



**ROSS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
MAY 4, 2017**

**The Ross Township Board of Trustees met in regular session  
to transact business for Ross Township.**

**CALL TO ORDER – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE  
ROLL CALL**

Present - Thomas E. Willsey, Raymond J. Wurzelbacher and Ellen Yordy.

**PROCEDURAL ACTION**

**Motion 17-056**

Upon motion by Trustee Yordy and seconded by Trustee Willsey, the Board voted to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on April 19, 2017.

The vote of the Board shows as follows: All present voted yes, motion carried.

**Motion 17-057**

Upon motion by Trustee Yordy and seconded by Trustee Willsey, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on April 19, 2017.

The vote of the Board shows as follows: Trustees Yordy and Willsey voted yes, Trustee Wurzelbacher abstained, motion carried.

**Motion 17-058**

Upon motion by Trustee Yordy and seconded by Trustee Wurzelbacher, the Board voted to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on April 24, 2017.

The vote of the Board shows as follows: All present voted yes, motion carried.

**Motion 17-059**

Upon motion by Trustee Yordy and seconded by Trustee Willsey, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on April 24, 2017.

The vote of the Board shows as follows: Trustees Yordy and Willsey voted yes, Trustee Wurzelbacher abstained, motion carried.

Fiscal Officer Judy Huffman reported as of this date the township has on deposit \$3,186,663.72. She provided the Board with copies of the Bank Reconciliation Statement and the Cash Summary by Fund Report for April, 2017.

David Brown, representing the Butler County Auditor's Office announced that the first half distribution of settlement funds for 2017 countywide exceeded

\$261.5 million with Ross Township receiving approximately \$1.7 million dollars; the Homestead exemption standards for eligibility and filing have been changed and anyone turning 65 in 2017 are encouraged to contact the Auditor for details; and lastly, the Triennial update of property values is currently underway with the new values expected to be in place for 2018 taxation rates.

## **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**Administration** – Bob Bass provided an explanation for three resolutions to be considered as follows: an agreement for Ohio’s Bureau of Worker’s Compensations Group Retro Rating Program administered through CareWorksComp; evidence of possible nuisance abatement activity at 2231 Robin Avenue, 2345 Robin Avenue, 2636 Cincinnati Brookville Road, 2155 Cardinal Avenue, 2161 Cardinal Avenue, Vacant Commercial Land on Venice Boulevard and Finch Street and 4190 Oriole Street; and an agreement with Bethesda Healthcare Inc. to renew the Township’s EAP policy to provide a Substance Abuse Professional for Township employees who are required to operate under a Commercial Driver’s License. He also provided an update on two open nuisance cases.

**Fire Department** – Chief Steve Miller presented the monthly report for April, 2017 and asked the Board to consider hiring Ryan Lucas and David Chaney into the position of Firefighter/EMT.

**Road Department** – no report

**Police Department** – Acting Chief Jack Tremain presented the monthly report for April, 2017 and provided the Board with the impressive statistics which led to Police Officer Alex Kabuss being awarded the MADD Award of Excellence for his work on the OVI task Force. Trustee Yordy then presented Officer Kabuss with a plaque acknowledging the award.

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Mark Demeropolis of Ross Trails asked if the Board of Trustees look disciplinary action against the Fire Chief as a result of low staffing during a traffic accident with injuries on Easter Sunday. Trustee Yordy stated that the lack of available manpower issue is still being reviewed by the Board but that the Chief had no fault and would not be disciplined for the incident. She further stated the Chief’s long, dedicated and highly successful running of the Fire Department was unmatched and greatly appreciated. Trustee Willsey agreed.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Trustee Yordy led a discussion regarding Medical Marijuana restrictions. She noted that the Butler County Prosecutor recommends that if the Township chooses to limit or prohibit cultivators or dispensaries within the township it

should be done sooner rather than later. She also noted that there is no firm deadline, but once the state starts licensing these businesses, restrictive resolutions should already be in place and that the medical marijuana program becomes active state wide on September 8<sup>th</sup>. Trustee Willsey reminded that the Township was currently under a moratorium which will end at approximately the time that the state starts licensing these businesses.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Announcements**

