

RAVENNA TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF NOVEMBER 14, 2023

The Ravenna Township Board of Trustees met in Regular Session at the Ravenna Township Trustee's Meeting Room, 6145 Spring Street, Ravenna, Ohio, on November 14, 2023. Trustee Hank Gibson called the meeting to order at 7:07 P.M.

Roll call showed the following present: Trustees Vince Coia, Jim DiPaola and Hank Gibson, Fiscal Officer Gail Pittman, Zoning Inspector Lori Rotondo, Road Superintendent Ray Taylor and Assistant Fiscal Officer Jon Summers. Fire Liaison Mark Kozak and Fire Chief Dave Moore were absent, Firefighter Keith Gemberling sat in for Chief Moore. In the audience was Dan Morganti.

AUDIENCE

Dan Morganti spoke about the building demolition and site revitalization program – grant program. Land banks are lead source for these grant programs. Funding is available and the township should be responsible for getting authority and legal access for the demolition. They come in and get the demolition and then the property owner retains the property. This program doesn't require the land bank to own the property. The Land bank reaches out to the local governments and advises them of the program and then normally the local governments recommend and advise on demolition. Available money for the round 1 expenditures total \$560,000. Each county is set aside \$500,000 and they can apply for more. There is a matching on any additional. It can be residential or commercial. Must be vacant or blighted property, condemned or a nuisance. The average cost to tear down a residential structure is about \$13,000.00. Commercial can be variable. January 12, 2024 is the deadline for applying for this program - address and initial paperwork by January 12, 2024 and movement forward by the end of January, 2024.

Jim spoke about a property on Lakewood Rd that doesn't qualify for the program compared it to another property that has been approved. The particulars of both cases were discussed and a possible solution was also discussed.

REGULAR BUSINESS

A motion by Vince Coia, seconded by Jim DiPaola to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 31, 2023. R/C: Mr. Coia, yes; Mr. DiPaola, yes; Mr. Gibson, yes. Motion Passed.

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

RES # 23-200 A motion by Vince Coia, seconded by Jim DiPaola to approve payment of the OH ARPA Retention Grant on Monday, November 20, 2023 as a separate payroll processing to include all related wages, withholdings and employer expenses. R/C: Mr. Coia, yes; Mr. DiPaola, yes; and Mr. Gibson, yes. Motion Passed.

A motion by Vince Coia, seconded by Hank Gibson to approve payroll warrants for November 17, 2023 in the amount of \$46,065.83, ARPA retention grant payroll warrants for November 20, 2023 in the amount of \$51,278.45 and other warrants in the amount of \$101,932.19 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**

Vince received an email from the Main St Ravenna group requesting permission to decorate the Township Park for the holidays.

A motion by Hank Gibson, seconded by Vince Coia to authorize Main St. Ravenna to decorate, maintain and remove holiday decorations in the Ravenna Township Park. R/C: Mr. Coia, yes; Mr. DiPaola, yes; Mr. Gibson, yes. Motion Passed.

Jim mentioned that the Norfolk Southern railroad is going to partner with the Ohio Rail Commission to fund the full cost of a public road so that the private road on Prospect Rd can be closed. The cost is about \$250,000. This will be a dedicated road located within the City of Ravenna and the City will maintain it.

RES # 23-201 Hank Gibson moved the adoption of the following resolution to proceed concerning an additional levy for a tax in excess of the Ten Mill limitation for the purpose of providing fire equipment and staff:

WHEREAS, on October 31, the board of trustees passed a resolution declaring the necessity, for the purpose described in RC 5705.19(I), to tax an additional levy of in excess of the ten-mill limitation at a rate of 6.1 mills for each \$1 of taxable value; and

WHEREAS, the Portage County Auditor has certified to the board of trustees that the dollar amount of revenue that would be generated by the 6.1 mill additional tax levy during the first year will be \$1,071,000 based on the current taxable value of the Township of \$175,623,190, which amounts to \$214 for each \$100,000 of the county auditor's appraised value; and

RESOLVED, the Board desires to proceed with the submission of the question of the additional levy to the electors of Ravenna Township pursuant to ORC 5705.19(I), ORC 505.39, and ORC 5705.03(B) and hereby adopts this Resolution to Proceed setting forth in more detail the ballot language.

