

**TWIN TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES, ROSS COUNTY, OHIO**  
**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF FEBRUARY 7, 2023**  
**MEETING LOCATION: 11474 KERAN ST., BOURNEVILLE, OHIO**

President Michael Whitt called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

***ROLL CALL***

Officials present at roll call were: President Michael Whitt, Vice-President Michael Darbyshire, Trustee Bryan Bethel, and Fiscal Officer William Jones.. Others present: Fire Chief Marty Johnson, Shaun Allen, Jackie Johnson and Caleb Swepston. Chris Benson entered the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Mr. Whitt stated the purpose of the special meeting was to consider personnel issues and to conduct any other business that can be legally brought before the Board of Trustees.

**Motion** by Mr. Bethel and second by Mr. Whitt to approve the minutes from the previous meeting and accept the agenda as presented. All voted yes. **Motion** passed.

**Motion** by Mr. Darbyshire and second by Mr. Whitt to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of considering the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion or compensation of a public employee, as permitted in O.R.C. Remaining in Executive Session with the Trustees was the Fiscal Officer. Executive Session began at 6:05 p.m. Fire Chief Marty Johnson entered at 6:35 p.m. and exited at 7:30 p.m. Caleb Swepston, Fire Department member, entered the meeting without invitation at 7:30, made a derogatory comment to the Trustees and exited at 7:30 p.m. Jackie Johnson entered at 7:30 p.m. and exited at 7:50 p.m. Shaun Allen entered at 7:52 p.m. and exited at 8:30 p.m. at which time the regular meeting resumed.

**Motion** to accept the financial report by Mr. Bethel. Seconded by Mr. Whitt. All voted yes. **Motion** passed.

Paving plan for 2023 was discussed. **Motion** by Mr. Bethel to approve spot paving on Hurless, MacDonald Hill, Poplar Ridge, and Scott Roads at a cost not to exceed \$60,000 and submit the statement of cooperation for paving to the Ross County Engineer. Second by Mr. Darbyshire. All voted yes. **Motion** passed.

Mr. Darbyshire asked permission from the Board to contact area townships to join together in petitioning our state and federal representatives to allow a portion of the federal infrastructure funds to pass to local governments for use in needed services to the individual communities. **Motion** to approve by Mr. Bethel and seconded by Mr. Whitt. All voted yes. **Motion** passed.

Fire Chief reported that the Ross County Fire Association meeting for this month will be at the Twin Township Fire House on February 20, 2023. **Motion** by Mr. Darbyshire and second by Mr. Whitt to approve funds up to \$250 for purchase of food and drinks for the meeting. All voted yes. **Motion** passed.

Decision to appoint the Fire Chief and Fire Captain for the two year term of 2023 and 2024 will be discussed at the next regular meeting.

**Motion** by Mr. Darbyshire and second by Mr. Whitt:

Addendum to the new EMS contracts entered into with Scioto, Huntington Townships, and the Village of Bainbridge.

Re: Vehicle accidents resulting in the tone being dropped for EMS services needed.

It is hereby adopted that any tone drops for the above mentioned situation be handled by the entity whereas is within their coverage area where the crash occurs.

It is standard procedure that the entity that responds also have a fire apparatus respond as well. This allows equipment such as the jaws of life to be available, if needed. This process entails an additional vehicle and therefore the entity should be compensated.

The Twin Township Board of Trustees agree to compensate \$100 per occurrence for this service. It is also adopted that the tone be dropped for the services of the Twin Township Fire Department for accidents within the Township. The scene commander concerning the Fire Department will be determined by the Department that arrives first at the scene, as per established protocol. Obviously where EMS service is needed the scene commander will be the highest-ranking member of the Squad until they leave the scene. All voted yes. **Motion** passed.

The Trustees discussed and clarified with the Fire Chief the protocol when a motor vehicle accident occurs in Twin Township in regard to the Twin Fire Department. The Fire Chief is also directed to contact the Medical Director regarding status of EMS personnel in Twin Township, and also the township's drug license, now that the EMS department has been indefinitely terminated.

**Motion** by Mr. Darbyshire to discipline the Fire Chief due to insubordination, i.e. not following directives of the Twin Township Trustees. Specific examples are included in the document labeled 'Exhibit A' attached to the minutes. Seconded by Mr. Whitt. All voted yes. **Motion** passed.

**Motion** by Mr. Whitt to issue a written letter of reprimand to Fire Chief Marty Johnson due to insubordination. The Fire Chief is so directed to report back to the Trustees at the next regular meeting as to how he intends to improve his performance in this regard going forward in respect to working with the Trustees in a more cooperative manner. **Motion** seconded by Mr. Bethel. All voted yes. **Motion** passed.

**Motion** by Mr. Bethel to adjourn. Second by Mr. Whitt. All voted yes. **Motion** passed. 9:30 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 2/7/23 TWIN TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES MEETING:

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Michael Whitt, President

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Michael Darbyshire, Vice-President

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Bryan Bethel, Trustee

## EXHIBIT A

February 7, 2023

Marty Johnson Twin Township Fire Chief

Re: Conduct, that results in Charges of Insubordination

**1. December 12,2022 Trustee Meeting**

On or about the date indicated above at the monthly Trustee meeting the subject of turnout gear for Mike Norman was discussed. Mr. Norman indicated that the chief Mr. Marty had not assigned the proper turnout gear with a functioning radio. Trustee Bethel wrote the specific issues ,and this was given to Chief Johnson with specific direction that he personally was to contact Mr. Norman and meet with him and abate this issue.

**2. January 9,2023 Trustee Meeting**

On or about the date indicated above at the monthly Trustee meeting the Board asked if Chief Johnson had contacted Mr. Norman concerning the issue of turnout gear. He indicated he had been mistaken about what he was ordered to do, consequently resulting in him not performing the task the Board had ordered for him to perform. He then was given a direct order to meet personally with Mr. Norman and abate the turnout gear issue. Mr. Norman attended a Fire/EMS meeting on or about January 21, 2023. During the meeting Mr. Johnson assigned a couple of members to abate the turnout gear issue. That is not what he was directed to do.

**3. January 9,2023 Trustee Meeting**

On or about the date indicated above at the monthly Trustee meeting the new direction for EMS service was discussed. The Board thoroughly discussed the direction of EMS with Chief Johnson. The Board has attempted many recommended changes by Chief Johnson with no success. The EMS for Twin Township had 356 tone drops in 2022 and responded to 20 calls. Not only is this embarrassing but places the health of all our residents in jeopardy. Mr. Johnson was directed that he was to support this decision and share the decision with the members. Mr. Johnson agreed that he would support the new EMS coverage even though he did not agree with the agreements the Board had entered with adjacent Townships and the village of Bainbridge. Mr. Johnson falls under the prevue of the Trustees of Twin Township. Even if he does not agree he was ordered to support the Boards' decision to which he agreed. He then sent a correspondence to the Board members indicating a new plan he had concocted. He also made it clear that he was not supporting the Board.

**4. On or about January 21, 2023 Chief Johnson met with the members to inform them of the plan the Board was implementing beginning February 1, 2023. During the meeting he not only failed to support the new EMS plan but talked negatively concerning the plan. There were many untrue comments made by members of the Department that Chief Johnson failed to correct. He also made comments that were not correct.**