Trustee Yordy announced that a work session was held on April 24, 2017 for the Trustees to gather information as they look into the matter of available manpower and scheduling in the fire and police departments. The lack of available manpower issue is a very complex and serious issue for safety service departments throughout southwest Ohio. Lack of available manpower is adversely affecting both departments and the Board is continuing to work with both Chiefs to find answers.

### **Correspondence**

The Butler County Engineer sent notice of his recommendation to reject all bids for the 2017 Chip Seal Project as the low bid is in an amount greater than 5% of the engineer's estimate in the bid proposal. Road Superintendent Bulach has reported that the Engineer intends to rebid the project in the near future.

### **Legislation**

**Purpose**-Earlier in this meeting, the Board was advised that the township qualifies for the savings from the BWC's 2018 Group Retrospective Rating Program. The following resolution enters the township into that program.

#### **Resolution 2017-017**

Upon motion by Trustee Yordy and seconded by Trustee Willsey, the Board voted on the adoption of a resolution entering into an agreement with the Ohio Bureau of Workers Compensation (BWC), sponsored through the CareWorksComp Company for the BWC's 2018 group retrospective rating program and authorizing the Township Administrator to execute the agreement.

The vote of the Board shows as follows: All present voted yes, motion carried.

**Purpose**- Earlier in the meeting, the Administrator provided evidence of nuisance violations to exist at various properties on Robin Avenue, Cincinnati Brookville Road, Cardinal Avenue, Venice Boulevard, Finch Street, and Oriole Street. This resolution declares those properties to be a nuisance and orders their abatement.

#### **Resolution 2017-018**

Upon motion by Trustee Yordy and seconded by Trustee Wurzelbacher, the Board voted on the adoption of a resolution declaring a nuisance for accumulated debris, excessive vegetation and/or junk motor vehicle at 2231

Robin Avenue, 2345 Robin Avenue, 2636 Cincinnati Brookville Road, 2155 Cardinal Avenue, 2161 Cardinal Avenue, Vacant Commercial Land on Venice Boulevard and Finch Street, and 4190 Oriole Street.

The vote of the Board shows as follows: All present voted yes, motion carried.

**Purpose**-Earlier in the meeting, the Administrator discussed the need to renew the Township’s EAP policy to provide a Substance Abuse Professional for Township employees who are required to operate under a Commercial Driver’s License because the current agreement has been purchased by Bethesda Healthcare Inc. This resolution renews that agreement.

**Resolution 2017-019**

Upon motion by Trustee Yordy and seconded by Trustee Willsey, the Board voted on the adoption of a resolution entering into a Master Services Agreement with Bethesda Healthcare Inc. to provide employee assistance program services through its’ subsidiary TriHealth EAP and authorizing the Township Administrator to execute the agreement.

The vote of the Board shows as follows: All present voted yes, motion carried.

**Motion 17-060**

Upon motion by Trustee Yordy and seconded by Trustee Wurzelbacher, the Board voted to approve the following voucher/warrants totaling \$380,080.49 and authorize payment:

