

RAVENNA TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 23, 2024

The Ravenna Township Board of Trustees met in Regular Session at the Ravenna Township Trustee's Meeting Room, 6145 Spring Street, Ravenna, Ohio, on January 23, 2024. Trustee Jim DiPaola called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M.

Roll call showed the following present: Trustees Vince Coia, Jim DiPaola and Hank Gibson, Fire Chief Dave Moore, Zoning Inspector Lori Rotondo, and Road Superintendent Ray Taylor, Assistant Fiscal Officer Jon Summers. Fiscal Officer Gail Pittman was absent. In the audience were Tom Bolinski, Donald Wortkoetter, Cheryl Hedrick, Steven Morris, all from the Westwood Village Condos, Tammy Toy, and architect Fank Pavliga.

AUDIENCE

Cheryl Hedrick, president of the Westwood Village HOA, said she had several issues that she hoped the township might be able to help with. The first was a wet area that was not a problem until AT&T had come through a couple of years ago to install the fiber optic cables. The township has tried raising the road, but it continues to flood there. They have been told it wasn't a fire hydrant leak. Jim said the township will look at it again and contact the city service director. The next item of concern was the berm on Westwood north of Pondview. The road drops off about 8" on the berm. They were wondering if the township would build the berm up so people walking along the road won't fall when a car is coming by. Ray said that he could take care of it, build it up. He said it wouldn't be pretty, but as long as the head of the association is aware and still wants it, then yes, he would do it. The last issue was chipping. The roads there are private, but the residents wanted to know if the township could do brush pickup. The trustees questioned why the contracted landscapers and mowers don't take care of that? The residents answered that they just don't. Could they put their brush up on the township road to be picked up? The trustees stressed that that would be possible, but the pile would have to conform to the size limits and couldn't be any of the landscapers remains, no grass, etc. The last item on her agenda was concerning an odor from a house in the neighborhood. She said the people who maintain the yards don't even want to trim around this house. The trustees suggested that the Health Dept gets notified so they could do a check on the family.

Tammy Toy, who had come to the previous meeting with a complaint about the drainage around her property, was back to update the trustees on her interactions with the neighboring lot owner/builder, Mr. Polichena. She said the water has now risen high enough and has frozen around the bottom of her downspouts. Any rains or thawing snow isn't going to have anywhere to go. She's worried about her eaves and foundation being damaged. Mr. Polichena is unwilling to meet with the soil and water fellow, Eric Long. Mr. Long examined the situation and stated the drainage issues are valid and needs to be addressed. He suggested a relatively cost effective solution, but stated he has no authority to enforce anything. Tammy asked if the township could help. Jim said that since the situation is affecting more than one lot owner, the Zoning Department can get involved. He said the solution is relatively simple, he would work with the Zoning Inspector to send Mr. Polichena a letter and then go from there.

Frank Pavliga brought the plans and building specs for the new cold storage garage. The plans were reviewed by everyone. Jim said he would walk the plans up to the attorney in the morning.

REGULAR BUSINESS

A motion by Vince Coia, seconded by Hank Gibson to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 26, 2023. R/C: Mr. Coia, yes; Mr. DiPaola, yes; Mr. Gibson, yes. Motion Passed.

A motion by Hank Gibson, seconded by Vince Coia to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of January 3, 2024. R/C: Mr. Coia, yes; Mr. DiPaola, yes; Mr. Gibson, yes. Motion Passed.

A motion by Vince Coia, seconded by Hank Gibson to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 9, 2024. R/C: Mr. Coia, yes; Mr. DiPaola, yes; Mr. Gibson, yes. Motion Passed.

A motion by Vince Coia, seconded by Jim DiPaola to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of January 10, 2024, 2023. R/C: Mr. Coia, yes; Mr. DiPaola, yes; Mr. Gibson, abstain. Motion Passed.

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

A motion by Hank Gibson, seconded by Vince Coia to approve payroll warrants for January 26, 2024 in the amount of \$49,931.19 and other warrants in the amount of \$25,325.77 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 Zoning and Fire Depts. have both inspected and signed off on the work done for the fire damage at 7575 SR 44.

A motion by Hank Gibson, seconded by Vince Coia to authorize the release of the fire loss insurance money held in escrow for the property located at 7575 SR 44. R/C: Mr. Coia, yes; Mr. DiPaola, yes; Mr. Gibson, yes. Motion Passed.

FISCAL OFFICER

The title/deed search for the meeting room lot is finished. The property was originally acquired in 1946 with two lots and then all was replotted into one lot in 2002.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**ROAD DEPARTMENT**

Ray was present and reported the following:

The 2016 F-550 needs two new front tires. Summit Tire quoted \$472.95.

