

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
MUNSON TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES SPECIAL

Minutes of

Meeting

BEAR GRAPHICS 800-325-8094 FORM NO 10148

Held Tuesday, November 19, 20 24

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm by Chairman Andy Bushman, with Trustee Nathaniel McDonald and Fiscal Officer Todd Ray present. Trustee Jim McCaskey was unable to attend the meeting. Mr. Bushman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Andy Bushman stated that the notice for the meeting identified approval of the tax levy amounts and rates resolution along with a continuation of a process for determining ways to improve emergency preparedness initiated earlier in the fall.

Resolution 2024-46: Acceptance Amended Amounts and Rates

Nate McDonald moved to approve Resolution 2024-46, acceptance of amounts and rates of tax levies for 2025 as determined by the Geauga County Budget Commission. Andy Bushman seconded the motion, and it passed with a unanimous vote, 2-0. The resolution reflects the amended amounts and rates after passage of one Fire levy renewal in the November 5 election, and the Trustees' decision to suppress \$100,000 of collection on another levy.

Mr. Bushman explained that the office staff had reviewed all of the ideas collected at the brainstorming session during the special meeting on October 15 and assigned each suggestion to one of three categories. He distributed a handout with the three lists that the office staff had prepared: Equipment ideas, Communication ideas, and Potential Partners in the Community.

Munson Fire Chief Mike Vatty and Fire Inspector Doug Riedel, and Road Superintendent Kirk Walker were present and engaged in discussion and sharing information as each item on the list was considered. The group worked through the Equipment list first, making notes on estimated costs, options and alternatives, and eliminated some ideas. Notable topics included battery-powered small chainsaws, a large-capacity wood chipper, hazard tape, cones, and road-closed signs, and "hot sticks" that can help identify hot downed electrical wires. Chief Vatty and Chair Andy Bushman shared information about grant opportunities that are available to provide funding assistance for some of the equipment and supplies that were discussed. Cost effective and innovative solutions were considered. Road Superintendent Walker shared a story, explaining that Fire Department staff had identified the need for lights on the track-hoe excavator that was used for clearing trees after dark, to re-open roads after the August storm. The Fire Department provided a bright light bar that they had removed from a retired fire engine and had in storage. It was retrieved and quickly mounted on the excavator, and it provided excellent lighting for working at night in an emergency.

Communication ideas were explored and evaluated, including better use of radios, website and email communications, and the possibility of an electronic bulletin-board/sign, and the possibility of messages being sent out on "silver alert" or reverse 911 text messaging app.

A number of challenges or problems identified in the first session were addressed through proposals for potential partnerships in the community. Preliminary leg work and communication had already been completed by Fire Chief Vatty and Road Superintendent Walker, as they both had reached out to businesses and other government entities. Examples included the Sisters of Notre Dame Provincial Center, S.A.M. Landscaping, and Chester Township Police Department (for access to fuel during a power-outage emergency).

After completing the exercise, the assembled group identified some "next steps" that would be explored, and Mr. Bushman indicated that this was an ongoing process in progress, with another meeting to be scheduled in the near future.

Nate McDonald moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:29pm. Andy Bushman seconded, and the motion carried with a unanimous vote.



Chairman



Fiscal Officer