

**VERMILION TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES*****Record of Proceedings  
Minutes to Regular Meeting Held 5/6/20***

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chairman Charles T. Trinter.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Charles T. Trinter, Trustee; Ronald L. Dickel, Trustee; Carl E. Hill, Trustee; Brenda J. Zsebik, Fiscal Officer; Robert Kurtz, Building Official/Zoning Administrator; Frank R. Triana, Vermilion Township Fire Chief; Tina L. Karres, Township Secretary.

MOTION BY R. Dickel, second by C. Hill to approve minutes to special meeting held 4/6/20 and regular meeting held 4/15/20 and dispense with the reading of the minutes. Roll Call – R. Dickel, yes; C. Trinter, yes; C. Hill, yes; Motion Carried.

MOTION BY C. Hill, second by R. Dickel to accept the Treasurer's Report and Financial Packet dated 4/15/20 & 5/6/20. Roll Call – R. Dickel, yes; C. Trinter, yes; C. Hill, yes; Motion Carried.

MOTION BY R. Dickel, second by C. Trinter to approve and pay warrants 24436 through 24472 (26-2020, 28-2020, 29-2020, 30-2020, 31-2020, 32-2020 Adjustments). Warrants totaled \$37,413.79. Roll Call – R. Dickel, yes; C. Trinter, yes; C. Hill, yes; Motion Carried.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:**

Sperry Road residents appeared before the Board of Trustees to voice their concerns about a neighboring property. They would like the Board to do more about the ongoing issues at the property located at 15904 Sperry Road. Their complaints included noxious weeds, high grass, overgrown bushes and trees, pungent odors, and animals. There was concern that the rundown property is affecting their property values. Trustee Trinter explained the township was somewhat restricted and limited in actions due to the township not being an incorporated municipality. The Township Zoning Inspector, Mr. Kurtz, stated this property owner has a history of not mowing his property. He said he had made multiple visits to the property during the past few years which resulted in the township cutting the grass. The property owner had been notified of the tall grass violation this year with no action so the road crew was sent to mow the property. Mr. Kurtz said it was a complicated situation that the township has a little apprehension to get into. The township is not a landscaper and are not in the landscaping business, but Mr. Kurtz stated the township may want to take a second look at this property and see if they may want to take action. Mr. Kurtz stated the township can keep doing what the code allows the township to do. Trustee Trinter questioned whether the health department could be contacted and possibly declare the property a nuisance. Mr. Kurtz stated he would notify the health department to see if they might have further action. Trustee Hill suggested that the incurred fees of the township and a breakdown of those fees regarding violations be posted so the property owner would be aware of the cost when work has to be completed on their property. Discussion ensued over the township doing the work versus hiring a landscaper. The Ohio Revised Code 505.87 Abatement, control, or removal of vegetation, garbage, refuse, and other debris was brought up and debated. Trustee Dickel reminded the Board the township can only act on violations that they have authority to do so and recommended contacting the Prosecutor to see what is legal in this case. The Board can then act on Prosecutor advice. Mr. Kurtz added that before anything could

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be done, the Board would need to declare the property a nuisance. The residents thanked the Board for their time.

SPEAKERS:

None present.

CORRESPONDENCE:

No correspondence.

BUILDING OFFICIAL/ZONING ADMINISTRATOR:

Building Official/Zoning Administrator, Robert Kurtz, reported for April the Zoning Department issued 7 zoning permits with a total fee collection of \$1,244.30; the Building Department issued 16 permits with a fee collection of \$3,409.00, 1 reinspection fee at \$75.00 for a total fee collection of \$3,484.00 and total valuation of work being done at \$812,536.00.

Mr. Kurtz stated he will be working with the ISO representative regarding the building survey over the next few months. The last survey was completed in 2016.

VERMILION TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Chief F. Triana's report: Fire Runs between 4/15/2020 – 4/30/2020. EMS – 25; YTD: 204 Runs.

Rope rescue is 98% complete. They are waiting on a few storage bags to arrive.

Air room overhaul is complete and looks great. Room is very functional and much better organized.

Compartments on 822 are completed and like the air room the compartments are functional and very organized.

The FF Association received a donation from the Wells, Hoffman's & Scheck families. The card thanked the members for all they do. During these times of uncertainty, the family has decided to pay it forward. The department thanks the family for their support and appreciates their donation.

April fire reports are complete and have been submitted to the State.

NORTHERN OHIO RURAL WATER REPRESENTATIVE:

None present.

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OLD BUSINESS:

Chief Triana said all equipment is continuing to be sanitized and all guidelines are being followed. The Chief stated he has had no problem acquiring any needed equipment.

Mr. Kurtz discussed the response from the United States Postal Service (USPS) regarding the zip code boundary realignment. Their offer was for the six houses involved, in the area of Sperry Road, to have the Vermilion mailing name, but continue to have the Wakeman zip code (Vermilion, Ohio 44889). Trustee Dickel asked how that would help the fire department regarding EMS/Fire calls. The Chief explained it really did not matter what they call it in terms of their response, the request for change was more for the individual homeowners so they wouldn't have two different addresses (physical/ mailing address). The Board agreed since it was the only consideration, that it might be a good idea to contact the homeowner to see if they were interested in accepting their offer. The response will then be sent to the United States Postal Service within the 45-day time period allotted.

