

RAVENNA TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF OCTOBER 4, 2022

The Ravenna Township Board of Trustees met in Regular Session at the Ravenna Township Trustee's Meeting Room, 6145 Spring Street, Ravenna, Ohio, on September 20, 2022. Trustee Vince Coia called the meeting to order at 7:04 P.M.

Roll call showed the following present: Trustees Vince Coia, Jim DiPaola and Hank Gibson, Fiscal Officer Gail Pittman, Fire Chief Mark Kozak, Zoning Inspector Brett Psenicka, Road Superintendent Ray Taylor and Assistant Fiscal Officer Jon Summers. In the audience were Matt Kelly, Carter Adams, Stephanie Stankiewicz, Ray Lee, Allan Springer, Ben Hampton and Tim Hartong.

AUDIENCE

Matt Kelly from Suffield, introduced himself and said he was running for Portage County Auditor. He currently works at Goodyear, is a retired firefighter and a military veteran. He then spoke about his qualifications.

Carter Adams spoke about neighbor disputes and zoning. He says he has a small farm and is getting harassed about his flock of chickens. Vince asked him if he was related to a specific person, which Carter responded he was, and Vince said he received a call from that person and had attempted to return the call but was having not getting through.

Stephanie Stankiewicz of Virginia Dr. asked for guidance on a specific situation. She sold a property to someone who wanted to put a building on it to store his construction equipment. It is zoned residential but was right next to a property zoned commercial, she was inquiring about how she could get it rezoned for commercial. Jim explained her options of either applying for a variance or attempting to get the property rezoned through the Zoning Commission and Regional Planning.

Ray Lee said he was representing his mother on Cooley Rd regarding the dog kennel trying to go in on Peck Rd. He doesn't believe that this purpose qualifies for agricultural use because they are dogs, not agricultural animals. He also requested a copy of any and all transcripts of what this resident has submitted to the township. He said they will be filing an appeal. Jim explained that the township responded in accordance to ORC and explained the appeal process. Jim explained that the building department does not issue permits for agriculture. Ray also raised a point about boarding animals and he feels it should fall under commercial and not agriculture.

Ben Hampton asked if the resident needs to apply for a permit for agricultural use. Brett responded and said he believed that the resident is making changes to existing buildings instead of constructing new buildings. Jim explained that he has to file an agricultural exemption with the township. Agricultural buildings do not need permits. Ben said he was confused and didn't understand why the resident filed for a conditional use initially instead of agricultural and how the change got approved so quickly. Ben added that this whole situation has been handled poorly.

Allan Springer discussed the dog kennel and was confused on the interpretation of the resolution. The decision that is stated in the letter is different than what is in the zoning resolution. He asked how one would change the code, and why it is in the code if it cannot be enforced. Jim explained that dog boarding would be considered commercial use. Allan asked about the zoning minutes, they weren't posted on the website. Gail explained that the minutes don't get posted until the board approves them and the board is actually meeting the following day to catch up on approving the old minutes. Once that is done, the minutes will be up on the website shortly after.

Mr. Hartung said he is very confused, Jim just explained that boarding is considered commercial but the dog kennel is now approved as agricultural. He wonders how the applicant changed his path to pursue the kennel as agricultural. An extensive discussion followed about the timeline of applications and events. Mr. Hartung doesn't understand why they have to appeal something that he believes should not have been approved of in the first place. He said Brett keeps changing his story and complained about the neighbors across the street from his home. He's been complaining about the neighbors for years and hopes that Brett will move forward as quickly about those complaints as he has done moving forward on the dog kennel. Jim explained that there is case law in the state regarding dog kennels and explained that the township in Portage County lost on appeal because the state considers them agricultural. Later Brett provided that case information.

Brett explained that the resident submitted an agricultural exemption and read it aloud. He also read the letter of notification that was drafted on September 29 and mailed to all the residents and explained the appeal process. He assured the audience that he does not take this issue lightly, doesn't just do things off the top of his head and gives it all serious attention. He cannot play favorites to one side or the other. He read some of the case law that he used as reference during his decision making and information from the building department. He spoke with Mr. Adams to clarify his communications. Mr. Adams asked if he could submit an agricultural application and Brett responded yes. Mr. Adams wanted to publicly state that he has the utmost respect for him and his position and before tonight didn't understand how difficult his position is.

The audience then all left, along with Brett to discuss these issues more outside of the public meeting.

REGULAR BUSINESS

A motion by Hank Gibson, seconded by Jim DiPaola, approving the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 20, 2022. R/C: Mr. Coia, yes; Mr. DiPaola, yes; Mr. Gibson, yes. Motion Passed.

