

**TWIN TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES, ROSS COUNTY, OHIO**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING OF MARCH 8, 2021**  
**MEETING LOCATION: VIRTUAL DUE TO COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS (ZOOM)**

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. Also present was Fire Chief Marty Johnson.

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Reading of the minutes of the previous meeting was waived.

**RESOLUTION 2021-03-08-01: Motion** was made by Mr. Whitt and seconded by Mr. Bethel to approve the minutes as presented and also the agenda as presented. All voted yes. Motion passed.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

none

**FIRE CHIEF REPORT**

Fire Chief Marty Johnson gave the report.

1. He is still getting price quotes on a new drone for department use on emergencies. Price of one with infra-red capabilities is close to \$10,000. Mr. Bethel stated that even though the price is high, an infra-red drone would be very valuable finding someone lost at night, or on the waterway. This will be discussed later when more pricing is presented to the Trustees for purchase consideration.
2. The Hays Company has completed the servicing of the township vehicles.
3. The HVAC zoning project has been completed by Accurate Company. The Fire Chief will check on the pricing of installing a door that can be raised and lowered to accommodate the zoning.
4. Mr. Darbyshire read a text he received from Fire Department member George Jenkins. Mr. Jenkins will be resigning from the department effective March 12, 2021, due to medical issues. The Fire Chief will discuss with Mr. Jenkins the possibility of going on in-active status instead of resigning.
5. The voting for fire/EMS officers was reviewed. Out of 20 members eligible to vote, there were 11 ballots returned. Since this did not meet the 75% threshold to qualify as a member-voted election, the Trustees decided to review those ballots that were returned, and make appointments to the positions, using the ballots returned as a guide. The following members were recommended to the positions listed by the Trustees with input from the Fire Chief:

Assistant Fire Chief: Roger Smithson, Jr.  
Fire Captain: Kenny Oyer  
Squad Captain: Teresa Smithson  
Fire Training Officer: Kenny Bare  
Fire Equipment Officer: Chris Benson  
Squad Training Officer: Allison Ray  
Squad Equipment and Supply Officer: Melissa Weaver  
Maintenance Officer: Caleb Swepston  
Communications Officer: Brady Jamison

**Motion** to accept the above officers for 2021 by Mr. Darbyshire and seconded by Mr. Whitt. All voted yes. Motion passed.

**CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATION**

1. Mr. Bethel reported there was too much gravel on Kerr Hill, making it difficult for vehicles to travel. This will be graded by the township to improve traction.
2. Mr. Bethel discussed the possibility of purchasing a 6-way blade to help with road maintenance. During discussion, the Trustees felt this could be accomplished with the current grader, which needs some repairs done to it, which they all agreed to have done.
3. Upcoming meetings affecting the township were discussed. Mr. Darbyshire and Mr. Whitt plan to attend the CDBG funding meeting at the Ross County Service Center on March 24, 2021, beginning at 10:00 p.m. The Ross County Health District Advisory Council is holding their annual meeting on March 25, 2021, beginning at 6:00 p.m. Attendees can meet in person or by "zoom".

**FINANCIAL**

**RESOLUTION 2021-3-8-02:**

**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
- d) 2021 permanent appropriations as presented.

All voted yes. Motion passed.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Darbyshire has been in contact with the Highland Nature Sanctuary regarding installation of a vehicle turn-around at the end of Spruce Hill. It is needed for road maintenance for township trucks. The representative from the Sanctuary is reluctant to agree to a turn-around as he felt it might damage the natural environment. A resident on the road said they could create a turn-around on his property, but the Trustees were concerned that vehicles may end up being parked there and would not be able to be used when needed. Mr. Darbyshire said he would contact the Sanctuary Representative again to see if something can be worked out with them.

The culvert issue on Kerr Hill was discussed. Mr. Darbyshire proposed the following **RESOLUTION 2021-3-8-03**:

The purpose of this resolution is to approve the installation of an existing culvert located at 181 Kerr Hill Road. The parcel number is 351307025000. The property owner on record from the Ross County Auditor's Office is Chris and Sarah Posey, 7749 Upper Twin Road South Salem 45681. The current resident of the property is Pete Fink and Melissa ?. It is my understanding that they are purchasing the property per Land Contract, but I have no documentation.

The current situation is that the existing culvert has failed, consequently permitting water runoff to damage our Township Road. In addition, the water is traveling across the road and causing damage to the driveway of Mr. and Mrs. Lightle.

The Township has a responsibility to abate these issues by informing the property owner and recommending a solution. By law it is the property owner's responsibility to correct the problem and provide the funding for such. The Township has adopted a policy concerning culvert replacements to provide the installation of culverts that the property owner purchases. In this situation since we are realigning the water flow on the eastern side of the driveway, to correct the problem, the Board has agreed to purchase the 50' of 30" pipe needed for the driveway and install the pipe with our forces.

The Board has discussed the project with the residents, and they do not want a ditch in front of the house. To eliminate the need for a ditch a catch basin and 70' of additional 30" pipe is needed. The Board has agreed to install the catch basin and the additional pipe contingent upon the property owner purchasing the pipe and catch basin.

If the Board is not notified by the property owner within 2 weeks we will be scheduling this project that will include a ditch from the pipe we install to the existing ditch approximately 70' West and in front of the home.

Due to the extenuating circumstances concerning this project the Board contacted the following elected office holders and obtained approval to move forward with the project:

Sheriff: George Lavender

Prosecuting Attorney: Jeff Marks

Ross County Engineer: Charlie Ortman

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Bethel. All voted yes. Motion passed.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

The Trustees agreed that a pest exterminator shall be contacted to take care of the pigeon problem occurring on township property.

The Trustees discussed the need to have some of the township roads bermed. They were in agreement it needed to be done. A procedure to do so will be presented at a future meeting.

A discussion was held regarding placing a tax levy on the ballot asking residents to approve funds to establish a paid, full-time fire/ems crew for the township. A financial analysis by the Fiscal Officer indicated that to have full-time coverage would probably require a total of at least 4.5 mills. Currently the township operates a volunteer EMS/Fire department on a 2.0 mill, 5-year levy, with 2023 being the last year that taxes will be collected on this levy. The options discussed involved putting either a 2.5 mill levy or a 4.5 mill levy on the ballot this fall. Mr. Darbyshire suggested maybe putting the issue on the ballot in the fall of 2022 instead, when the current 2.0 mill levy is available for renewal. Mr. Bethel commented that putting an additional tax levy on the ballot this fall may be difficult to pass due to the current economy that has been affected by the year-long pandemic. No decision was made, but this issue will be brought up for further discussion at future meetings.

The Trustees decided to continue with holding the April, 2021 regular meeting virtually, and then consider meetings held after then in-person, based upon the status of the pandemic at that time.

**Motion** by Mr. Darbyshire and seconded by Mr. Bethel to adjourn the current meeting. All voted yes. Motion passed.  
Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 3/8/21 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