

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

MUNSON TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING

Meeting

BEAR GRAPHICS 800-325-8094 FORM NO. 10148

Held Tuesday, March 14, 20 23

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm by Chair Irene McMullen, with Trustees James McCaskey and Fiscal Officer Todd Ray present. Ms. McMullen led the Pledge of Allegiance. Trustee Andy Bushman had been delayed by traffic due to an accident, and arrived and joined the meeting at 6:47pm.

The Trustees signed warrants 19305 through 19328 dated 3/14/23, totaling \$37992.65, and the 3/17/2023 bi-weekly payroll EFT vouchers 55 through 62, totaling \$9,729.32.

Cemetery Deeds

The Trustees signed cemetery deed #5-366 dated March 17, 2023 to Stefan J. and Hazel B. Sawczak, for Fowlers Mill Cemetery, Section 2, Lot 103, Graves 5 & 6.

Minutes

Jim McCaskey moved to approve the minutes of the Trustees Special and Regular Meetings held Tuesday, February 28, 2023 as presented. Irene McMullen seconded; with a unanimous 2-0 vote, the motion carried.

Jim McCaskey moved to approve the minutes of the Trustees Special Meeting held Friday, March 3, 2023 as presented. Irene McMullen seconded; with a unanimous 2-0 vote, the motion carried.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Chief Mike Vatty reported that Munson Fire has responded to 300 calls in 2023 to date, including seven calls on Monday. He distributed a written summary of Fire Department activity to the Trustees and provided additional documentation and commentary detailing automatic aid provided to a three-alarm structure fire in Middlefield the previous Friday evening. Fire Departments from Ashtabula and Trumbull Counties also responded to the fire along with multiple departments from Geauga County. Chief Vatty noted that this fire was a good example of how reciprocal automatic and mutual aid between fire departments guarantees necessary personnel and apparatus resources can be delivered to an incident scene. This fire was brought under control safely because each community was able to meet its responsibilities and respond with their personnel and equipment. He explained that Munson Fire Department alone could not provide all of the resources needed to fight a large fire in our township but depends on neighboring departments to reciprocate with services to support our community in such cases. By providing aid to others, Munson assures that it will have enough help when we need it. Chief Vatty also pointed out that when multiple calls occur at the same time, he must issue an emergency call-back to request off-duty members of the Department to report to the station to assure coverage in the event of another emergency call. He reminded the Trustees that the call volume for Munson Fire will continue to increase as the Township’s residential housing and business development grows.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Two-way radios

The Trustees revisited a proposal to purchase portable 2-way radios for the Road Department. Road Superintendent Kirk Walker had reviewed a proposal from Motorola Communications for eight radios, with one unit available in the Town Hall office and one in the maintenance building as a base station, and a favorable price for the package.

Jim McCaskey moved to approve the purchase of eight radios, not to exceed \$23,000. Irene McMullen seconded; with a unanimous 2-0 vote, the motion carried.

TOWNSHIP BUSINESS

Cemetery Monument Restoration

Trustee Jim McCaskey noted that the Township has been engaged in a multi-year project to restore aging, weathered and damaged cemetery monuments, and have committed about \$15,000 each year for several years now. The proposal for closing out the remaining restoration work at Fowlers Mill Cemetery this year is slightly higher. Mr. McCaskey moved to approve the monument restoration work at Fowlers Mill Cemetery by Stonehugger Cemetery Restoration in the amount of \$18,700. Irene McMullen seconded; with a unanimous 2-0 vote, the motion carried.

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Portable Restrooms for Township Properties

Jim McCaskey moved to approve the proposal for two portable restroom units at Munson Township park properties by A.S.A.P Sanitary Service at \$190.00 per month. Irene McMullen seconded; with a unanimous 2-0 vote, the motion carried.

Scholarship Recommendations

Jim McCaskey moved to approve the recommendations for scholarships presented by the Scholarship Committee in the amount of \$8000. Irene McMullen seconded; with a unanimous 2-0 vote, the motion carried. Mr. McCaskey read a list of 16 Munson Township residents, all seniors in high school, who would each receive a scholarship of \$500. He stated that, as has always been the policy of the Township, the scholarships are entirely funded by donations and money raised at the Township sponsored Flea Market and Community Day Picnic.

Trustee Andy Bushman joined the meeting at 6:48pm.

