

TWIN TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES, ROSS COUNTY, OHIO
MINUTES OF MEETING OF MAY 10, 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 arrived at 6:05 p.m. Fire Chief Marty Johnson arrived at 6:20 p.m.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Reading of the minutes of the previous meeting was waived.

RESOLUTION 2021-05-10-01: 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

RESOLUTION 2021-05-10-02: Motion was made by Mr. Darbyshire and seconded by Mr. Whitt to approve the repair of the Kellough headstone in the Twin Township Cemetery at the request of family member Ruth Alley. Repairs to be completed by Hardy Memorial Company at a cost of \$150.00. During discussion, Mr. Darbyshire said the minor damage was perhaps done by being hit with a mower or back-hoe. All voted yes. Motion passed.

CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATION

1. Mr. Whitt reported the Harris Station Road culvert is scheduled for repair by the Ross County Engineer on May 11, 2021.
2. Mr. Dabyshire reported that a resident of Alexander Hollow Road requested a tree to be removed. After inspection, Mr. Darbyshire informed the resident that the tree was on private property and the township could only remove it if it interfered with the township road right-of-way. A limb was removed that was in the right-of-way, but not the tree.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT

Fire Chief Marty Johnson gave the report.

1. Presented requisitions for approval for Air Pac testing and pump testing. Motion to approve by Mr. Whitt and seconded by Mr. Bethel. All voted yes. Motion passed.
2. **Motion** by Mr. Darbyshire and second by Mr. Whitt to place Fire Department member Mike Norman on Administrative Leave due to being under current indictment by Ross County Prosecutor. All voted yes. Motion passed.
3. Jane McCabe has submitted a letter of resignation from the Twin Township Fire and EMS Departments. **Motion** to approve by Mr. Whitt and seconded by Mr. Bethel. All voted yes. Motion passed.
4. Discussion was held regarding placing an issue on the ballot to fund a full-time Fire and EMS crew. Due to several factors, the most important being the economic impact of the recent pandemic, general consensus was that the issue would be considered for placement on the ballot for the voters to decide during the November, 2022 election.

FINANCIAL

RESOLUTION 2021-5-10-03:

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
- d) Make the following adjustments for the annual squad loan payment of \$24,838.32: \$10,000 from the 2281 fund and the balance of the payment from the 2191 fund. Advance the necessary funds from the general fund to the 2281 fund for the semi-annual pay-per-run payment to EMS personnel scheduled to be made in June. Re-payment of the advance to be done as reimbursements for 911 runs are deposited from Medicount Management.

All voted yes. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

None

Motion by Mr. Whitt and second by Mr. Darbyshire to enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel. Executive Session began at 6:49 and ended at 7:10 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION 2021-5-10-03:

Motion by Mr. Whitt and second by Mr. Darbyshire to make adjustments to seating during the annual Fire Department Fish Fry so as to comply with the Covid-19 Pandemic social distancing requirements as determined by the Ross County Health District. Weather permitting, the Fire Chief said tables will be set up outside for customers.

RESOLUTION 2021-5-10-04:

Motion by Mr. Darbyshire and second by Mr. Bethel to make the following change to the Fire Department Standard Operating Guidelines: "Candidates who live outside the township are eligible for membership to the Twin Township Fire and EMS Departments if they reside within 15 minutes safe driving distance of the Fire House". During discussion, it was pointed out that the previous distance was 12 minutes; this change would increase the possibility of adding new members to the department. All voted yes. Motion passed.

RESOLUTION 2021-5-10-05:

Motion by Mr. Bethel and second by Mr. Whitt to accept Alexander Stewart as a member of the Twin Township Fire Department. Mr. Stewart resides in Twin Township. All voted yes. Motion passed.

RESOLUTION 2021-5-10-06:

Motion by Mr. Darbyshire and second by Mr. Whitt to accept Kohl Tyler Good as a member of the Twin Township Fire Department. Mr. Good resides outside Twin Township, but within the required travel distance from the station. Acceptance is contingent upon receipt of a positive letter of recommendation from the Union Township Fire Chief. All voted yes. Motion passed.

Letters from Fire/EMS Department members Melissa Weaver, Chris Benson and Allison Ray to the Twin Township Trustees were reviewed by the Trustees.

In the letter from Melissa Weaver, she acknowledged that she did not participate in the recent nomination and election of officers for the department. This acknowledgment was in violation of a directive from the Fire Chief that all members must participate.

RESOLUTION 2021-5-10-07:

Motion by Mr. Darbyshire and second by Mr. Bethel to place Melissa Weaver on a one-month suspension due to insubordination. All voted yes. Motion passed.

RESOLUTION 2021-5-10-08:

Motion by Mr. Darbyshire and second by Mr. Whitt to direct the Fire Chief to issue written reprimands to Chris Benson and Allison Ray. Due to allegations made in the letters submitted, comments against other members of the department were considered to be a violation of the Standard Operating Guidelines Article VII, Section 1, paragraph 13. All voted yes. Motion passed.

The Trustees discussed with the Fire Chief regarding a Fire Department meeting held at the fire house on April 2, 2021. During the meeting, the Trustees were notified that the members did not have masks on, and there did not appear to be any social distancing occurring. These were conditions the Trustees had directed the Fire Chief in February, 2021 that had to be done if any meetings were to be held in the Fire House until the Pandemic Health orders had been removed.

RESOLUTION 2021-5-10-09:

Motion by Mr. Darbyshire and second by Mr. Bethel: as a result of the above event, it is so moved that this motion serve as a written reprimand for Fire Chief Marty Johnson due to a direct violation of the Twin Township Trustees **RESOLUTION 2021-02-08-03**. This resolution reads as follows: "that for the foreseeable future, no public social gatherings shall be held in any township building due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Also, if any in-person township business meetings are held at any township building, all participants must wear a mask, and must be at least 6 feet apart, as per recommendations of the state and county health departments." This written reprimand shall be placed in Mr. Johnson's personnel file. All voted yes. Motion passed.

Motion by Mr. Darbyshire and seconded by Mr. Bethel to adjourn the current meeting. All voted yes. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 5/10/21 TWIN TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES MEETING:

Michael Whitt, President

Michael Darbyshire, Vice-President

Bryan Bethel, Trustee