

RAVENNA TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF NOVEMBER 28, 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 28, 2023. Trustee Hank Gibson 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 Liaison Mark Kozak, Fire Chief Dave Moore, Zoning Inspector Lori Rotondo, and Assistant Fiscal Officer Jon Summers. Road Superintendent Ray Taylor was absent.

AUDIENCE

None

REGULAR BUSINESS

A motion by Vince Coia, seconded by Hank Gibson to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 14, 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.

A motion by Vince Coia, seconded by Jim DiPaola to approve payroll warrants for December 1, 2023 in the amount of \$66,507.02 and other warrants in the amount of \$67,369.74 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

Hank attended and gave a review of the Township Association meeting. He said a PARTA rep was there. Hank asked him if they were planning on starting a route into Streetsboro since there are no current routes to Streetsboro. He did not get a definitive response. Tammy Jo Marsillo-Brode talked about various HR issues. HB 187 was discussed and they said funding may be delayed as they work through the revaluation. It may only affect those counties that have already been adjusted. Portage County's property re-evaluation is set for 2024. HB296 concerning the Police and Fire Pension fund was discussed, the change would only affect police. OPERS was also discussed, the change there would raise the employer contribution from 14% to 18%. A township scholarship program was also discussed.

Vince attended the library fund raiser. He also noted that the Main Street Ravenna group had decorated the park for the holidays.

Jim said he had met with the architect and civil engineer and they are working together on the new storage building plans.

FISCAL OFFICER

While reviewing the resolutions recently passed to take to the Board of Elections, Gail noticed the dates on the second resolution did not match the first resolution. She contacted Brett Bencze at the PCPO and he suggested passing an amended resolution.

RES # 23-208 Hank Gibson moved the adoption of the following AMENDED 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, 2023 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 passed Resolution #23-201 on November 14, 2023, which required a correction.

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 Amended 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 2024, first due in calendar year 2025.

RESOLVED, that the tax levy will be for 5 years and will include a levy on the tax list commencing in the tax year 2024, and also then for 2025, 2026, 2027, & 2028, first due in calendar year 2025, 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 amended 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.

Vince Coia 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.

Gail said she received the cost for BWC for the estimated 2024 earnings. The rates increased from 1.18% to 1.99%, translating to an increase of \$8,700 for this next year. In February we will do the 2023 true-up and we will have to pay approximately an additional \$2,200.

The attorney, Mark Guidetti, consulted on for the potential TIF for the next phase of the Forest Ridge development and his research has concluded that the township could not rely on any special exception to utilize that process. The only path for using a TIF would be if the County Engineer or a private engineer would create a district with certified economic development or urban renewal plan. Then the plan would need reviewed and approved. The attorney spoke with the State of Ohio Department of Development and they do not see any red flags on pursuing that course of action. The developer's attorney has come to the same conclusions. As a result, Mr. Guidetti inquired if the Trustees want him to approach the County Engineer to discuss the possibility of creating an economic development plan?

A motion by Vince Coia, seconded by Jim DiPaola to authorize Mark Guidetti to reach out to the Portage County Engineer on behalf of the Township to discuss the possibility of developing an economic development plan so as to utilize the TIF option for developing the next phase of the Forest Ridge Development. R/C: Mr. Coia, yes; Mr. DiPaola, yes; and Mr. Gibson, yes. Motion Passed.

Gail requested an executive session at the end of the meeting to discuss an issue required to be kept confidential by HIPAA.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Ray was absent and Vince reported the following:

The 2018 Kubota is back, the enclosed cab and snow blower attachments have been mounted and it looks very nice.

There was a minor accident with one of our trucks and a car this past week. Vince had Ray send the driver for a drug test. Nobody was cited and the insurance companies were contacted.

Ray needs to order some road signs and posts. Municipal Signs quoted \$480.20.

A motion by Vince Coia, seconded by Hank Gibson to approve the purchase of signs and posts from Municipal Signs for the quoted price of \$480.20. R/C: Mr. Coia, yes; Mr. DiPaola, yes; and Mr. Gibson, yes. Motion Passed.

GRANDVIEW CEMETERY

There was one burial in the past two weeks.

ZONING DEPARTMENT

Zoning Inspector Lori Rotondo was present and reported the following:

The BZA will meet on December 13, 2023 to hear the request for a renewal of conditional use for Phase 6 of the Forest Ridge Development. Jim and Lori will meet with architects next week to address lot configurations and other details before the hearing.

