

VERMILION TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES***Record of Proceedings
Minutes to Regular Meeting Held 4/21/21***

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 4/7/21 and special meeting held 4/13/21 and dispense with the reading of the minutes. Roll Call – C. Hill, yes; 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 4/20/21. 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 25178 through 25206 and payment vouchers 162-2021, 163-2021, 164-2021, 165-2021, 166-2021, 167-2021, 168-2021, 169-2021, 170-2021, 171-2021, 172-2021, 173-2021, 174-2021, 175-2021, 176-2021, 177-2021, 178-2021, 180-2021, 181-2021, 182-2021, 183-2021, 184-2021, 185-2021, 186-2021, 187-2021, 188-2021, 189-2021, 190-2021, 191-2021, 192-2021, 193-2021, 194-2021, 195-2021, 196-2021, 197-2021, 198-2021, 199-2021, 200-2021. Warrants and payment vouchers totaled \$138,743.66. Roll Call – C. Hill, yes; R. Dickel, yes; C. Trinter, yes; Motion Carried.

ROAD DEPARTMENT:

Steve Young, Road Foreman, reported on the following: Finished seeding Poorman Road; Equipment serviced for the summer season; and Potholes filled in back lot area of Township Building. Mr. Young mentioned getting rid of the leaf machine since they are no longer using it. Tom Lalonde, Road Crew completed the Ohio Pesticide training on-line and is certified for three years.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Longtime resident, Carolyn Hill was in attendance to voice her opinion that the attention to Cuddeback Cemetery is very necessary and feels the history within the township has not been taken care of as much as it should have been. Mrs. Hill asked if her email was received, the Board responded yes. Mrs. Hill was instrumental in having the historical Lester Pelton sign placed in Cuddeback Cemetery as past President of the Vermilion area Archival Society and feels it's important to take care of what we have.

SPEAKERS:

None present.

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CORRESPONDENCE:

No correspondence.

BUILDING OFFICIAL/ZONING INSPECTOR:

Building Official/Zoning Inspector, Robert Baker, felt it necessary to respond to an article that was in the Vermilion Photojournal to bring light to inaccuracies that were reported. Mr. Baker congratulated Mr. Kurtz, former Building Official on his new position, and from what he understands he's starting a new Building Department from the ground up and seems like a great opportunity for him. As far as the township losing any certifications of the building department, state certified, is totally inaccurate. Prior to his employment with the township, all plumbing inspections were completed by the county, because they do the inspections for the septic system. The electrical inspections have always been completed, by his understanding, through an outside electrical inspector. Mr. Kurtz, with all due respect, was not a certified electrical inspector. Very few guys are electrical inspectors. There are only about 12 in the state that are actually certified to do electrical inspections and be a Building Official or Building Commissioner. The only other deficiency that one could bring up is Commercial Inspections. Since Mr. Baker has been with the township, approximately six weeks, there has only been one commercial inspection that has come up and that was in the first part of February. Since we are almost going into May, one inspection in three months is not an issue since we have an outside source just like we have an outside source to do plumbing, electrical, and commercial inspections.

Mr. Baker indicated the Vermilion Photojournal reached out in a previous article, asking if we reached out for training from Mr. Kurtz as a former Building Official when it was mentioned about the computer system. No disrespect to Mr. Kurtz, he didn't know who set the system up, but the one and only conversation he had with Mr. Kurtz in the last 10-15 years was a two-minute conversation prior to starting with the township. Mr. Baker stated he assumed he is busy with his new job. "Even if he had reached out to me, if he did, I am unaware of it. I appreciate it if he did, but I probably wouldn't have accepted his input" because number one he has over 45 years in the construction trade. He also has training and background in computer science. He has worked as a Building Official in a city three times the size of Vermilion Township with an airport, mall, about ten times the amount of commercial property as Vermilion Township. It has a diversity issue that he couldn't begin to explain. They had 2 four-hundred-unit low-income housing where any type of inspection that was done, three of them went there together for a safety issue. They had a standing rule, if you had to drive through to see something, you did not get out of the car. So, when it comes to this position of Building Official for Vermilion Township, "When I say I got this, I really do." The fourth reason, from what he understood, Mr. Kurtz was a disgruntled employee. He didn't want to work here anymore. Mr. Baker didn't think it was prudent to start with an increased preconceived notion of the work atmosphere that he would be going into. So, he wanted to go into the job with a clean slate. Also addressed was the cell phone and a car. "Every modern Building Department today has a car for the inspector to drive around. Everyone in the room has a cell phone I'm sure." If he uses his cell phone on the job, and there is a situation legally the phone can be confiscated for evidence, so that's why the phone was provided to him.

