

TWIN TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES, ROSS COUNTY, OHIO
MINUTES OF MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 13, 2021
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, and Fiscal Officer William Jones. Trustee Bryan Bethel was absent.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Reading of the minutes of the previous meeting was waived.

RESOLUTION 2021-09-13-01: *Motion* was made 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.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

none

CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATION

1. Mr. Whitt and Mr. Darbyshire reported that they had received phone calls from residents concerned about the lack of response from the EMS department for 911 calls.
2. The Fiscal Officer reported that the Health Department is holding a special meeting on Thursday for all Township officers to ask for their support for the up-coming levy renewal. **RESOLUTION 2021-09-13-02**: Motion by Mr. Darbyshire and Second by Mr. Whitt that Twin Township supports the up-coming levy renewal of the Ross County Health District and encourages all voters to support the levy. All voted yes. motion passed.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT

Fire Chief Marty Johnson gave the report.

1. “grain bin” rescue training will be held for the department members on September 25, 2021.
2. Mr. Darbyshire asked the Fire Chief to provide copies of the written reprimands to members. The Fire Chief said he had them but forgot to bring them to the meeting, but will bring them to the next meeting.
3. Mr. Darbyshire also asked the Fire Chief if he had met with the Assistant Fire Chief regarding communication issues between them. He said that he had met with him.

At 6:40 p.m. the following Fire Department members entered the meeting: Shawn Allen, Brandi Adams, Adam Ball, Melissa Weaver, Kenny Bare, Brady Jamison, Shelby Jamison, and Chris Benson. They declared that they were in attendance to speak as part of the Public Participation portion of the meeting.

Mr. Whitt asked if they were speaking as members of the general public, or as members of the Twin Township Fire and EMS Departments. It was decided that they were speaking as members of the department, and as such, their comments would be included as part of the Fire Chief’s report, as the Fire Chief made no objections to their interruption of the meeting.

The Trustees explained to the members present that addressing the Trustees in this manner was a violation of the current Standard Operating Guidelines, which stipulates that department issues are to be handled through the chain of command. This was explained in a memo dated April 8, 2021, sent to the Fire Chief from the Trustees with instructions to send a copy to all members. The members present chose to ignore the memo.

The members present proceeded to complain to the Trustees about specific department matters, such as how the recent election of officers was held by mail-in nominations and voting. Shawn Allen said he did not receive a nominating form in the mail, nor a ballot to vote. The Fiscal Officer said he sent the forms to the address provided to him by the Fire Chief, which was 839 Flat Road. Shawn said he had moved to Harris Station Road. That is perhaps why he did not receive the forms.

Some members present said they did not participate in the nominating or election process, even though the Fire Chief told them to do so. They had the option to return the forms without nominating or voting for any members, which would have indicated that they had participated in the process. The Trustees told

members present that those currently serving as administrative officers had received the highest number of votes from members, and had been appointed with the approval of the Fire Chief.

Ken Bare said he was serving as Fire Training Officer, but said he had not offered any training to members since February, 2021 because he objected to certain members who were serving as administrative officers. The Trustees told him this was a violation of the requirements of a township fire department, and by not offering training opportunities he was putting all members and the community at risk.

Another complaint from Melissa Weaver and Adam Ball was that the top four administrative officers had to live in the township, and they believed that was discriminating to them. They reside in Massieville, outside the township. Current Standard Operating Guidelines require that the following four officer positions be staffed by a person residing in Twin Township: Fire Chief, Assistant Fire Chief, Fire Captain, Squad Captain.

Fire Department member Shelby Jamison told the Trustees that if a member of his family was hurt and needed the Squad to respond and they did not do so, he would hold the Trustees accountable and they would be dealt with accordingly. Mr. Jamison then said, "Do you think it's a coincidence that the Squad has not been operating in the last 4 months?", implying that this was the fault of the Trustees that EMS personnel were not responding to 911 calls in the township. Mr. Whitt told Mr. Jamison and also Mr. Benson that they were addressing the Trustees in a threatening and belligerent manner and that this was not acceptable.

After all members had an opportunity to express their concerns, the Trustees told the members present that department issues would be handled through the Fire Chief as outlined in the department's Standard Operating Guidelines. The members left the meeting at 7:28 p.m.

FINANCIAL

RESOLUTION 2021-09-13-03:

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

- a) payment of bills as presented
- b) Purchase Orders and blanket certificates as presented
- c) supplemental appropriations as presented

All voted yes. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION 2021-09-13-04:

Motion by Mr. Dabyshire and second by Mr. Whitt to schedule the paving of Flat Road as the paving project for 2022, using local and state Issue 1 funds to pay for the project. The Twin Township Board of Trustees, Ross County, Ohio, is further authorizing the office of the Ross County Engineer to enter into any agreements as may be necessary and appropriate (including O.P.W.C. Issue 1 Funds), for obtaining this financial assistance. All voted yes. Motion passed.

RESOLUTION 2021-09-13-05:

Motion by Mr. Dabyshire and second by Mr. Whitt to approve a change to the monument placement form to allow the township employee up to two weeks to mark off location of monument placements as requested by monument companies. All voted yes. Motion passed.

The Trustees discussed potential uses of American Rescue Plan Funds. Some of the ideas discussed were:

- A stand-by generator for the Fire House in case of a power outage in the township.
- Donations to any group homes in the township
- Donations to food bank programs that serve township residents
- Improve the broadband capacity at the fire house
- Pavement of the fire house parking lot
- Donations to the Paint Valley School System

Mr. Whitt stated that he is calling for a Special Meeting for Wednesday, September 22, 2021, beginning at 6:00 p.m. to be held at the township garage. Purpose of the meeting will be to continue revision and approval of the Twin Township Fire Department Standard Operating Guidelines and to conduct any business that can legally come before the Trustees.

Motion by Mr. Darbyshire and seconded by Mr. Whitt to adjourn the current meeting. All voted yes. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 9/13/21 TWIN TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES MEETING:

Michael Whitt, President

Michael Darbyshire, Vice-President

Bryan Bethel, Trustee