<b>NUMBER</b>	<b>PAYEE</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
43826	AIRGAS GREAT LAKES	\$71.47
43827	ARAMARK UNIFORM SERVICES	\$32.45
43828	ARSLAN UNIFORMS - PUBLIC SAFETY	\$732.00
43829	BYERS CHEVROLET LLC	\$36,025.00
43830	CAMP SAFETY EQUIPMENT, INC.	\$3,034.00
43831	DELTA DENTAL	\$551.17
43832	ELLEN W. YORDY	\$509.51
43833	FIRST FINANCIAL BANK	\$1,209.64
43834	FOX OVERHEAD GARAGE DOORS, LLC	\$2,100.00
43835	MIAMI VALLEY TOPSOIL LLC	\$37.50
43836	NORTHGATE FORD LINCOLN MERCURY INC	\$51.43
43837	OVERHEAD DOOR	\$440.75
43838	PENN CARE	\$249,130.28
43839	QUILL CORPORATION	\$326.94
43840	ROSS OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH	\$281.00
43841	THOMAS WILLSEY	\$153.40
43842	TIME WARNER CABLE	\$109.98
43843	QUALITY PUBLISHING CO	\$2,791.83
43844	ARAMARK UNIFORM SERVICES	\$253.57
43845	3Z VC, LLC	\$540.00
43846	AIRGAS GREAT LAKES	\$71.47
43847	BILL MILLER PLUMBING	\$399.88
43848	CareWorksComp	\$2,818.00

43849	EXPRESS GRAPHICS	\$240.82
43850	GROUNDSTECH LANDSCAPE SERVICES	\$970.50
43851	KLEEM, INC.	\$152.90
43853	LEXIPOL LLC	\$960.00
43854	MULLIS SEPTIC SERVICES	\$425.00
43855	PRO CHEM, INC	\$541.61
43856	TIME WARNER CABLE	\$128.08
43857	WATSON GRAVEL, INC.	\$571.74
43858	CHIEF STEVE MILLER	\$77.50
43859	AIRGAS GREAT LAKES	\$599.61
43860	COINS FOR ANYTHING INC	\$1,154.00
43861	CRONIN FORD INC	\$7.80
43862	ELLEN W. YORDY	\$28.30
43863	EXPRESS GRAPHICS	\$240.82
43864	FASTENAL COMPANY	\$366.74
43865	HAMILTON COUNTY CORONER	\$500.00
43866	KLEEM, INC.	\$189.72
43867	KRISTEN L. GILLUM	\$200.00
43868	NORTHGATE FORD LINCOLN MERCURY INC	\$37.44
43869	ROSS HARDWARE	\$67.95
43870	SOUTHWEST REGIONAL WATER DISTRICT	\$186.89
43871	THE VENICE CORNERSTONE	\$400.00
43872	VERIZON WIRELESS	\$560.22

The vote of the Board shows as follows: All present voted yes, motion carried.

**Motion 17-061**

Upon motion by Trustee Yordy and seconded by Trustee Wurzelbacher, the Board voted to hire Ryan Lucas and David Chaney into the Fire Department under the position of Firefighter/EMT at the hourly rate of \$14.00 and \$13.50 respectively, subject to passing all pre-employment testing. This action is in compliance with the current Staffing Level and Pay Summary resolution.

The vote of the Board shows as follows: All present voted yes, motion carried.

**Motion 17-062**

There being no further business to come before the Board at the time; upon motion by Trustee Yordy and seconded by Trustee Willsey, the Board voted to adjourn the meeting.

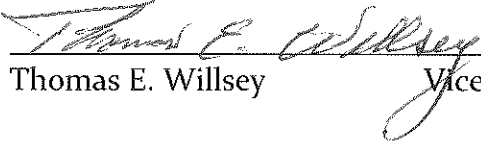
The vote of the Board shows as follows: All present voted yes, motion carried.

The next regular meeting of the Ross Township Board of Trustees will be held on May 18, 2017 at 6:00 pm at the Ross Township Government Center.

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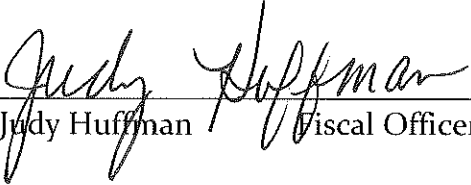
**ROSS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

  
Ellen Yordy President

  
Thomas E. Willsey Vice President

Raymond J. Wurzelbacher Trustee

**ATTEST:**

  
Judy Huffman Fiscal Officer