



The Board of Trustees of Bath Township met on Tuesday, **April 2, 2024**, in the Township Boardroom, 2880 Ada Road, Lima, Ohio.

Members Present: Brad Baxter
Mike Meeks
Lisa Fillhart

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM with Trustee Baxter leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

Having reviewed the minutes of the March 19, 2024 regular meeting, a motion was made by Trustee Meeks, seconded Trustee Fillhart, to approve them a correction to the spelling of Lynda Makley's name. A roll call vote was taken with Trustees Baxter, Meeks & Fillhart voting in the affirmative. The motion was approved.

UNDER FISCAL OFFICER'S BUSINESS

The following resolutions were taken up:

RESOLUTION 03-19-24-01: Declaring the property owned by Laura Smith, located at 1624 Findlay Road in Bath Township, Allen County, Ohio a nuisance.

- Having laid over from the March 19, 2024 meeting, this resolution was brought back before the board for action.
- Trustee Meeks reported that he spoke to the property owner.
- A discussion was held regarding whether it was a threat to life safety. It was also discussed that a specific period could be given to permit time to clean it up. The pending township clean-up day was discussed as well.
- A motion was made by Trustee Baxter, seconded by Trustee Fillhart. With no further discussion and all three trustees voting NO, the motion was defeated.
- Subsequent to the motion being defeated, Zoning Inspector Meyer was directed to refile the motion in the future if needed.

RESOLUTION 04-02-24-01: Approving the payment of \$4,004.81 to Miller Auto, Inc. for transmission repairs to Bath Township Truck #3 to be paid from the Road & Bridge fund.

- Trustee Baxter reported on this bill and advised that the billed amount was less than the quoted amount.
- A motion was made by Trustee Baxter, seconded by Trustee Fillhart to approve the resolution. With no further discussion and all three trustees voting in the affirmative, the motion was approved.

RESOLUTION 04-02-24-02: Authorizing the Allen County Engineer to proceed with the Bath Township 2024 road program in the amount of \$92,743.19 with Bath Township's portion to be \$79,992.09 and the Allen County Engineer's portion to be \$12,751.11.

- Fiscal Officer Carroll reported that Gary Jay had provided him with the final numbers for the 2024 road program.
- A motion was made by Trustee Baxter, seconded by Fillhart to approve the resolution. With no further discussion and all three trustees voting in the affirmative, the motion was approved.

RESOLUTION 04-02-24-03: Accepting the resignation of Crystal Plumpe from her full-time position of Platoon Chief effective May 31, 2024.

- Chief Kitchen advised that he was saddened and disappointed to receive the resignation.
- Trustee Fillhart thanked Platoon Chief Plumpe, who was present, for her service to the Township and wished her well.
- A motion was made by Trustee Baxter, seconded by Trustee Fillhart to approve the resolution. With no further discussion and all three trustees voting in the affirmative, the motion was approved.

RESOLUTION 04-02-24-04: Approving the Allen County 9-1-1 Final Plan as approved by the 9-1-1 Program Review Committee on March 3, 2024.

- Chief Kitchen gave a brief report about how the 911 system works and how this particular agreement connects to that system. The approval of this robust agreement is a formality.
- Travis Fillhart, speaking on behalf of the “system” advised that this approval is a one time requirement and is the result of changes in the 911 system and how it is funded.
- A motion was made by Trustee Fillhart, seconded by Trustee Meeks to approve the resolution. With no further discussion and all three trustees voting in the affirmative, the motion was approved.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The fiscal officer reported account balances as of **March 31, 2024**

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|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| First National Bank | 2,670,286.69 |
| StarOHIO balance | 108,001.82 |
| Total amount of all funds | 2,783,288.51 |

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| <u>ARP FUNDS:</u> | |
| The ARP Funding Balances are as follows: | |
| Total Funds Received (2021) | \$496,457.46 |
| Total Funds Received (2022) | \$497,135.04 |
| Total Funds Received | \$993,592.50 |
| Total Funds Disbursed: | \$856,252.50 |
| Total Funds Reserved: | |
| Fire Dept Payroll | \$3,789.08 |
| Fire Hydrant Replacement | \$2,132.65 |
| Total Available/Remaining Balance | \$137,340.00 |

Advances from the General Fund to the Fire Fund (to be repaid): \$26,180.13

BILLS FOR PAYMENT

Breakdown of bills as follows:

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| Payroll Total 4/3/24: | \$20,877.34 |
| Expenditures/Bills: | \$37,873.39 |
| Total Amount of Payables | \$58,750.73 |

- A motion to approve and pay the bills as well as the April 3, 2024 payroll was made by Trustee Baxter, seconded by Trustee Fillhart. With no further discussion and all three trustees voting in the affirmative, the motion was approved.