Mr. Kurtz asked for approval authorizing revision of the general policy stated in Resolution 98-20 that the Prosecutor worked on. It does not change what the township can enforce but does provide clarification and updates the notification process. The Board needs to consider under Vegetation List (E) what percent of the parcel has vegetation exceeding eight inches in height to be considered a violation. Mr. Kurtz recommended a lower percentage to allow the township more flexibility. Trustee Dickel inquired about how that would affect vacant lots or lots of 2 or more acres. Mr. Kurtz explained and gave examples of how in that case it would be a judgement call based on that individual property.

MOTION BY C. Trinter, second by C. Hill authorizing a resolution implementing a revision of the general policy stated in Resolution No. 98-20, for abatement, control, or removal of vegetation, garbage, refuse, and other debris from property located in the unincorporated territory of Vermilion Township adopted pursuant to Ohio Revised Code §505.87. This general policy amends and supersedes Resolution No. 98-20 to utilize the authority vested in it pursuant to O.R.C. § 505.87, which shall be effective immediately. Under Vegetation List E - Any grass or weeds on lots, either on which buildings and structures are built or which are vacant, where more than 10 percent of the parcel has vegetation exceeding eight inches (8") in height and a complaint has been filed. Trustee Dickel asked to clarify if 10 percent or more of the property isn't mowed the township has the right to go in and mow the property. Mr. Kurtz, Zoning Administrator answered that was correct and added the percentage can be changed in the future if any issues arise. Trustee Trinter added it may be a judgement call on larger lots.

Roll Call – R. Dickel, yes; C. Trinter, yes; C. Hill, yes; Motion Carried.

**RESOLUTION NO. 20-20**

Trustee Hill brought up for discussion putting the office in the new township maintenance building out to bid. Trustee Dickel agreed the office needs to be put out for bids. Mr. Kurtz stated Dan Frederick, Architect, has updated all building plans with the current changes. The Board agreed that Dan Frederick Architects, LLC. should be contacted to handle bidding process.

MOTION BY C. Hill to authorize direct deposit and asked Fiscal Officer Zsebik if she had a report. The Fiscal Officer reported that currently the way the township handles payroll, the costs are \$16.60 per month. If the township decides to start implementing direct deposit the costs will be \$46.75 per month plus there could be other additional fees. She gave examples of various other fees. The township would save \$30.15 per month (\$361.80 per year savings) if they keep the current payroll system. The Fiscal Officer stated it would be the same amount of work for her or could possibly be more. The Fiscal Officer recommended the township stay with the current way of doing payroll and

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didn't feel the extra money it would cost to implement direct deposit would be money wisely spent at the current time. She stated the money could be spent on something else. Trustee Dickel stated the township had looked into this in the past. He didn't feel the township should spend more money to pay employees especially when additional fees could be added for direct deposit. Trustee Trinter added the only advantage is the convenience factor for employees but if enough employees are interested, they may need to consider direct deposit. Trustee Hill stated the employees he talked to all wanted direct deposit and that he supports it. Fiscal Officer Zsebik stated that no one had come to her about direct deposit and at a future date she would have no problem taking another look at the fees to see if anything changes. She understands it is very convenient, but right now feels cost and extra fees should be taken into consideration. Trustee Trinter and Trustee Hill mentioned getting feedback from employees concerning interest in direct deposit. Chief Triana recommended putting a mailer in the employees paycheck. Trustee Hill discussed making employees responsible for any unnecessary fees that might occur. Mr. Steve Young voiced his opinion on direct deposit, saving township money, and mowing grass. Mr. Tom Lalonde stated he brought the issue of direct deposit up previously to the office and the Board and it was not done due to the cost. Fiscal Officer Zsebik stated that she was not against direct deposit and it may very well, down the road, be more beneficial as more options become available. Fiscal Officer Zsebik ended with the township is looking out for the residents and didn't feel it was a priority to spend extra money that was not necessary. Trustee Dickel agreed he was not against direct deposit, but he looks at the dollar sign of the township, the cheaper way to do something. He felt monies need to be spent wisely. The options for cleaning the township mats were discussed and how important cleanliness was during the Coronavirus pandemic. Trustee Hill asked for unapproved minutes to be emailed prior to meetings.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chief Triana discussed a quote that was given to the Board for their consideration from Brite located in Victor, New York, a company that specializes in support equipment to mount computers in the vehicles. The Chief is asking to purchase (2) two Fujitsu-Lifebook computers and the associated equipment. The Chief mentioned another jetpack may need to be purchased from Verizon which would come out of the fire budget. The computers are strictly used for the reporting system, EMS, and Fire. The Board tabled this for further consideration.

MOTION BY: C. Trinter, second by R. Dickel to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:10 p.m. with no further business to discuss. Roll Call – R. Dickel, yes; C. Trinter, yes; C. Hill, yes; Motion Carried.

Charles T. Trinter  
Trustee

Ronald Z. Dickel  
Trustee

Carl Hill  
Trustee

Vina J. Karres  
Township Secretary