

Russell Admin Building

November 12, 2025

The Special meeting was called to order at 5:08 pm by Chairperson Port. Trustees Mueller and Hare were present.

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

The meeting moved into executive session at 5:09 pm.

*Mr. Mueller made the motion to return to the regular session. Mr. Hare seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.*

The meeting returned to regular session at 6:02 pm.

Fiscal Officer Karen Walder joined the meeting.

Mr. Mueller said that the Snowplowing contract with the County has been a good deal for Russell Township and asked about the historical amounts paid to Russell Township by the County. Mrs. Walder indicated that the Township has been contracted by the County for over ten years. The payment was just over \$27,000 in 2018 and was \$43,749 in 2025. The proposed amount for the 2025-2026 season is \$47,739.26 to plow 8.628 miles of roads, which amounts to \$5,533 per mile.

She also noted that the Board approved the last Agreement on Nov 7, 2024. Mr. Hare noted that this year is only a week's delay. Mrs. Walder advised the Board that this revenue was included in the Township's 2026 budget approved by the Board, and that the Salt Contract tonnage was the same as last year, which included these roads. That Contract has already been finalized and obligates the Township to buy 90% of the requested tonnage. Mrs. Walder said that absent this revenue, the Township will need to make adjustments to expenditures and may incur additional costs.

Ms. Port said that the Road Superintendent told her of his concerns since he has a new plow truck driver and he was unable to get an answer from anyone at the County on this matter. She said he had to move forward with what he knew, and he also told her that removing these routes allowed the road workers to get a rest between runs.

Ms. Port said she was in contact with Tracy at the County Engineer's office both by email and by phone. She relayed that Tracy agreed that they were late in getting the Agreement sent out, and Tracy cited a delay in receiving the salt pricing as a factor. Ms. Port said that Tracy shared that they have six new drivers at the County.

Ms. Port said that to allow time for our Road Superintendent to get the routes worked out and train the new driver, she proposed to Tracy a start date of January 1, 2026, and Tracy agreed to update the dollar amount based on that date. Mr. Mueller indicated that he was fine with that approach. Mr. Hare said he would prefer to act on the current agreement.

Mrs. Walder said that although she does not have a vote, all elected officials should consider the best interest of the taxpayers, including those living on the County roads in question. She also noted that Russell plow trucks drive over these

Russell Admin Building

November 12, 2025

same roads to get to the Township roads, and Mr. Mueller said the only difference was dropping the plow.

Ms. Port brought up concerns about some of the language in the Agreement regarding liability and insurance requirements. Mrs. Walder noted that the language is the same as the previous year's agreement, and that it has already been reviewed and stamped by our APA.

Ms. Port stated that the county does all other services for road maintenance aside from snow plowing for Russell residents living on those identified county roads. Ms. Port asked the fiscal officer if any analysis was conducted of overtime costs versus runs. Ms. Walder said she did not. Ms. Port asked the fiscal officer if the county commissioners have been added as additional insured as noted in the agreement. Mrs. Walder responded that the coverage request did not need to happen until the Agreement was executed by the Board.

**SNOWPLOW CONTRACT:** *Mr. Mueller made a motion to enter into a contract with the County for seasonal snowplowing starting January 1, 2026, pending receipt of new agreement for reimbursement from the County Engineer and pending APA review. Mr. Hare seconded the motion, and the vote was as follows: Mr. Mueller yes; Mr. Hare no; Ms. Port yes; and the motion passed.*

*Mr. Hare made the motion to adjourn. Mr. Mueller seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.*

The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 pm.

Kristina Port, Chair

Karen Walder, Fiscal Officer