RESOLVED, the board of trustees, with at least two-thirds of all members elected thereto concurring, certifies the following language to the Board of Elections, Portage County, Ohio, for placement on the ballot of March 19, 2024:

For providing and maintaining fire apparatus, mechanical resuscitators, underwater rescue and recovery equipment, or other fire equipment and appliances, buildings and sites therefor, or sources of water supply and materials therefor, for the establishment and maintenance of lines of fire-alarm communications, for the payment of firefighting companies or permanent, part-time, or volunteer firefighting, emergency medical service, administrative, or communications personnel to operate the same, including the payment of any employer contributions required for such staff under section 145.48 or 742.34 of the Revised Code, for the purchase of ambulance equipment, for the provision of ambulance, paramedic, or other emergency medical services operated by a fire department or firefighting company, or for the payment of other related costs; in Ravenna Township that the county auditor estimates will collect \$1,071,000 annually, at a rate not exceeding 6.1 mills for each \$1 of taxable value, which amounts to \$214 for each \$100,000 of the county auditor's appraised value, for five years, commencing in 2023, first due in calendar year 2024.

RESOLVED, that the tax levy will be for 5 years and will include a levy on the tax list commencing in the tax year 2023, and also then for 2024, 2025, 2026, & 2027, first due in calendar year 2024, if approved by a majority of the electors voting thereon.

RESOLVED, the question of such tax levy shall be submitted to the electors of Ravenna Township in its entirety at the election to be held therein on March 19, 2024.

RESOLVED, that the Township Fiscal Officer is hereby directed to certify, not less than 90 days prior the general election, to the Board of Elections, Portage County, Ohio, a copy of this resolution to proceed to the board of elections to cause notice of the election on the question of levying the tax to be given as required by law.

Jim DiPaola seconded the motion and the roll was called on the question of its adoption. The vote was as follows: Mr. Coia, yes; Mr. DiPaola, yes; and Mr. Gibson, yes. Motion Passed.

FISCAL OFFICER

Gail suggested that some money be moved to the flagpole maintenance fund. In the past the trustees have expressed a need to continue to annually set aside money to maintain the flagpole.

RES #23-202 A motion by Hank Gibson, seconded by Vince Coia to authorize the transfer of \$15,000.00 from the General Fund to the Flagpole Maintenance Fund #2902. R/C: Mr. Coia, yes; Mr. DiPaola, yes; Mr. Gibson, yes. Motion Passed.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Ray was present and reported the following:

The 2018 Kubota is having the enclosed cab and snow blower attachments mounted at Coia's this week. The total cost will be \$15,730.00

Doug is fashioning a tool box to carry the camera on the trailer with the sewer jet. He will be purchasing the metal from Quick Service Welding in Kent. Ray wasn't sure what the cost will be for the metal yet.

The plows and trucks are being prepared for the winter season. The 2012 truck bed is seriously deteriorating. Doug will weld up the corners of the bed for now, but a replacement for the vehicle will be necessary in the near future. The crew is still picking up leaf bags.

GRANDVIEW CEMETERY

There was one cremation in the past two weeks.

The road crew is currently concentrating on leaf pick up at the cemetery

ZONING DEPARTMENT

Zoning Inspector Lori Rotondo was present and reported the following:

The BZA met on November 8, 2023 and approved the request from Haasz at 6104 SR 14. The set back variance request for 6368 Morgan Rd on an accessory structure was denied.

Lori went over a couple of court cases that the attorney has been working on and reviewed the permits and violations issued recently.

The Zoning Commission met on October 18, 2023 and continues to make edits to the Zoning Resolution. An amended copy will be ready for the Trustees in the Spring. The new alternate for the Commission is Diane Lee.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Chief Dave Moore was absent, Firefighter Gemberling reported the following:

The Chief would like to purchase rear fender inserts for unit #2400 to protect the wheel wells from the winter salt spray. They would cost \$175 from Sarchione Chevy.