Streetlights

Jim McCaskey reported that he had discussed a quote with a representative of First Energy for the cost of installing two streetlights at the intersections of Bass Lake Rd. and Sherman Rd., and Wilbert Rd. and Wilson Mills Rd. He stated that there are variables that cannot be determined in advance, so the final fixed cost cannot be determined. Jim McCaskey moved to approve the installation of the two streetlights at a cost up to \$2,500 per light. Andy Bushman seconded; with a unanimous 3-0 vote, the motion carried.

FISCAL OFFICER

Fiscal Officer Todd Ray had nothing for the Board to address.

Resolution 2023-08:

Resolution 2023-08: Permanent Appropriation

Jim McCaskey moved to approve Resolution 2023-08, the 2023 Permanent Appropriation in the amount of \$5,272,771.49, as presented. Andy Bushman seconded. Motion carried with a unanimous vote. Mr. Ray reported that the total amount appropriated does not reach the threshold that would trigger an increase in compensation for elected officials based on the Ohio legislature’s compensation schedule for elected officials.

Other Business

Jim McCaskey noted that Fire Inspector Doug Riedel had posted the official capacity for the Trustees meeting room. The room is limited to 23 occupants, and 23 chairs were available in the room. Any time the attendance for a meeting exceeds 23, the meeting would have to be relocated to the large community room if it is available.

Mr. McCaskey also called attention to the fact that the annual Health District Advisory Committee meeting was scheduled for Wednesday evening at 7:30pm, and the Geauga Public Health Department Board had called a special meeting with 24-hour notice to meet at 4:00 pm Wednesday, to approve a “shared-services contract” with Lake County General Health District, just a few hours ahead of the Advisory Committee meeting. The Board will also have a special meeting at 7:00pm, immediately ahead of the Advisory Committee meeting, to elect a new member to the Geauga Public Health Board. He felt that the timing of the special meetings was concerning.

Other Meetings

Jim McCaskey attended the County Planning Commission meeting earlier in the day. Andy Bushman attended the Geauga Safety Council meeting on Friday, March 3.

Public Comment

Resident Glenn Kinter offered a comment in support of the Road Department and the purchase of the two-way radios. He also believes that the Fire Department has provided more justification for the automatic and mutual aid, and it is clear that “we are not an island” but we

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depend on each other in our surrounding townships. He believes that mutual aid is like an insurance policy that we pay for so we have it when we need it.

Resident John McCaulley commented that he has not received answers to the questions he posed at the last meeting, and he feels it is still unclear how information would be made available to residents related to a possible levy. Trustee Jim McCaskey explained that the Trustee Liaison to the Fire Department Andy Bushman was still working with the Fire Department to compile answers. Trustee Bushman reported that he was nearly finished and would provide the draft of the answers to the other Trustees for their input before sending it out. Mr. McCaulley asked about the timeline for determining a levy and an amount. Mr. McCaskey assured him that a May levy was out of the question. Mr. Bushman said a decision in July would be ahead of a November levy ballot issue. Mr. McCaulley indicated that he is only interested in having sufficient time to assess the information provided for determining justification or need for additional funding and a levy amount. Mr. McCauley also asked if COVID Relief funding provided to the Fire Department was budget positive, budget neutral, or budget negative. Mr. Bushman responded that COVID Relief was budget neutral.

Resident Rich Ferlin asked if the Trustees would now have question-and-answer as a standard part of Trustee meetings, and will it be on the agenda.

Mr. Ferlin also commented that the Fire Department has provided the Trustees information about the need for additional funding at Trustee meetings in March of 2022, at the time they were applying for a SAFER grant, and the subject of a levy came up when discussing what would happen after the three years of the grant comes to an end. More information was provided in December and January, and he stated that the Fire Department was committed to providing whatever data residents requested.

Executive Session

At 7:12 pm, Jim McCaskey moved to have the Trustees enter into Executive Session to address possible land acquisition, and to invite Fiscal Officer Todd Ray to join the session; Mr. Bushman seconded.

Roll call vote: Mr. McCaskey, "Yes." Ms. McMullen, "Yes." Mr. Bushman, "Yes". Motion carried.

The Trustees resumed the regular session at 7:21 pm.

Encumbrances

Jim McCaskey moved to approve the encumbrances for Tuesday, March 14 as presented. Andy Bushman seconded. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Geauga Credit Union	2020 ambulance lease payment	\$33,224.28
Geauga Credit Union	2022 ambulance lease payment	\$53,907.75

Motion to Adjourn

Mr. McCaskey moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:22pm. Mr. Bushman seconded; motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Shane H. McMullen Chairman Todd R. Ray Fiscal Officer