

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

MUNSON TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES REGULAR

Meeting

BEAR GRAPHICS 800-325-8094 FORM NO. 10148

Held Tuesday, May 10, 20 22

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm by Chair James McCaskey, with Trustees Andy Bushman and Irene McMullen and Fiscal Officer Todd Ray present. Mr. McCaskey led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

Andy Bushman moved to approve the minutes of the Trustees Regular Meeting Tuesday April 26, 2022, as presented. Irene McMullen seconded; with a unanimous vote, the motion carried. Andy Bushman moved to approve the minutes of the Trustees Special Meeting Tuesday May 3, 2022, as presented. Irene McMullen seconded; with a unanimous vote, the motion carried. Mr. McCaskey noted that the Trustees had warrants to sign. The Trustees signed warrants 18678 through 18701 dated 5/10/22, totaling \$37,122.08, and 5/13/2022 bi-weekly payroll EFT vouchers 88 through 95, totaling \$8,943.67. Between meetings the Trustees had signed warrants 18672 through 18677 dated 5/3/2022 totaling \$4,616.16.

Public Comment

Mr. McCaskey called for any public comment. Resident Joe Bastulli asked if any of the Trustees would provide answers to his questions regarding the pending zoning amendment. Mr. McCaskey stated that residents are free to offer public comment during this portion of the meeting, and noted that Trustees are advised by legal counsel not to comment on zoning matters.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Munson Fire Chief Mike Vatty reported that the Fire Department participated in a full scale active shooter training drill at Notre Dame – Cathedral Latin High School in coordination with the Geauga Sheriff’s Department. The drill revealed some issues that will be addressed through the Sheriff’s office, but over-all it was a good exercise. The Chief reported that the Department responded to a structure fire at the Fowlers Mill Christian Church accessory building at the back of the property that serves as a recreation and gathering space. The building was unoccupied at the time, and suffered extensive damage. Chief Vatty noted that he believes the building should have been assigned an “assembly-2” designation by the County building department due to its use, and would have required a sprinkler system that would have reduced the damage significantly.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Chair McCaskey reported that he had spoken with the County Engineer’s office and confirmed that Ohio Department of Transportation was reviewing before-and-after video records of Township roads used for detour routes last year during the Mayfield-Auburn intersection reconstruction project to try to assess damage. The Township hopes to get financial relief to repair damage to Sherman Road and Bean Road due to the heavier detour traffic.

TOWNSHIP BUSINESS

Geauga Safety Council Membership Re-Commitment

Irene McMullen moved and Andy Bushman seconded to authorize Andy Bushman to sign the membership contract to have Munson continue in the Geauga Safety Council; with a unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Mr. McCaskey reported that he was unsuccessful in recruiting a speaker for Munson’s Memorial Day Observance. Trustees agreed to go ahead and hold the Observance without a featured speaker.

The Trustees noted for the record that Chardon High School Athletic Department would host a varsity baseball double-header next week, and one game would involve two teams from outside the community. The Trustees acknowledged this fact and did not object to the field use.

Erosion Control Special Improvement District

Trustee Jim McCaskey asked Irene McMullen if she will take the lead in exploring the ESID (Erosion Control Special Improvement District) that has been presented by the County Auditor’s

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office as an option for Geauga County entities that may have stream erosion issues. Ms. McMullen agreed to stay involved and report back if it appears to be worthwhile for the Township to engage in the District.

Transparency in Business Interest

Chair McCaskey noted for the record that for many years his business has provided paid services to local communities and schools for grading and prepping ballfields for spring and summer baseball play. His company provided this service for Munson Township until he was elected Trustee, at which time he withdrew from contracting with Munson to provide this service, and he has not done ballfield prep work for Munson during his time as Trustee. He pointed out that his company continues to do this work for Chardon, but not work on any Munson Township properties.

Park Board Appointment

Andy Bushman moved to appoint resident Rick Webb to the Munson Parks and Recreation Board for a 3-year term (ending in 2024). Irene McMullen seconded; with a unanimous vote, the motion carried.

FISCAL OFFICER

Fiscal Officer Todd Ray noted that the Auditor of State training for fiscal officers this week highlighted the budget impacts from recent fuel costs and electrical rates increases, and advised Townships to monitor these and plan budget adjustments. They emphasized the need to have money in place to cover these costs as current appropriations run low later in the year. Mr. Ray stated he is monitoring the budget and would prepare a request to increase appropriations for approval at a future meeting.

Other Business

No other business was presented.

Other Meetings

No meetings were reported.

Public Comment

Resident Rich Ferlin offered comment that he has researched the property tax implications of zoning land-use decisions and reported that approvals for commercial use of properties in residential districts do not get re-classified by the County Auditor and therefore are taxed at the residential rate, not taxed at the commercial use tax rate. He believes these properties are undervalued relative to the commercial value, and this causes the community to lose significant, uncollected tax revenue. He stated that, according to the Auditor's office, no Townships report zoning changes that occur to the auditor's office that should result in property tax rate changes.

Resident Joe Otto expressed frustration that the Trustees cannot respond to resident questions or offer comment on zoning matters like the pending zoning amendment. He stated that he believes the Trustees can vote to accept or reject a decision by the Board of Zoning Appeals to grant a variance. He believes the zoning boards vote in favor of one person and ignore the opinions of 99 other residents.

Resident Joe Bastulli offered a comment that property tax rates should reflect the actual use of the property, and the Township should notify the Auditor's office to adjust tax rates after variances are granted for commercial uses in residential districts. He stated that even though he disagrees with the Trustees on zoning matters, he loves the Township and appreciates the work the Trustees do.

Resident Sandy Ferlin made a comment that zoning enforcement is not being done the same way it was done 30 years ago.

Resident Dawn Bastulli made a comment that she believes the Trustees are not interested in what zoning is doing.

Community Room Leases

Andy Bushman moved to approve the Community Room use agreement for Hershey Montessori "Second Chance Prom" for Saturday May 14, waiving the fee. Irene McMullen seconded. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

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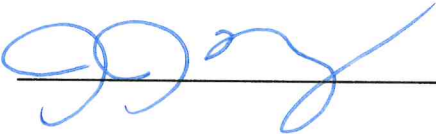
Andy Bushman moved to approve the Community Room use agreement for NDCL track and Field End-of-Season celebration for Wednesday June 1, waiving the fee. Irene McMullen seconded. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Encumbrances

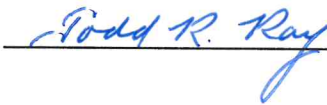
There were no encumbrances to approve.

Motion to Adjourn

Andy Bushman moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:24pm. Irene McMullen seconded; motion carried with a unanimous vote.



Chairman



Fiscal Officer