The following reports were provided to the Trustees prior to the meeting to review and a copy was made available at this meeting:

- Payment Listing 03/31/24
- Fund Status 03/31/24
- Revenue Status 03/31/24
- Cash Flow Detail by Funs 03/31/24

Mr. Baxter, Mr. Meeks, and Mrs. Fillhart confirmed they received these reports.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Fiscal Officer Carroll reported that permanent appropriations for 2024 were submitted to Allen County Auditor prior to the April 1st deadline as required.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Received certification from the Allen County Auditor that our total appropriations from each fund do not exceed the official estimate of resources for 2024.
- Received a notice from the IRS requesting we submit form 941 due to some errors that were discovered on our December 31, 2023 form 941.
- Received a letter from the City of Lima regarding our reconciliation form of income tax withheld. The Fiscal Officer Replied via email on 3/21/24.
- Received two notifications from the Bath Township Zoning Commission that there will be public hearings on case numbers 115 & 116 set for April 9, 2024 at 6 PM & 7 PM respectfully.

TRUSTEES BUSINESS

Mr. Baxter

- Mr. Baxter advised that he had no new business to report on.
- Mr. Baxter further advised that he will be requesting an executive session purposes of considering the appointment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, or compensation of a public official.

Mr. Meeks

- Mr. Meeks reported he met with the property owner who was the subject of the nuisance complaint request.
- Mr. Meeks reported that he attended the Lost Creek Addition Meeting.
- Mr. Meeks also inquired to the status of a complaint regarding sink hole settling around new hydrants. Tammy Jay reported that she has referred those to the appropriate entities for repair.

Mrs. Fillhart

- Mrs. Fillhart reported that the sign project is under way.
- Mrs. Fillhart inquired about the closure of Bluelick Road for the pending eclipse. Gary Jay explained this closure due to the underpass. Gary gave a report on additional precautions being taken for the eclipse.
- Mrs. Fillhart reported on attending the Health Department Annual Meeting as well as an upcoming Health Assessment project.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Road Superintendent: Gary Jay

- Mr. Jay reported that he attended a meeting regarding the proposed Slabtown low pressure line to be installed.
- Mr. Jay reported that cemetery drives will be closed during the eclipse. Dead end roads will be closed to non-residents as well.

Fire Department: Chief Kitchen

- Chief Kitchen reported there have been 396 calls for service this year to date.
- Chief Kitchen reported that the SAFR grant application through FEMA for \$910,800.00 to cover employing three firefighters, their training, and uniforms for three years.

Zoning Inspector/Fire Inspector: Ken Meyer

- Mr. Meyer submitted his report in writing, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. See the attached report for a statistical breakdown of zoning & inspection related activities.
- Reported on 2175 Ottawa Road submitting a variance for a billboard.
- Reported on township clean-up proposed dates. Settled on May 11, 2024 after a lengthy discussion.
- Discussed Resource wanting to change zoning on the Bible Road Slabtown property. This is the old Clymer building. Resource would like to put in a parking lot. Clarence Roller expressed his concerns about this being changed to M1 instead of B2. Trustee Baxter explained the process of approving zoning recommendations.

Social Hall: Tammy Jay

- Mrs. Jay reported that the social hall took in \$600 in the month of March.

Law Enforcement: ACSO Deputy

- No Report

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

- 13 members of the public attended this meeting
- Krystal Plumpe [3535 N. Cole Road] requested permission to read her letter of resignation from Platoon Chief for the Bath Twp. Fire Department.
- Tom Burden [1710 Lutz Road] asked Zoning Inspector to explain the process for a nuisance complaint.
 - Mr. Burden later inquired about the salaries of firefighters recently reported in the Lima News. Chief Kitchen advised that those salaries, while likely accurate, were not transparent in that they don't include a break down of overtime, COVID bonuses. Mr. Burden further questioned what was discussed in executive sessions. Trustee Baxter explained this process. Mr. Burden further inquired about losing employees and presumed they were mostly firefighters. Fiscal Officer Carroll explained the economics of being employed as a firefighter/paramedic for Bath Fire Department and advised that we do not pay our employees a competitive wage. Mr. Carroll cited the starting pay at Mercy Health-Lima Allen County Paramedics as an example.
- Lynda Makley [3839 Yale Avenue] asked that the nuisance complaint procedure be added to the Bath Township Website.
- Clarence Roller [3920 Bluelick Road] made several statements of concern over the current state of the Fire Department and urged that work be done to get the fire department back into a good state as soon as possible. Mr. Roller's comments in support of the fire department were appreciated by most in attendance.

Executive Session

A motion to go into executive session was made at 8:08 PM by Trustee Baxter, seconded by Trustee Fillhart. With all three trustees voting in the affirmative, the meeting was recessed to an executive session 8:08 PM for purposes of considering the appointment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, or compensation of a public official.


Upon a motion by Trustee Meeks, seconded by Trustee Baxter, affirmed by all three trustees, the executive session was terminated, and we returned to the regular meeting at 9:10 PM.

Additional Business

- A motion to increase the wages for intermittent part-time personnel by \$3.00 per hour effective April 1, 2024 and to continue incentive pay policies was made by Trustee Meeks, Seconded by Trustee Baxter. With no further discussion and all three trustees voting in the affirmative, the motion was approved.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees of Bath Township will be held **April 16, 2024, @ 7:00 p.m.** in the Township Boardroom.

Being no further business to come before the board, Mr. Meeks moved, and Mr. Baxter seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:16 PM. With no further discussion and all three trustees voting in the affirmative, the motion was approved, and the meeting was adjourned.



Brad Baxter, Chairman



Berlin Carroll, Fiscal Officer

Mike Meeks, Vice Chairman



Lisa Fillhart, Trustee