

**VERMILION TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES*****Record of Proceedings  
Minutes to Regular Meeting Held 9/15/21***

Meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Chairman Ronald L. Dickel.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Ronald L. Dickel, Trustee; Carl E. Hill, Trustee; Charles T. Trinter, Trustee; Robert Baker, Building Official/Zoning Inspector; Tina L. Karres, Township Secretary.

Absent: Brenda J. Zsebik, Fiscal Officer; Frank R. Triana, Vermilion Township Fire Chief.

MOTION BY C. Trinter, second by C. Hill to approve minutes to regular meeting held 9/1/21 and special meeting held 9/3/21 and dispense with the reading of the minutes. Roll Call – C. Hill, no; R. Dickel, yes; C. Trinter, yes; Motion Carried.

MOTION BY C. Hill, second by C. Trinter to accept the Treasurer's Report and Financial Packet dated 9/14/21. Roll Call – C. Hill, yes; R. Dickel, yes; C. Trinter, yes; Motion Carried.

MOTION BY C. Trinter, second by R. Dickel to approve and pay warrants 25376 through 25392 and payment vouchers 432-2021, 433-2021, 434-2021, 435-2021, 436-2021, 437-2021, 438-2021, 439-2021, 440-2021, 441-2021, 442-2021, 443-2021, 444-2021, 445-2021, 446-2021, 447-2021, 448-2021, 450-2021, 451-2021. Warrants and payment vouchers totaled \$23,956.01. Roll Call – C. Hill, yes; R. Dickel, yes; C. Trinter, yes; Motion Carried.

**ROAD DEPARTMENT:**

Tom Lalonde, Road Department, reported on the following: Fall Clean-up filled four 40-yard dumpsters and one 80-yard scrap bin. Erie County Highway Department will be paving Darrow Road from Barnes Road to Hahn Road. They will also be putting a riser on the catch basin at the intersection of Barnes and Darrow Road which will eliminate driving over the hump in the road which was previously brought up as a concern by a resident. Three tile projects (enclosing ditch) were completed on Dean Road. The F450 has a coolant leak, and the backhoe has an issue with the lower ball joint on the right side of front axle is worn out. Mr. Lalonde reported the backhoe will need to be taken to Kelling Equipment for repair and asked Board for approval.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:**

Mr. Malcolm Williams asked the Board if a price was obtained for the salt shed and asked if the American Care Act money could be used for this. Trustee Dickel did obtain one estimate on the salt shed in the amount of \$100,000.00 to put up shed, does not include floor. Trustee Dickel stated more estimates will be obtained. Trustee Dickel wasn't sure if the Care Act monies could be used for that project. The Fiscal Officer will be looking into what projects the money could qualify for. Trustee Trinter didn't think the salt shed would qualify with the information that was received. Basically, the recovery money is to replace lost income and for economic development.

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**SPEAKERS:**

None present.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

Letter received September 7, 2021, from A.J. Lill, Deputy Director of Social Programs, Erie County Department of Job and Family Services asking for donations to provide Christmas gifts for Erie County Children Services.

**BUILDING OFFICIAL/ZONING INSPECTOR:**

Building Official/Zoning Inspector, Robert Baker, reported the Board of Building Standards, which is basically the department of the State of Ohio that oversees all building inspectors, has found the Former Building Official, Robert Kurtz, guilty for admitting to performing illegal electrical inspections in Vermilion Township. The Board of Building Standards placed Mr. Kurtz on probation with additional sanctions. Mr. Baker reported there were approximately sixty homes with a possible fatal electrical fire waiting to happen. Due to Mr. Kurtz's illegal activity, the township will incur thousands of dollars of costs to remedy this situation. Mr. Baker said a mini task force of electrical inspectors will be put together to take care of the situation and because of record keeping issues with the Former Building Official, Robert Kurtz, there may be more than sixty inspections. These were the inspections that could be identified at this point in time. Mr. Baker wanted to announce a safety alert to Vermilion Township residents if an electrical inspection was performed personally by Mr. Robert Kurtz, to please contact the township offices for a re-inspection by a licensed certified electrical inspector. Mr. Baker added that electrical fires are a very serious hazard and can occur within the walls, spread, and go undetected. In a two-year period, according to the National Insurance Institute, there has been 26,000 electrical fires in the United States with 280 deaths. Mr. Baker noted that the city of Vermilion and the city of Amherst may want to reach out to their residents for any possible illegal electrical inspections performed by Mr. Kurtz as well. Trustee Hill asked how many electrical fires since Mr. Kurtz has been doing this has occurred. Mr. Baker answered he does not have that information. Trustee Hill asked if any residents complained. Mr. Baker stated that was what started the issue was a resident complaint about an electrical issue. Trustee Hill stated, in his opinion, this was a witch-hunt and you're not going to find any witches and if Mr. Kurtz did so much damage, why is the city of Vermilion still having him do their work and also where he is at now. Mr. Baker stated he was not speaking for other cities; he was only speaking for the township. Mr. Baker said you hired him to do the job, he investigated after receiving a complaint, and found sixty electrical inspections completed that Mr. Kurtz was not licensed to perform. Obviously, the Board of Building Standards feels the same way for them to put him on probation. He was not licensed to do electrical inspections. Trustee Hill asked if they explained everything to Mr. Baker as to why he was put on probation. Mr. Baker responded it was because he was not a licensed electrical inspector. Trustee Hill ended with, "Ok", that was not quite the story he got, but we'll end with that.