Lori reviewed the permits and violations issued recently. She listed a half dozen that are not coming into compliance and said she would have resolutions drawn up for the next meeting to send them to the attorneys for enforcement.

The Zoning Commission will meet on December 20, 2023 to continue to make edits to the Zoning Resolution. An amended copy will be ready for the Trustees in the Spring.

Regional Planning provided a model Solar Ordinance from Indiana to use as a resource for writing the Township's Solar Ordinance.

Inspections are scheduled for December 6, 2023 for the properties located at 6640 Sumner and 5451 Portage to move forward with the demolitions being done by the Land Bank. Bennett Title is performing the title searches on those properties.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Chief Dave Moore was present and reported the following:

The automatic mutual aid agreement (MABAS) is set to start after the full-time firefighter meeting on December 4, 2023.

The chief's truck had a wiring issue lately. Sarchione Chevrolet traced the problem to a pinched wire that was grounding out. Not sure if it happened this past summer when Marchese updated the lights or not. In any event, Dave requested approval to have Sarchione repair the wiring issue. Hank asked Dave to request a discount from Marchese Communication the next time he does any work for the township.

A motion by Jim DiPaola, seconded by Vince Coia to approve Sarchione Chevrolet to repair the wiring on Unit #2400. R/C: Mr. Coia, yes; Mr. DiPaola, yes; and Mr. Gibson, no. Motion Passed.

Dave presented the estimated costs to the Trustees for the purchase of ice rescue training materials and equipment. He would like to teach any interested participants from the surrounding communities on ice rescue techniques. With the large number of lakes and retention ponds in the county, this would be quite helpful and good for the community. He would like to approach the Moose Club to use their lake and show them the benefits of how their Moose Club donations are being used. The Trustees thought it was a great idea.

A motion by Hank Gibson, seconded by Vince Coia to authorize the Ice Rescue Program and approve the purchase of ice rescue training materials and equipment from Dive Rescue International at the cost of \$2,922.00 using the Moose Club Donation moneys. R/C: Mr. Coia, yes; Mr. DiPaola, yes; and Mr. Gibson, yes. Motion Passed.

Unit #2417 (the UTV side by side) is out of service with a battery issue.

Mark discussed the grants he has been working on.

A motion by Hank Gibson, seconded by Jim DiPaola to accept the BWC Grant of \$15,000 for the purchase of gear dryers. R/C: Mr. Coia, yes; Mr. DiPaola, yes; and Mr. Gibson, yes. Motion Passed.

Dave noted that the new gear dryers will work great on the new dive suits being purchased for the Ice Rescue Program.

Mark has applied for the MARCs grant and will be submitting for the EMS reimbursement grant.

NEW BUSINESS
TRUSTEES

The prosecutor sent notification of their opinion of State Issue 2. The trustees discussed and settled on waiting to see what the state passes before the new law goes into effect.

FISCAL OFFICER

RES # 23-209 A motion by Vince Coia, seconded by Jim DiPaola to approve POs as listed:

Item	PO#	Amount	Vendor	Purpose	Fund
A	400-2023	\$300.00	Bennett Land Title	Title searches	General
B	401-2023	\$19,900.00	Advantage Equip	Gear dryer equip w/bwc grant	Fire
C	402-2023	\$21,643.00	BWC	Workers Comp 2024 premium	G,F,Gv,R
D	403-2023	\$600.00	Sarchione Chevrolet	Chief Vehicle	Fire
E	404-2023	\$4,000.00	Dive Rescue	Ice Rescue training material and equipment	Fire
F	405-2023	\$1,200.00	Witmer	Flashlights	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.

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

A motion by Hank Gibson, seconded by Vince Coia to suspend Regular session at 9:18 pm.
R/C: Mr. Coia, yes; Mr. DiPaola, yes; Mr. Gibson, yes. Motion Passed.

A motion by Hank Gibson, seconded by Vince Coia to enter Executive session at 9:18 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 9:41 pm. No action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion by Vince Coia, seconded by Jim DiPaola to adjourn the meeting at 9:41 pm. R/C: Mr. Coia, yes; Mr. DiPaola, yes; Mr. Gibson, yes. Motion Passed.

ATTEST:

CHAIR

TRUSTEE

FISCAL OFFICER

TRUSTEE