

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of the Vermilion Township Board of Trustees' Regular Meeting

Held Wednesday November 1st, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Rodger Scott.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

The roll call resulted as follows: Mr. Carl Hill, Mr. Robert Kurtz & Mr. Rodger Scott were present.

Hill made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 4th, 2023 Trustee's Meeting. Kurtz seconded the motion. Hill, Kurtz & Scott voted to accept the motion. **20231101-01**

Hill made a motion to approve the treasury reports. Kurtz seconded the motion. Hill, Kurtz & Scott voted to accept the motion. **20231101-02**

Ninety-two bills/warrants totaling \$42,927.80 were submitted for payment. Kurtz made a motion to approve the warrants. Hill seconded the motion. Hill, Kurtz & Scott voted to accept the motion. **20231101-03**

Main Street Vermilion board member Fred Miggins spoke about the Lake Erie Shores & Islands Travel Guide. The township has contributed to the advertising for 10 years. Miggins asked the township for continued support as the advertising helps the township businesses. Scott made a motion to advertise in the LESI Travel guide for \$2500.00. Hill seconded the motion. Hill, Kurtz & Scott voted to accept the motion. **20231101-04**

Vermilion Township Fiscal Officer Stephanie Johnson stated the 2021-2 mandatory state audit is ongoing, locating some items has been a challenge. In October of 2022 Kim Arnold of KLA Consulting was at township facilities for a meeting, tour and inspection. KLA is the risk management and loss prevention branch of the Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority (OTARMA). OTARMA is the townships property and Liability insurance. Johnson gave copies of the list of recommendations that was received after the visit and read one section of the recommendations regarding the cameras. Johnson asked for the live stream to be removed. Kurtz agreed that live stream cameras can be hacked. Kurtz made a motion to remove the "live-stream" from the cameras. Scott seconded the motion. Hill, Kurtz & Scott voted to accept the motion. **20231101-05**

Vermilion Township Fire Chief Frank Triana reported runs for October & reports are submitted to the state. Runs included 60 EMS, 3 MVC, 1 dispatch OOZ, 1 power line fire, 1 M/A BTFD-missing person, 1 CO alarm, 1 public assist, 1 smoke in residence, 1 open burn, 2 commercial fire alarm. Triana thanked the Friends of Harbortown for their donation of \$500.00 to the scholarship Fund.

Eric Votruba of Cowboy Rocks and BBC Erosion Control stated because of previous work he did on Colonial Court, he gave an estimate to fix flooding issues that street was currently experiencing; but has not gotten the go-head. Kurtz clarified it was approved at the October meeting and apologized for no one contacting him.

Vermilion Township Road Crew Foreman Steve Young reported road striping is complete; railroad road markings were done in-house; end of year road mowing has started and snow plow trucks are being outfitted. He will attend the Erie County Asphalt Maintenance Workshop. Young recommended rehiring Mark Craig & William Meier as part-time, snow plow drivers for the 2023-2024 season at the same rate as last year of \$25.00. Scott made a motion to rehire Mark Craig & William Meier as seasonal snow plow drivers at \$25.00/hour. Kurtz seconded the motion. Hill, Kurtz & Scott voted to accept the motion.

20231101-06

Hill Thanked those who attended the Vermilion Township Candidates Night held at German's Villa on October 25th, 2023. Hill reported the (Erie County) Engineer has been met with regarding South Coen Road and South Cherry Road flooding issues. The Engineer will do a survey. Hill stated to the engineer he would like to get these roads addressed in the upcoming year. Scott asked when will the survey be done. Hill replied they were waiting for the leaves to be done falling.

Kurtz reported the federal and state EPA mandated upgrades to the city wastewater treatment plant will cost around \$70 million, meaning a 350% increase in user fees. The township has residents on this system. Vermilion City Council President John Gabriel asked the township for a letter of support in seeking grant opportunities. One condition of many grants is that it help other communities, this letter would do just that. Kurtz stated the letter is being reviewed by the prosecutor's office and any motion would be pending their approval. Kurtz read the proposed letter and added no township funds are involved. Hill stated 137 homes from Redwood will eventually be hooked into this system. Scott asked if township residents have a contract. Kurtz replied Erie County has a contract with the City of Vermilion; the contract expires in two years. When that expires, those residents will see the increases as well. Kurtz made a motion to provide a letter of support to seek grants for the wastewater plant improvements contingent on prosecutor's approval. Scott seconded the motion. Hill, Scott & Kurt voted to accept the motion. **20231101-07**

Scott talked about the proposed naming of a section of State Route 60 after Tim Russell. It is already in the State of Ohio General Assembly as SB 167, but a motion needed to be made for the letter of support from the trustees. Scott made a motion to sign a letter of support to rename a section of State Route 60 *Marine Corporal Tim W. Russell Highway*. Hill seconded the motion. Hill, Kurtz & Scott voted to accept the motion. **20231101-08**

Scott noted cameras were put in place for one incident involving the former Building & Zoning Inspector damaging a resident's sign. That resident then became belligerent with office staff. The trustees contacted Accurate Business Machines for cameras.

Scott opened the floor to residents.

Brain Novotny from State Street questioned Scott's complaints of his voting residence.

Marsha Funk from Portside Drive stated the trustees contacted her in 2021 for her support and guidance (as Brownhelm Township Fiscal Officer for 26 years & on the OTRAMA Board of 18 years). Then listed things some trustees had done inappropriately.

Joe Baxter from Coen Road asked what is the code for cemetery steps. Kurtz replied the building code does not apply. Baxter continued, stating there was dirt in a Coen Road ditch and asked about water and drainage issues on Coen and Cherry Roads. Young said he would look into it.

Don Rowe from Kneisel Road thanked the trustees for making the motion about the cameras. He thanked Marsha Funk for her words. Rowe asked about the last Vermilion Township Zoning Commission meeting regarding Redwood and how that relates to the water & sewer system issues.

Kenn Baughman of State Street stated he is happy about the removal of the live feed and that cameras should be moved to the hall. He yielded his time to Joe Baxter who also stated to remove the cameras. Baxter yielded his time to Tyler Ravis. Ravis said he see both sides of the camera issue.

Rob Dunn of Cherry Road asked how the trustees were handling the drainage issues on his property and expressed his disappointment. Hill stated the engineer will be surveying.

A resident of Cherry Road asked the trustees why they would let more building happen when they can't control the water and drainage issues with existing homes.

Scott made a motion to adjourn at 7:40pm. Hill seconded the motion. Hill, Kurtz & Scott voted to accept the motion.