum to the Demers Ambulance Contract, by and through Penn Care, dated October 19, 2023, related to ambulance equipment and services, approved by the Geauga County Prosecutor. Mr. Mueller seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

ACCEPT DONATION: Mr. and Mrs. Black were thanked for their very generous donation.

Ms. Port made the motion to accept the donation from Rick & Laurie Black of a \$350.00 Mazzulo's Gift Card to the Fire Department. Mr. Mueller seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Mueller made the motion to approve the use of the Gift Card for the Fire Department at the discretion of the Fire Chief. Ms. Port seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

THEN & NOW PO: ROAD EQUIPMENT: *Mr. Mueller made the motion, at the request of Fiscal Officer Karen Walder on behalf of Road Superintendent Gene Layne, to approve a Then and Now Purchase Order in the amount of \$3,800.00 to cover the G.A.R. Paving, Invoice #102313, dated October 10, 2023, for equipment supplied with operators to complete asphalt installation at Gamekeepers Trail entrance on September 22, 2023. Ms. Port seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

RUSSELL TOWN HALL

October 19,

2023

FISCAL OFFICER: Mrs. Walder advised the Trustees that the Township was accepted into the BWC One Claim program.

Mrs. Walder notified the Board that she is planning on having a supplemental appropriation for the next meeting and asked that any department that may need additional appropriations please let her know before the next meeting.

The Fiscal Officer told the Board that she hopes to have the final paving invoice for the Paving of Various Roads at the next meeting for approval.

Mrs. Walder notified the Board that there was an additional five hundred thousand dollars in the General Fund Reserve account that could be used for the construction of the Community Building. Mr. Rambo asked what items were due to be replaced over the next few years according to the Reserve Study. Mrs. Walder offered to get that information to the Board, and Mr. Rambo advised that the entire amount from the Reserve Account shouldn't be needed, and he wants to have the funds for the items that are already planned. Mrs. Walder will get a list to the Board.

Mr. Rambo explained to the residents in attendance that the County Budget Commission has released a letter explaining the thirty percent increase in property valuation that will take place in 2024. This will result in Russell Township receiving an estimated \$272,975 additional inside millage for a total of \$1.18 million of inside millage in 2024. Mr. Rambo advised the Trustees that they will need to consider options for lessening this high increase for the residents, and asked the Fiscal Officer to look into what would need to be done to reduce collection on the Townships levies to offset the increase of inside millage that is to be received.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC RECEIVED.

AV PROPOSAL: COMPANY 119: *Ms. Port made the motion to approve the agreement from Company 119, of Chardon, Ohio, for Audio-Visual Training Event Recording, dated October 19, 2023, for a cost of \$6,000.00. Mr. Rambo seconded the motion and it passed.*

The vote: Mr. Mueller – Abstain, Ms. Port – Yes, Mr. Rambo – Yes.

Mr. Rambo explained to Mr. Mueller that according to Roberts Rules of Parliamentary Procedure it is not appropriate to be abstaining, and if he doesn't agree with something he needs to vote no.

COMPANY 119: AUTHORIZED SIGNATORY: *Ms. Port made the motion to authorize Mrs. Palmer to act as authorized signatory for the Company 119 Audio-Visual Training Event Recording agreement. Mr. Rambo seconded the motion and it passed.*

The vote: Mr. Mueller – No, Ms. Port – Yes, Mr. Rambo – Yes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: *Ms. Port made the motion to move into executive session to discuss the employment & compensation of a public employee pursuant to ORC 121.22(G)(1). Mr. Mueller seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

The meeting moved into executive session at 7:02 pm.

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

RUSSELL TOWN HALL

October 19,

2023

The meeting moved into regular session at 7:05 pm.

FIRE HIRE: *Mr. Mueller made the motion to hire Nathaniel Oney as a part-time Firefighter/EMT at the beginning rate of \$17.88 per hour, per Salary Schedule 37, effective November 1, 2023. Ms. Port seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

The Fiscal Officer stated that the Fire Department had one employee that has already worked over fifteen hundred hours this year, and that is over the threshold for hours allowed to be worked by a part-time employee. She also noted that two other Fire Department employees were close to the fifteen-hundred-hour mark. The Fire Chief suggested that Mrs. Walder investigate HB 377 and ORC 505.601 sections G 1-4. The total hours allowed for part-time emergency services for 2022 and 2023 were raised according to this House Bill and Ohio Revised Code sections. Mrs. Walder thanked the Chief for the information and will review it.

Mr. Mueller made the motion to adjourn. Ms. Port seconded the motion and it passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:09 pm.

Matthew Rambo, Chair

Karen Walder, Fiscal Officer

Recorded by: J. Dorka