Mr. Baker stated there had also been disparaging remarks and insinuations against the office personnel. He works with three wonderful, professional, hardworking ladies. Mrs. Bailey, BZA/Zoning Commission Secretary has the wealth, the knowledge, in regard to zoning. Mrs. Zsebk is the Fiscal Officer and searches every avenue to save the township money. In his opinion, he couldn't think of anyone better to manage the township's money. Mrs. Karres, Township Secretary is

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basically, the face of the township. She answers the phone, cheerfully greets the residents, does all the secretarial work, and anything the township needs she handles. Anyone that thinks her position is a part-time job really has no idea what she does. He said to come in, sit down in the chair and watch her for eight hours and see what she does. She is a college graduate, probably more educated than anybody in the room. She has worked here for over ten years, probably underpaid by five to six dollars an hour compared to any other position in the market. He said, as a previous employer, he would hire all three of them in a New York minute and he did not know any of them before he came to work at the township.

Mr. Baker continued to say that controversy sells newspapers and with three newspapers being within a fifteen-minute drive, he could see how the Photojournal, he means no disrespect, would want to stay relevant to stay afloat, because let's face it, paper is dead, it's going online. Mr. Baker also clarified the idea that it was a rocky transition. He wasn't sure what the rocky transition was because it wasn't from any of the personnel he works with. He hopes the Photojournal corrects the inaccuracies they have received from an anonymous person that obviously doesn't have the best interest of the township at heart.

VERMILION TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT:

No report.

NORTHERN OHIO RURAL WATER REPRESENTATIVE:

None present.

OLD BUSINESS:

Trustee Hill brought up getting started with the restoration of the cemetery. The Fiscal Officer stated at the last meeting, she needed dates.

MOTION BY C. Hill, second by R. Dickel authorizing volunteers to participate in the Cuddeback Cemetery Restoration Project starting in May 2021 through November 2021 only on weekends. All waivers must be signed prior to any work being completed. A township representative must be present onsite during all participation days. Township Secretary noted all procedures regarding necessary procedures/paperwork were based on recommendations given by the township's insurance representatives. Roll Call – C. Hill, yes; R. Dickel, yes; C. Trinter, yes; Motion Carried.

Trustee Hill asked the Board to authorize having another informational meeting regarding the Cuddeback Cemetery Restoration Project on-site or if inclement weather exists being able to utilize the Stanley Road garage bay on a Saturday to be determined.

MOTION BY C. Hill, second by C. Trinter authorizing to use the venue of the Stanley Road garage bay if there is inclement weather to hold an information meeting regarding the Cuddeback Restoration Project. Meeting to be announced. Roll Call – C. Hill, yes; R. Dickel, yes; C. Trinter, yes; Motion Carried.

Township Secretary stated it was reported to the township office that the outside flagpole was in need of repair. McQueen Sign Company was contacted, and they cleaned the threads on the halyard and on top of the flag pole and roped the flag pole. Mr. McQueen suggested an additional repair of

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installing a new truck assembly at the flagpole to fix the flagpole correctly at a cost of \$333.00. Trustee Hill requested more quotes be acquired. Mrs. Karres stated Harbortown Flag, Inc. was initially contacted, but they were unavailable at the time. A Sandusky Company was recommended, as well as McQueen Signs. The Board agreed to table to obtain more quotes.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Baker, Building Official/Zoning Inspector stated he appreciated the use of the car, but clarified it wasn't his car, it was the township car. There is a second set of keys, held by the Fiscal Officer, if the vehicle is needed for any other township business. They also discussed putting signage on the vehicle, "Vermilion Township" to clearly identify the vehicle. Mr. Baker indicated he had a sign cutter and vinyl at his house and volunteered his services and donation of red vinyl to letter the vehicle.

