

Clinton Township Board of Trustees – Regular Meeting  
December 18, 2023 – 7:00 p.m.

All Board members answered roll call – Trustee Dan Schmitz, Trustee Dennis Baugher, Trustee Jim Distel, and Fiscal Officer Jennifer Bates.

Guests: Steve Welter, Chris Hafley, Dennis Wilkinson, Denny Moyer, Randy Kuhn, and Ray Bishop.

Correspondence: OTARMA – newsletter, OSS Solid Waste District – holiday recycling collection schedule, Seneca County Engineer – driveway permit, ODOT – mileage certification

The minutes of the regular meeting held December 4, 2023 were read and approved.

At the Fiscal Officer's request, Trustee Distel made a motion to make an appropriations transfer of \$500.00 in the General Fund from 1000-760-740-0000 Machinery, Equipment and Furniture to 1000-110-211-000 Ohio Public Employees Retirement System for the purpose of covering the remaining liability for 2023. This was seconded by Trustee Baugher. Mr. Schmitz – yes, Mr. Distel – yes, Mr. Baugher – yes.

Trustee Baugher motions to make an appropriation transfer of \$7,500.00 from the Special Levy (Fire) Fund for the purpose of making the \$7,500.00 annual transfer into the Permanent Improvement Fund. (From 2191-910-910 Transfers-Out to 4301-931-000 Transfers- In) This was seconded by Trustee Distel. Mr. Schmitz – yes, Mr. Distel – yes, Mr. Baugher – yes.

Assistant Chief Denny Wilkinson thanked the Board for supporting the fire department this year. He thanked Trustee Baugher who is retiring and says he did a lot for the township and the fire department and he will be missed.

Denny Moyer thanked Trustee Baugher for all of his years of service and all he has done over the years.

Fire Chief Chris Hafley also thanked Trustee Baugher. He reports that we are up 19 runs from last year-to-date. He says they are working on a worksheet that the Assistance to Firefighters Grant sent out to collect information and Fiscal Officer Bates completed the budget information needed. He also reports that earlier in the year they received a \$2,975 EMS grant from the Ohio Department of Public Safety. He spent that on a new AED unit to replace their 10-year-old unit, an AED trainer, and 4 infant CPR mannequins. He hopes that the 2024 budget will allow them to purchase 4 adult mannequins they can use to train firefighters, their wives, and possibly offer a public CPR class to township residents.

Chief Hafley reports that the fire department held their annual Christmas party and had a great turn-out. Also, Don Henney has been working with Tesla and they are going to put on a 4-hour training webinar on February 28<sup>th</sup> from 6-10pm in our name about the electrical and charging system on Teslas. There is going to be a huge turn-out, including firefighters from Columbus.

Chief Hafley says Eden Township called him again about fire coverage and he told them he is waiting on County Auditor Julie Adkins to give us information. Sycamore Fire is covering them for 2024 and they reportedly negotiated them down to \$60,000.

Incoming trustee Randy Kuhn says he may not always be available for snow coverage and Trustee Schmitz says he and Trustee Distel can cover it, and just to let them know when he is not available.

Ray Bishop asks if Micah Kirchner paid us back for his training. Chief Hafley says he spoke to Prosecutor Derek Devine who is going to send a letter asking for payment and if he does not respond it will go to small claims court in January.

Trustee Baugher says he talked to Chuck Clouse who says Kohler came and ran the generator through tests and it passed and is currently online. He also says they will hopefully get to the overhead phone wire soon.

Trustee Distel says he thinks we should put a pole or a big rock by the generator so it doesn't get hit by someone driving around the building. He also says he received a complaint about TR 155 saying the guardrails are too narrow for farm equipment. He spoke to Dave at the county engineer's office who says there are no width requirements and that if it is too narrow for farm equipment the farmers will need to go around or breakdown their equipment to fit. He also says there is nothing we can do to widen it because of the drop-offs.

Trustee Distel spoke to Jeff Hohman about the zoning inspector position opening up in April and he is interested in doing it. He also made some phone calls to candidates about the Zoning Commission opening and says Jim Fruth would like to offer his services. He says if an issue involving one of his clients came up, he would have to bow out.

Trustee Distel says Joe Worland called and does not have our insurance renewal yet. He will come to one of our meetings as soon as it is available.

Trustee Distel says our organizational meeting is scheduled for January 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:00am and our regular meetings are currently every other Monday at 7:00pm. He asks if we want to delay our January 1, 2024 regular meeting to January 2, 2024 at 6:00pm and the Board agreed. Trustee Distel made the motion and Trustee Schmitz seconded. Mr. Schmitz – yes, Mr. Distel – yes, Mr. Baugher – yes. Fiscal Officer Bates will get it advertised.