**VERMILION TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT:**

No report.

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NORTHERN OHIO RURAL WATER REPRESENTATIVE:

None present.

OLD BUSINESS:

Trustee Hill indicated he did not understand why the township had to hire a commercial inspector at a previous meeting. Mr. Hill stated he got onto the portal, and he looked at the permits and we have a cellular tower on Barnes Road that says the address is 7319 Barnes Road, and he was under the assumption that the cell tower was on township property not private property. Township Secretary explained the office staff was aware of the incorrect address that was submitted by a company through the portal. The company had been contacted three times with no response to date. The Township Secretary explained to Trustee Hill that if he had any questions, he could come to the office for clarification instead of having his office at the Road Department. Trustee Hill said not to worry where he goes. Township Secretary stated she has had complaints regarding that and asked if he had any more questions regarding the portal application. Trustee Dickel asked Trustee Hill if he had any more questions about the address. Trustee Hill stated he wouldn't want Erie County to assess his property on a cell phone tower and said it was a big issue. The Township Secretary asked if Trustee Hill noticed the permit was never issued and, therefore, marked pending. If there are any questions regarding permits, Trustee Hill was reminded to stop into the office where the documentation was in front of the staff and his questions could be answered.

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION BY C. Hill, second by C. Trinter authorizing Kelling Equipment to transport and repair the backhoe. Roll Call – C. Hill, yes; R. Dickel, yes; C. Trinter, yes; Motion Carried.

MOTION BY C. Hill, second by C. Trinter authorizing the Valley Ford dealership, in Huron to repair the 450 truck. Roll Call – C. Hill, yes; R. Dickel, yes; C. Trinter, yes; Motion Carried.

Trustee Trinter informed the Board that the Erie Regional Planning Commission meeting will be held on Thursday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:00 p.m. in Sandusky. There will be three speakers including Abbey Bemis from the Erie County Economic Development Corporation to review services offered by her office, Caleb Stidham, the new Erie County Treasurer will be discussing his vision for the future, and Jim Rokakis from the Western Reserve Land Conservancy's Thriving Communities Office who will be highlighting opportunities available to Ohio land banks.

MOTION BY R. Dickel, second by C. Trinter authorizing to apply for the Ohio Department of Transportation Township Stimulus Program Funding. The Board is considering the chip seal program. It's \$250,000.00 per program and the funding will be going through a rating system to determine if project is eligible. Roll Call – C. Hill, yes; R. Dickel, yes; C. Trinter, yes; Motion Carried.

Township Secretary had a resident request asking if the road crew could road mow according to how high the grass was rather than just sticking to the schedule. There was a lot of rain this year and he was wondering if they could possibly mow one extra time this year. The resident also asked if the township could post the road closing from the Erie County Highway Department. After the county

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was contacted, they forwarded their schedule which has been posted on the website. The 2021 resurfacing program will include the resurfacing of Darrow Road between Hahn Road and Barnes Road. Trustee Dickel noted the Board was also contacted by a resident asking the road crew not to road mow a certain area where milkweed was growing until after the Monarch butterfly season is over, but Trustee Dickel added they could take grass height into consideration.

Trustee Dickel stated they are working on the Ashmont Road Culvert and are pouring the foundation. They are on schedule to set the culverts on September 20<sup>th</sup>.

MOTION BY: R. Dickel, second by C. Hill to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:26 a.m. with no further business to discuss. Roll Call – C. Hill, yes; R. Dickel, yes; C. Trinter, yes; Motion Carried.

*Ronald Z. Dickel*

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Trustee

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Trustee

*Charles T. Trinter*

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Trustee

*Vina D. Karres*

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Township Secretary