A motion by Hank Gibson, seconded by Vince Coia to approve the purchase of rear fender inserts from Sarchione Chevy. R/C: Mr. Coia, yes; Mr. DiPaola, yes; and Mr. Gibson, yes. Motion Passed.

The staff is preparing reports for the department’s annual report.

Unit #2400 is scheduled for tire rotation and oil change at Sarchione Chevy on November 21, 2023.

Howell Rescue Systems performed the preventative maintenance on the rescue tools. There was no additional cost this year. The hydraulic cutters had a divot that, if worsens, will likely need to be replaced next year. The new cutting tips (2 needed) are \$365/each right now.

Keith reviewed October, 2023 departmental summary/activity.

A motion by Hank Gibson, seconded by Jim DiPaola to accept the generous donation in the amount of \$4,790.09 from Ravenna Moose Lodge #1234. R/C: Mr. Coia, yes; Mr. DiPaola, yes; and Mr. Gibson, yes. Motion Passed.

RES # 23-203 A motion by Vince Coia, seconded by Jim DiPaola to accept the resignation of Robert Barnhart effective November 13, 2023 per his email. R/C: Mr. Coia, yes; Mr. DiPaola, yes; and Mr. Gibson, yes. Motion Passed.

NEW BUSINESS

TRUSTEES

None.

FISCAL OFFICER

RES # 23-204 A motion by Hank Gibson, seconded by Vince Coia to approve POs as listed:

Item	PO#	Amount	Vendor	Purpose	Fund
A	394-2023	\$1,400.00	MES	Air pack repairs	Fire
B	395-2023	\$16,000.00	Daywalt	Cab & Blower for mower	Grandview
C	396-2023	\$657.28	PC Engineer	Road signs	Road
D	397-2023	\$1,385.00	Villager Bus Sol	Uniforms for FD	Fire
E	398-2023	\$75,041.34	OPWC	Grant disbursement	4401 OPWC
F	399-2023	\$175.00	Sarchione Chevy	Truck tire inserts	Fire

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

Financial reports will be distributed to the Trustees and department heads in Excel format.

RES # 23-205 A motion by Vince Coia, seconded by Jim DiPaola to approve the budgetary changes as follows for Appropriations:

Appropriation Budget Changes				
Fund #	Fund Name	From	To	Increase (Decrease)
2041	Grandview	\$150,000.00	\$130,000.00	(\$20,000.00)
2906	OH ARPA Retention	\$44,254.98	\$43,597.19	(\$657.79)
4401	OPWC	\$99,163.25	\$75,041.34	(\$24,121.91)

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

RES # 23-206 A motion by Vince Coia, seconded by Jim DiPaola to approve the following budgetary changes:

Revenue Budget Changes				
Fund #	Fund Name	From	To	Increase (Decrease)
2401	Spec Rev Lighting	\$308.00	\$307.50	(\$0.50)

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

RES # 23-207 A motion by Jim DiPaola, seconded by Vince Coia to approve and accept the bank reconciliations and financial management reports for September 2023 and October 2023 as presented by the Fiscal Officer. R/C: Mr. Coia, yes; Mr. DiPaola, yes; and Mr. Gibson, yes. Motion Passed.

A motion by Vince Coia, seconded by Jim DiPaola to set the date and time of the Township Holiday Potluck Party this year at 11:30 am, December 15, 2023 in the meeting hall. R/C: Mr. Coia, yes; Mr. DiPaola, yes; and Mr. Gibson, yes. Motion Passed.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion by Vince Coia, seconded by Jim DiPaola to adjourn the meeting at 8:49 pm. R/C: Mr. Coia, yes; Mr. DiPaola, yes; Mr. Gibson, yes. Motion Passed.

ATTEST:

CHAIR

TRUSTEE

FISCAL OFFICER

TRUSTEE