

TWIN TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES, ROSS COUNTY, OHIO
MINUTES OF MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 9, 2024
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 Assistant Fiscal Officer William Jones. Also present were Fire Chief Marty Johnson, fire department members Adam Ball, Melissa Ball, Corey Ray, Chris Benson and township resident Wes Spradlin.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Reading of the minutes of the previous meeting was waived.

Motion by Mr. Whitt and seconded by Mr. Darbyshire to approve the minutes as presented and also the agenda as presented. All voted yes. Motion passed.

Motion by Mr. Whitt and seconded by Mr. Darbyshire to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussion of personnel issues. All voted yes. Motion passed. Remaining in Executive Session with the Trustees was the Fiscal Officer Assistant William Jones. Executive Session began at 6:02 p.m. Fire Chief Marty Johnson entered the Executive Session at 6:20 p.m. Executive Session ended at 7:00 p.m.

FINANCIAL

Motion by Mr. Whitt and seconded by Mr. Darbyshire to approve:

- a) Payment of bills as presented
 - b) Purchase Orders and blanket certificates as presented
 - c) Payment of bills since previous meeting as presented
 - d) New Amended Certificate of Resources as presented
 - e) Acceptance of “Rates and Amounts” for 2025 tax Budget as determined by the Ross County Budget Commission and certify such to the Ross County Auditor
 - f) Send notice to Ross County Auditor that no change is needed to amounts collected for 2025 for street light assessments in the route 28 and 50 sub-divisions at the east end of the township
 - g) Sign post-audit letter for completion of 2022-2023 township audit by J.L. Uhrig and Associates.
- All voted yes. Motion passed.

CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATION

Mr. Bethel is still working with Paul Corcoran to get the over-hanging trees and tree limbs removed from Schlegel Road. Mr. Bethel also reported that the sign for Baker Road has been knocked down. Road employees will fix it.

Mr. Darbyshire said that a street light has been reported out at Lana Lane. Assistant Fiscal Officer stated this is the 3rd time this year this light has been reported out, and that someone may be “shooting” it out. The Assistant Fiscal Officer said he would call AEP to get it replaced.

Mr. Darbyshire asked the Trustees to consider hiring a person part-time to do clean-up around the road garage yard area and the salt building area, such as weed-eating and picking up refuse. He recommends

Lakota Condiff for this part-time job. Motion to accept by Mr. Darbyshire and second by Mr. Whitt. All voted yes. Motion passed.

Also, Dylan Estep will be contacted to see if he will give a cost estimate of painting the exposed wood siding of the road garage and other painting as needed.

OLD BUSINESS

Cemetery Hedges/Fence: the hedges have been removed and the company installing the fence will begin soon.

Fire House Roof: check has been received from insurance and Fiscal Officer is waiting on final bill from installation company.

Signs On Cropp: Mr. Darbyshire said the “slow children” sign on Cropp Street will be relocated.

Diamond Lane and Bourneville House: emails were shared to the Trustees from Ross County officials regarding these properties. Trustees questioned why 20 Diamond Lane was allowed to be sold without the payment of back taxes and fees. Ross County officials to be contacted.

Grader and Roller: Brad Cozena will post these items on “Govdeals.com” to try to sell them for the township.

Mower: Boom mower is being installed on township tractor by Motrim in Cambridge, Ohio.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT

Chris Benson was present and requested to be placed back on the Fire Department as an active volunteer member. **Motion** by Mr. Darbyshire and seconded by Mr. Bethel to re-instate him. All voted yes. Motion passed.

Adam Ball requested permission to apply for a grant to help off-set cost of up-grading the Fire Department’s hydraulic tools. **Motion** by Mr. Darbyshire and seconded by Mr. Bethel to approve. All voted yes. Motion passed.

Fire Chief Marty Johnson reported that there were 6 fire calls the previous month, and the department responded to 3.

The Chief requested the parking blocks be placed back on the parking lot at the fire house.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Whitt and Mr. Darbyshire are to complete the “Fraud Training” required by the state of Ohio. Mr. Bethel has already done so.

Motion by Mr. Bethel and second by Mr. Whitt to request the Ross County Commissioners appoint township resident Sam Dennis as the township’s representative to the Pleasant Valley Sewer District for the 3-year term of office starting November 1, 2024. All voted yes. Motion passed.

There was discussion regarding the need for more volunteers for the fire department, and the need for current members to be available to respond to emergency fire calls and also mutual aid calls from surrounding townships.

In an effort to achieve the above goals, **motion** by Mr. Darbyshire and second by Mr. Bethel to approve the following:

1. Fire Chief shall institute a “schedule calendar” which will indicate the days and times when Fire Department members will be available “on call” if there is a 911 call for the fire department.
2. By November 1, 2024, the Fire Chief shall have added 5 members to the fire department roster.
3. Coverage of fire runs for the township will be recorded by the Fire Chief and the data reviewed by the Trustees for the period beginning 9/10/24 through 11/1/24.
4. An effort will be made to increase Mutual Aid assistance to neighboring departments during the period 9/10/24 through 11/1/24.

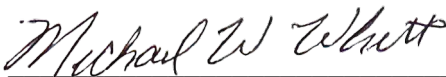
The above 4 items will be reviewed by the Trustees at the November, 2024 Trustees meeting. Based upon the results, further action may be taken to increase fire protection for the residents of Twin Township. All voted yes. Motion passed.

Mr. Bethel encouraged fire members present and asked the fire chief to relay to all members: ask employer if they are permitted to respond to 911 calls as volunteers while on their way to or at their place of employment, and still be paid at their regular rate as if they were on the job.

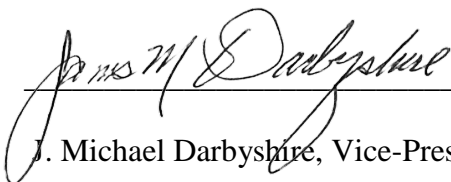
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Wes Spradlin spoke regarding concerns he had with lack of coverage by Twin Township Fire Department. He also asked why he has not received his public records as requested. The Trustees responded that they are in contact with the township’s legal counsel, and the request will be considered after meeting with the legal counsel in person to review the records requested for release. Mr. Spradlin began directing critical comments to the Fire Chief regarding the structure fire that occurred in Bourneville the previous month. Mr. Darbyshire stopped the comments and directed Mr. Spradlin to address the Board members only.

Motion by Mr. Bethel and seconded by Mr. Darbyshire to adjourn meeting. All voted yes. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m..



Michael Whitt, President



J. Michael Darbyshire, Vice-President



Bryan Bethel, Trustee-at-Large