

RUSSELL TOWN HALL

November 16, 2023

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

The following Department Heads were present: Police Chief Tom Swaidner

Pledge of Allegiance was said.

CLERK PRO TEM: In the absence of a Fiscal Officer, Board of Trustees Chair Matt Rambo appoints Jennifer Dorka to serve as clerk pro tem.

RESOLUTION 2023-23 REDUCE COLLECTION R&B FUND: Mr. Rambo read the resolution to the public.

Ms. Port made the motion to approve Resolution 2023-23: a resolution to reduce collection of Russell Township's 2016 1.4 mill Road & Bridge Levy to 0.51 mill for 2024 only. Mr. Rambo seconded the motion and it passed.

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

TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS 2024: *Ms. Port made the motion to adopt Russell Township's Temporary Annual Appropriation Resolution 2023-24 for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2024, as recommended by the Fiscal Officer. Mr. Rambo seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

AMENDED CERTIFICATE: This will reflect closing the General Fund reserve fund and transferring the money back to the General Fund. The Certificate total is \$16,418,712.84.

Ms. Port made the motion to accept the Amended Certificate of Estimated Resources #6 for Russell Township for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2023, as revised by the Budget Commission and dated November 6, 2023. Mr. Mueller seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

BANK RECONCILIATION & FINANCIAL REPORTS: *Ms. Port made the motion to acknowledge receipt of the monthly bank reconciliation and financial reports for October 2023, as submitted by Fiscal Officer Karen Walder. Mr. Mueller seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

CONFERENCE TAKEAWAYS: Some highlights from the cannabis conference that Clemans-Nelson put on were the importance of providing training for employees now that Issue Two has passed and will be in effect in less than thirty days. This will include CBD, hemp, and marijuana which all come from the same plant and will all show up as positive in a drug test. This will be problematic as many people are using CBD and hemp for health purposes, and if employees do this, they will fail a drug test. Ms. Port asked the Police Chief how they handle potential impairment during vehicle stops. The Police Chief gave an overview of the training his officers have had, and the procedure they follow. Trustee Rambo noted that the township can restrict the sales of CBD within the Township and is looking to the Prosecutor's office for guidance.

FISCAL OFFICER: Fiscal Officer Karen Walder advised the Board that the new benefits broker that will be starting January 1, 2024, offered to meet with employees the week of December 11th so employees can ask questions, and they can get to know the employees that they will be representing.

RUSSELL TOWN HALL

November 16, 2023

Mrs. Walder thanked the voters of Russell Township for having the highest voter turnout in the County.

Mrs. Walder also noted she sent the Board a Township property revaluation and FAQ sheets were received and sent to the Board.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC RECEIVED.

COMMUNITY BLDG PLANS/SPECS FOR BID: STROLLO: *Mr. Mueller made the motion to accept the plans and specifications, dated November 16, 2023, prepared by Strollo Architects for the proposed Community Meeting Building project and to authorize Strollo Architects to go out for bids. Ms. Port seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

ZONING COMMISSION: *Ms. Port made the motion to re-appoint Chris Stormann to a full 5-year term on the Zoning Commission commencing January 1, 2024. Mr. Mueller seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS: *Mr. Mueller motion to re-appoint Mark McGrievy to a full 5-year term on the Board of Zoning Appeals commencing January 1, 2024. Ms. Port seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: The LED lightbulbs that the Township ordered through the NOPEC grant have been delivered. Residents can stop in the Administration Building during business hours to pick up three free LED lightbulbs per household.

The Board Administrator asked the Trustees to review the proposed 2024 meeting schedule. The board asked to change the night meeting to 7 pm instead of 6 pm. They will review the dates and approve the schedule at the next meeting.

The Board Administrator advised them that they can't put out FRQ/SOQ for 2024, as they would need to list specific projects and there are none at this time. If the Board or Departments come up with projects the RFQ/SOQ will be put in a legal ad at that time.

Mr. Mueller motion to move into executive session to discuss the employment & compensation of a public employee pursuant to ORC 121.22(G)(1) AND to prepare for negotiations and bargaining sessions with public employees pursuant to ORC 121.22 (G)(4). Ms. Port seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The meeting moved into executive session at 6:52 pm.

Mr. Mueller motion to return to regular session. Ms. Port seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The meeting moved into regular session at 7:18 pm.

RUSSELL TOWN HALL

November 16, 2023

HIRE PART-TIME: *Mr. Mueller made the motion, based on the recommendation of Police Chief Tom Swaidner, to hire Neil J. Nemetz 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 is December 1, 2023. A one-year probation period will begin on the official starting date. The pay scale will be at the two-year level per Salary Schedule 37. 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. Ms. Port seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:19 pm.

Matthew Rambo, Chair

Karen Walder, Fiscal Officer

Recorded by: J. Dorka