A motion by Vince Coia, seconded by Hank Gibson to authorize the purchase of 2 tires from Summit Tire at the cost of \$472.95. R/C: Mr. Coia, yes; Mr. DiPaola, yes; Mr. Gibson, yes. Motion Passed.

The cameras are being installed on the trucks.

We have purchased 197.39 tons of salt at the cost of \$9,610.92 to date. We're doing very well for the year so far.

An auger motor went bad on one of the trucks. We had a spare motor in stock, so the crew was able to get the truck back on the road salting in about an hour. Ray said he would look up the price of a new motor to keep in stock.

GRANDVIEW CEMETERY

There were two burials in the past two weeks.

Still no word yet from Kozma Electric regarding the time frame for the order on the 14kW generator. Ray still needs to get with AmeriGas to set up a service call for the new propane tank to run the generator and heater. Vince asked Ray if Kozma ever got in touch with him about the light sensors and lights in the garage. Ray said no and Vince said he had received a notification from NOPEC on the grant moneys and when they had to be spent by. The generator needs to be done by the end of November of this year. Ray said he was hoping that it would get completed by the end of Spring. Vince suggested that since Kozma is so backed up that maybe we should be getting quotes from somebody else.

ZONING DEPARTMENT

Lori Rotondo was present and reported the following:

The tires that were being dumped next to a mobile home on Court St. have been removed by the Road Dept.

Lori reviewed the permits and violations issued recently. The homeowner at 6147 Lakewood has paid all of his court costs and has cleaned up the yard. Lori asked the trustees for a motion to dismiss the case.

RES #24-005 A motion by Vince Coia, seconded by Jim DiPaola to authorize dismissing Case 2023CV00600, Shawn Covert at 6147 Lakewood Rd: R/C: Mr. Coia, yes; Mr. DiPaola, yes; Mr. Gibson, yes. Motion Passed.

There is a Quarterly Zoning Inspector Meeting January 25, 2024 at 6:00 PM at the Rootstown Town Hall.

The legal ad has been placed and the surrounding land owners have been notified of the public hearing on February 6, 2024 at 6:30 PM regarding the demolitions scheduled for structures located at 6640 Sumner and 5451 Portage.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Chief Dave Moore was present and reported the following:

There was a garage fire at 6556 Terrill St.

The ice rescue training continues. The next course is scheduled from 8:00 until noon tomorrow, January 24, 2024.

Unit 2414's air tank valve was leaking. Thanks to Ray for inspecting and fixing it.

Dave requested an executive meeting at the end of the meeting to discuss an issue regarding employee compensation.

NEW BUSINESS

TRUSTEES

The County Engineer sent the annual certification letter for the Township Road Mileage. There was no change from the previous year.

A motion by Vince Coia, seconded by Hank Gibson to certify the 2023 Road Mileage as presented by the Portage County Engineer. R/C: Mr. Coia, yes; Mr. DiPaola, yes; Mr. Gibson, yes. Motion Passed.

The County Engineer also sent their 2023 Annual Bridge Inspection Report. It is in the Fiscal Office for anyone interested in reading it.

Vince said he spoke with the engineers regarding the sewer project for the Chinn Allotment. They said they would be resurfacing the road once the project has been completed.

The next Township Association Meeting is scheduled for February 17, 2024.

FISCAL OFFICER

RES #24-006 A motion by Hank Gibson, seconded by Vince Coia to approve POs as listed:

Item	PO#	Amount		Vendor	Purpose
A	120-2024	\$15,000.00	City of Ravenna	Economic Dev. Agreement	General
B	121-2024	\$175.00	Clemans Nelson	December retainer	General
C	122-2024	\$249.00	CTMS	MS365 for Jan, inv dated Dec	General

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

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

The township will be receiving Opioid Settlement Agreement funds of \$23.17.

Pursuant to R.C 121.22(g) Executive Session was requested for the purpose of discussing employee compensation.

A motion by Hank Gibson, seconded by Vince Coia to suspend Regular session at 8:24 pm.

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

A motion by Jim DiPaola, seconded by Vince Coia to enter Executive session at 8:25 pm.

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

Attendance: Vince Coia, Jim DiPaola, Hank Gibson, Jon Summers, Dave Moore.

Returned to open session at 8:55 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion by Hank Gibson, seconded by Vince Coia to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 pm.

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

ATTEST:

CHAIR

TRUSTEE

FISCAL OFFICER

TRUSTEE