A motion by Jim DiPaola, seconded by Hank Gibson, approving the minutes of the Special Meeting of September 20, 2022. R/C: Mr. Coia, yes; Mr. DiPaola, yes; Mr. Gibson, yes. Motion Passed.

A motion by Hank Gibson, seconded by Vince Coia, approving the minutes of the Special Meeting of September 28, 2022. R/C: Mr. Coia, yes; Mr. DiPaola, yes; Mr. Gibson, yes. Motion Passed.

Vince announced the correspondence book was available in the Fiscal Office for public viewing during normal business hours.

A motion by Vince Coia, seconded by Hank Gibson, to approve payroll warrants for October 7, 2022 in the amount of \$56,510.54 and other warrants in the amount of \$19,777.06 with warrants over \$1,000.00 being read aloud for approval. R/C: Mr. Coia, yes; Mr. DiPaola, yes; Mr. Gibson, yes. Motion Passed.

OLD BUSINESS: **TRUSTEES**

The open house/trunk or treat plans were discussed. Melissa has done a lot of work shopping for items and getting prices. Gail went through the list of the items to be purchased and there was a discussion of what to serve the community at the open house.

RES # 22-124 A motion by Vince Coia, seconded by Hank Gibson to authorize use of \$515.40 in funds from the fund 2905 OneOhio Opioid Settlement to purchase youth educational materials for substance abuse avoidance and awareness education. R/C: Mr. Coia, yes; Mr. DiPaola, yes; Mr. Gibson, yes. Motion Passed.

Jim said he had heard from the Portage County Water Resources and they found a grant for the sewage project in Foxwood estates including tap in fees. He also heard from Todd Peetz that there are grant funds to cover the difference for the bathrooms at the King Kennedy Center's new auditorium.

The quote from Myers Appliance for new refrigerators was discussed.

A motion by Vince Coia, seconded by Hank Gibson to authorize the purchase of new refrigerators quoted by Myers Appliance excluding the charges for removal of the old appliances. R/C: Mr. Coia, yes; Mr. DiPaola, yes; Mr. Gibson, yes. Motion Passed.

A motion by Hank Gibson, seconded by Vince Coia to declare the old refrigerators as surplus with no value and to have Dan Mounts remove them. R/C: Mr. Coia, yes; Mr. DiPaola, yes; Mr. Gibson, yes. Motion Passed.

Hank mentioned the need to inspect the flagpole uptown.

FISCAL OFFICER

Money in the amount of \$700K has been transferred to the Star Ohio account.

OPERS has issued a penalty of \$74.64 for the corrected payments recently submitted. Gail said she would have to reimburse the township for the penalty.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Ray was present and reported the following:

The paving work in Hidden Brook has been completed and about 80% of the crack sealing has been finished.

The roadside mower is built and is just waiting for pickup by Edinburgh Tractor.

Ray said October 31st will be the last date for brush pickup. The trustees asked that the website and the Facebook page be updated to reflect the date brush pickup will end.

Ray requested that three 55-gallon drums of oil/Def/windshield washer be purchased from O'Reilly's.

A motion by Vince Coia, seconded by Jim DiPaola to authorize the purchase of 55 gallons each of oil, Def and windshield washer from O'Reilly's at the price of \$1,427.97. R/C: Mr. Coia, yes; Mr. DiPaola, yes; Mr. Gibson, yes. Motion Passed.

GRANDVIEW CEMETERY

There were no burials or cremations in the last two weeks.

Ray and Vince met with Mr. Stoffer on Sept 30, 2022 and they came to the agreement that Mr. Stoffer would accept niche spots in lieu of the double sold mausoleum spots by the previous owners that cannot be honored.

Ray is going to purchase some mums from Centerra for placement in the cemetery. There is already a PO open there.

ZONING DEPARTMENT

Brett was present and reported the following:

He has closed two complaints and has opened three new complaints.

He will be addressing overnight parking with warnings/notices soon.

Brett said First Energy has heard from contractors regarding putting in the lights/posts in the Breakneck Creek Development, so things are moving there. Vince said he had heard from Polichena as well this afternoon and was informed that the streetlights were indeed moving forward.

Brett said he had a few violations that he would be wanting to have forwarded to the Prosecutors office in a couple of days.

RES # 22-125 A motion by Jim DiPaola, seconded by Vince Coia to send the following violation cases, if they have not been resolved by their deadline dates, to the Prosecutors Office for enforcement:

A) V#2022-08 Robert Biggs at 6863 Infirmary Rd for nuisance

B) V#2022-09 Carol Davidson at 7557 Peck Rd for junk vehicle and property maintenance

C) V#2022-10 Shawn Covert at 6147 Lakewood Rd for junk vehicle and property maintenance

R/C: Mr. Coia, yes; Mr. DiPaola, yes; Mr. Gibson, yes. Motion Passed.