Trustee Distel says at the December township association meeting they said they are working on legislation that would eliminate the need to advertise in the newspaper because newspapers are not very prominent anymore and it is expensive for townships to publish legal notices. If passed, the legislation would allow townships to post notice on their website or Facebook page instead of publishing in the newspaper.

Regarding the crack-fill machine, Trustee Distel asks what Scipio Township owes us for its usage since we did not use their durapatch machine. Trustee Baugher says they agreed on \$15/hour when they discussed the trade agreement.

Trustee Distel made a motion to accept the ODOT mileage certification of 34.422 miles as of December 31, 2023. This was seconded by Trustee Schmitz. Mr. Schmitz – yes, Mr. Distel – yes, Mr. Baugher – yes.

The Board discussed the township newsletter and Trustee Distel would like to recognize Trustee Baugher's many years of service as a trustee and volunteer firefighter. He would also like to thank Fiscal Officer Bates for her time, announce Steve Welter's transition to fiscal officer, and introduce Randy Kuhn as trustee. He also thinks we should discuss the completion of the building and the success of the open house. Trustee Schmitz says we should also discuss the growth of the fire department staff. Trustee Distel says he was impressed at their fire meeting and it is a good-looking group.

Trustee Distel made a motion to appoint Jim Fruth to the unexpired portion of Kenny Estep's term on the Zoning Commission ending on March 2, 2025, seconded by Trustee Schmitz. Mr. Schmitz – yes, Mr. Distel – yes, Mr. Baugher – yes.

Ray Bishop asks if the zoning inspector position needs to be advertised since it is a paid position and Zoning Inspector Welter says when he was hired someone had checked with Prosecutor Derek Devine and he said it did not need to be advertised.

Trustee Schmitz says we need to get tires for the pick-up truck. Trustee Distel agrees and says we usually buy them through Wilson Tire on state bid.

Ray Bishop asks if the HVAC at station #2 has been decided yet. Trustee Distel asks if we ever got the other estimate and Trustee Baugher says we got an estimate from Tongs and Tim Dundore is not interested in quoting it.

Trustee Baugher asks if the Board read the October Grassroots Clippings and pointed out a section saying the trustees are responsible for knowing the policies and procedures established, should know their limitations of power and cannot act alone, and understand Ohio's open meetings, public records, and ethics laws. He reiterated that he did not agree with how the situation with Fred and Eric Bishop was handled. Trustee Distel says the Board agreed what needed to be done and Trustee Baugher says he did not agree with how it was handled. Trustee Baugher says the Bishop family has done a lot of good things for the fire department and Trustee Distel agreed.

Bills were presented to be paid:

13089	Christopher Hafley	wages	\$284.30
13090	Andrew Kimmet	wages	\$1296.08
13091	Stephen Welter	wages	\$242.40
13092	Dennis Wilkinson	wages	\$45.00
13093	Jeff Kuhn	Zoning Board of Appeals meetings	\$70.00
13094	Jeff Hoepf	Zoning Board of Appeals meetings	\$70.00
13095	Clair Forrest, Jr.	Zoning Board of Appeals meetings	\$70.00
13096	Mike Landers	Zoning Board of Appeals meetings	\$50.00
13097	Gary Cole	Zoning Board of Appeals meetings, postage	\$354.97
13098	Aqua OH	station #2, fire hydrant service	\$27.22
13099	Columbia Gas of Ohio	station #2	\$90.88
13100	Rumpke of Ohio Inc.	monthly trash service	\$57.66
13101	Colonial Life	accident & disability insurance policies	\$137.88
13102	Great Lakes ACE Hardware	supplies	\$25.97
13103	Central Ohio Farmers Co-op	fuel	\$1852.56
13104	Ag-Pro Ohio LLC	parts	\$6.24
13105	Dan Schmitz	epoxy	\$26.79
13106	Clinton Volunteer Fire Dept.	flood lights for Rescue #34	\$339.98
13107	Ohio Fire Chief's Association	membership dues	\$100.00
13108	Samuel Allen	wages	\$82.66
13109	Alexander Kear	wages	\$102.05
13110	Weston Wuescher	wages	\$277.62
13111	Grant Kneeskern	Zoning Commission meetings	\$50.00
13112	Tony Monaco	Zoning Commission meetings	\$20.00
13113	Daryl Moyer	Zoning Commission meetings	\$20.00
13114	Ken Estep	Zoning Commission meetings	\$20.00
13115	Gary Solomon	Zoning Commission meetings	\$10.00
83-2023	Bureau of Worker's Compensation	2024 estimated premium	\$3020.00

There being no other business to come before the Board at this time, Trustee Distel made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:59 p.m., seconded by Trustee Schmitz. Mr. Schmitz – yes, Mr. Distel – yes, Mr. Baugher – yes.

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Dan Schmitz, Ch., Trustee

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Jim Distel, Trustee

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Randy Kuhn, Trustee

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Jennifer Bates, Fiscal Officer