MOTION BY R. Dickel, second by C. Trinter accepting Mr. Baker, Building Official/Zoning Inspector's offer to put red vinyl lettering "Vermilion Township" on the new township vehicle free of charge. The Board thanked Mr. Baker for his donation and services. Roll Call – C. Hill, yes; R. Dickel, yes; C. Trinter, yes; Motion Carried.

Trustee Hill requested to revise the Employee Handbook Article III, Section 3.8 Overtime, page 14 to read, "All other overtime shall be considered as regular overtime and must be approved by two of the Trustees" rather than "All other overtime shall be considered as regular overtime and must be approved by one of the Trustees."

MOTION BY C. Hill, second by C. Trinter authorizing to revise the Employee Handbook Article III, Section 3.8 Overtime, page 14 to read, "All other overtime shall be considered as regular overtime and must be approved by two of the Trustees" rather than "All other overtime shall be considered as regular overtime and must be approved by one of the Trustees. Roll Call – C. Hill, yes; R. Dickel, yes; C. Trinter, yes; Motion Carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 27-21

Trustee Trinter announced the Erie Regional Planning Commission meeting scheduled for this week has been cancelled.

Reminder to residents that Spring Clean-up will be held on May 7th and 8th from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the 7325 Barnes Road location.

Trustee Dickel reported that Mike Metzger from Strawser Construction inspected the township roads that they were going to onyx to make sure everything was acceptable to do that. Mr. Metzger stated the roads were fine to go ahead. Trustee Dickel stated they also inspected other roads that might be on the maintenance schedule for next year. Mr. Metzger stated he would be happy to come back in the fall and inspect other roads to determine what needs to be completed. Mr. Metzger stated he would be getting back with the Township regarding an estimate. Trustee Trinter asked if the township was working directly with Strawser Construction this year. Trustee Dickel clarified that the county is not bidding anything out this year other than striping so the township is working directly with Strawser Construction.

Trustee Hill asked about the boundaries at Cuddeback Cemetery which were discussed at the last meeting and asked if Mike Farrell was going to survey the area or should a different surveyor be contacted. Trustee Dickel recommended the Board go out and locate the property pins. He discussed the issue with Mr. Mike Farrell who stated pins were placed when the area was surveyed last by Dave Williams and that they just need to be located.

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Discussion ensued about selling the Leaf Machine "as is" for parts. The motor appears to be in good shape, but the rest of the machine is shot and too old to try and repair.

MOTION BY R. Dickel, second by C. Hill authorizing to put the Leaf Machine for sale "as is" condition to the highest responsible bidder (Trustee Hill will put on Facebook Marketplace). Sealed offers will be accepted through Tuesday, June 15, 2021 until 1:00 p.m. Roll Call – C. Hill, yes; R. Dickel, yes; C. Trinter, yes; Motion Carried.

Trustee Dickel discussed the quotes that were obtained by Trustee Hill for concrete regarding the new maintenance building. He indicated that the quotes did not have the same specifications (different thicknesses in concrete); therefore, the estimates could not be voted on. After discussion it was determined new estimates need to be obtained with the same specifications. Trustee Hill stated he would follow-up and get the three estimates in writing. Trustee Dickel advised to determine exactly what the Board wants to concrete. Due to an 8" drop, they discussed doing the whole front, going all the way across to make it uniform.

MOTION BY R. Dickel, second by C. Hill authorizing to add the old west building 76' x 8', 6 inches thick including the new building (already voted on) 27.5' x 11', 6 inches thick (new office building) and 8 Roll Call – C. Hill, yes; R. Dickel, yes; C. Trinter, yes; Motion Carried.

MOTION BY: R. Dickel, second by C. Trinter to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:45 a.m. with no further business to discuss. Roll Call – C. Hill, yes; R. Dickel, yes; C. Trinter, yes; Motion Carried.

Ronald T. Dickel

Trustee

Carl Hill

Trustee

Charles T. Trinter

Trustee

Tina J. Karres

Township Secretary