Brett is currently working with the health and other departments on conditions at 3719 Lovers Lane.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Chief Mark Kozak was present and reported the following:

Mark said the Ohio Retention Grant had too many requests for money, so we are still waiting to hear one way or the other.

Mark has received email that he can close out the Ohio MARCS AFG 18, 19, and 20 grants.

The new engine is in service. The old engine has been sold. Hank asked if the chip in the hood of the new truck has been repaired. Mark said not yet.

NEW BUSINESS

TRUSTEES

Dan's West Branch Bait & Tackle has applied for a liquor license.

A motion by Vince Coia, seconded by Hank Gibson to state there are no objections to the liquor application for Dan's West Branch Bait & Tackle. R/C: Mr. Coia, yes; Mr. DiPaola, yes; Mr. Gibson, yes. Motion Passed.

A motion by Vince Coia, seconded by Jim DiPaola to set the date and time for Trick or Treat as Saturday, October 29, 2022 from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM. R/C: Mr. Coia, yes; Mr. DiPaola, yes; Mr. Gibson, yes. Motion Passed.

FISCAL OFFICER

RES # 22-126 A motion by Vince Coia, seconded by Jim DiPaola to approve POs and BCs as listed:

Item	PO#	Amount	Vendor	Purpose	Fund
A	BC13-2022	\$500.00	BC – none	Notary class & supplies	General
B	334-2022	0.0	Voided		
C	335-2022	\$900.00	OHD LLP	Respirator fit test calibration	Fire
D	336-2022	\$325.00	Levinson’s	FF Cook dress uniform	Fire
E	337-2022	\$525.00	Bowling Green U	FF Myers Basic Investigation	Fire
F	338-2022	\$1,500.00	Chase Card	Trunk or treat supplies	General
G	339-2022	\$1,200.00	Treas, Ohio	UAN fees	General
H	340-2022	\$4,000.00	CTMS	IT Fees	General
I	341-2022	\$1,000.00	Leppo Equip	Supplies & repairs	Road
J	342-2022	\$8,500.00	Myers Appliance	Refrigerators & Ice Maker	Fire
K	343-2022	\$1,600.00	O’Reilly Auto Parts	Fluids	Road and Fire
L	344-2022	\$3,085.00	ESO Solutions	Firehouse software	Fire
M	345-2022	\$71.64	OPERS	Filing fees	General
N	346-2022	\$500.00	Coia Sales	Repairs	Road
O	347-2022	\$2,400.00	Jordan Levi Wilson	Mowing at Grandview	Grandview
P	348-2022	\$1,500.00	Hastings	Repairs to exhaust system	Fire
Q	349-2022	\$650.00	Chase Card	For youth educational materials	Opioid & Genl

R/C: Mr. Coia, yes; Mr. DiPaola, yes; Mr. Gibson, yes. Motion Passed.

Financial reports were sent to the Trustees and department heads in Excel format.

RES # 22-127 A motion by Vince Coia, seconded by Jim DiPaola to approve budgetary changes as follows for Appropriations:

Appropriation Budget Changes				
Fund #	Fund Name	From	To	Increase (Decrease)
2901	FEMA	\$13,627.15	\$42,350.95	\$28,723.80

R/C: Vince Coia, yes; Jim DiPaola, yes; Hank T. Gibson, yes. Motion Passed.

Pursuant to R.C 121.22(g) Executive Session was requested for the purpose of discussing employment issue required to be confidential by Federal HIPAA.

A motion by Vince Coia, seconded by Hank Gibson to suspend Regular session at 9:06 pm.
R/C: Mr. Coia, yes; Mr. DiPaola, yes; Mr. Gibson, yes. Motion Passed.

A motion Vince Coia, seconded by Jim DiPaola to enter into Executive session at 9:06 pm.
R/C: Mr. Coia, yes; Mr. DiPaola, yes; Mr. Gibson, yes. Motion Passed.

Attendance: Vince Coia, Jim DiPaola, Hank Gibson, Gail Pittman.

Returned to open session at 9:42 pm.

RES # 22-128 A motion by Vince Coia, seconded by Hank Gibson to write off three of the accounts and send the remaining accounts to collections on the list submitted by LifeForce. R/C: Mr. Coia, yes; Mr. DiPaola, yes; Mr. Gibson, yes. Motion Passed.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion by Hank Gibson, seconded by Vince Coia to adjourn the meeting at 9:48 pm. R/C: Mr. Coia, yes; Mr. DiPaola, yes; Mrs. Gibson, yes. Motion Passed.

ATTEST:

CHAIR

TRUSTEE

FISCAL OFFICER

TRUSTEE