

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
German Township Board of Trustees
Regular Session
January 10, 2017

The German Township Trustees met in regular session on Tuesday, January 10, 2017 at 8:00 a.m. at the German Township Office, 3940 Lawrenceville Dr., Springfield, Ohio. Mr. Clark called the meeting to order.

Roll Call: Mr. Clark– present; Mr. Kaffenbarger – present; Mr. Metzger- present

Other Township Department Supervisors present: Angela Griest, Fiscal Officer; Mike Stitzel, Police Chief; Tim Holman, Fire Chief; Karina Emory, Secretary, and Mark Bevan, Road Supervisor.

Visitors: Tim Suter, First Energy

Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes

- A. Tabled till next month: Minutes of December 29, 2016
Motion: Mr. Clark 2nd: Mr. Kaffenbarger Ayes: All

Hearing of the Public

None

Fiscal Officer Report

Mrs. Griest presented the following:

- B. Motion to accept the December 2016 financial report:
Motion: Mr. Metzger 2nd: Mr. Clark Ayes: All
- C. Motion to approve the payments from December 29, 2016 to January 10, 2017:
Motion: Mr. Kaffenbarger 2nd: Mr. Metzger Ayes: All

- D. Motion to change the motion for the insurance for 2017 from the December 29, 2016 minutes to the following(same as motion from February 2016) :
- Any Township Elected Officials and any eligible full time employees may participate in any of the insurance benefits offered by the Township for medical, dental, and vision insurance. They may select from any health insurance plan, HRA, or other available “pick-up” or a “reimbursement” option available during their term. The elected official or employee may select any available plan at the start of his or her term, or employment and change to a different plan if desired during the designated annual open enrollment period. The monthly premium costs for a plan including Medical, dental and vision insurance will be paid as follows: 95% of the premium shall be paid by German Township; the remaining 5% will be paid as a payroll deduct. The monthly premium costs for a plan including a medical reimbursement or pick-up plan which costs a maximum of \$1000 per month, or the premium costs for only dental and vision insurance will be paid 100% by the Township. No pick-up or reimbursement plan can exceed the maximum costs of the main health insurance plan offered by the Township. The reimbursement option will only be made available if and when the Federal and State laws are determined to allow reimbursement:
- Motion: Mr. Metzger 2nd: Mr. Clark Ayes: All

Zoning Department

Mr. Degenhart reported the following:

- He would like to have the trustees meet with Tom Hale, and Allan Niemeyer to discuss the Upper Valley Mall property:
 - Discuss multiple types of recommendations.
 - Discuss ways to protect the township properties
 - Deed work to clean up the mall area.
 - CVS – would like a standalone building
- Mr. Metzger asked several questions regarding the marijuana issues. Mr. Degenhart has not heard anything about the state finalizing regulations or designating any locations or owners for the growing or distribution of marijuana. The owners of any such place would need to provide their own security to keep from having any conflicts of interest with the Township Police Department.
- The Bargain Hunt will be occupying the old Hobby Lobby area. It is like an upscale Ollies. Sell furniture, clothes, and other items.

Fire Department

Chief Holman reported the following:

- Report on the 2016 Year End Report:
 - 2016 EMS Calls: 1203
 - 2016 Fire Calls: 432
 - During 2016 two or three medic units were out on back-to-back calls 311 times. This is up from 213 in 2015.
 - Calls were down this year in Tremont, but calls were up in Mad River.
- Discussion concerning payroll. Some departments pay overtime for weekend and holiday work. Our wages are on the low side compared to other Townships, although our wages are going to increase in March. Will continue this discussion when we work on the permanent budget in February.
- Chief Holman gave the trustees a copy of the draft employee handbook he is working on. He is to send a copy to Chief Stitzel and Mrs. Griest.

Police Department

Chief Stitzel presented the following:

- He would like to start the process of putting the renewal levy on for the Police Department while we have a positive relationship with the community.
 - Mr. Kaffenbarger stated he has received good comments concerning the Police Department.
 - Mr. Metzger mentioned that he felt putting the levy on in the May election would not be good due to the fact that the property taxes have just come out, and for so many the tax rates have gone up, especially on all the farm ground in the area.
 - Mrs. Griest stated the current levy is in place through 2018. Final year to receive the funds is in 2019. Not sure what other issues are on for the May Election.
 - Mr. Clark stated he was in favor of waiting until the fall election. The other trustees agreed.
- Chief Stitzel is also looking to have the Police Officers trained on the administrating of Narcon (the drug to help bring people out of an overdose). The Fire Department currently administers the drug, but if the Police Department is on a scene before EMS, they could administer the drug without having to wait till EMS arrived

Road Maintenance Department

Mr. Bevan reported the following:

- Johnson Road is progressing well.
- All is good.

Old Business

Mt. Calvary Cemetery:

- The last official stand we had from our Prosecutor was that the Township can't spend money on the old section of the cemetery because it legally belongs to the Village of Tremont City. All funds related to the old section of the cemetery needs to be turned over the Village.
 - The Trustees wanted to continue to take care of the cemetery until such time as the Village of Tremont City would take over the care, because they felt a moral obligation to the people of the Township who has lots in that section of the Cemetery.
 - The Trustees would like to have a meeting with Tremont City and both our and their legal representation so the matter can progress.
- E. Motion to approve the Trustees and Fiscal Officer to attend the Ohio Township Association Conference in Columbus January 25, 26, and 27, 2017; and for the Township Zoning Inspector to attend for one day (his choice):

Motion: Mr. Metzger 2nd: Mr. Kaffenbarger Ayes: All

New Business

School choice Week:

- Received information from a group in California asking that the Trustees to Proclaim the week of January 22-28 as German Township School Choice Week. After reviewing the information, Mr. Clark stated that since this was not sponsored locally, they would not be interested in participating. All trustees agreed.

Cemetery Mowing Contract:

- The contract with Grasshoppers ended in 2015. The Township continued the contract through 2016 with an approved rate increase. We can either go out for bids, or continue with Grasshoppers. Mr. Metzger stated he didn't think that we could find anyone who could do it any cheaper. Mr. Kaffenbarger stated he was afraid if we went out for bids, the costs would only increase. Trustees agreed that they need to discuss the mowing with Grasshoppers, and to get a cost break out that would not include the old section of Mt. Calvary Cemetery.

Credit Cards:

- Since the Township is not allowed to have petty cash for minor expenditures, like mailing packages at UPS, and to keep from having the secretary or Police Chief from having to be reimbursed for minor expenditures, he recommends that they both be given a Township credit card. A purchase order will be needed and the receipt turned into the office.

F. Motion to give both of them cards with the following limits: Mrs. Emory with a limit of \$250.00 and Chief Stitzel a limit of \$500.00.

Motion: Mr. Metzger 2nd: Mr. Kaffenbarger Ayes: All

Any Other Business:

Mr. Tim Suter, Ohio Edison:

- He wanted to stop in and make sure we have not had any problems concerning the services in our area, and to see if the response time for calls to Ohio Edison has been good?
 - Chief Holman stated that usually Ohio Edison has been good at responding to requests for help during accident situations, however, lately the response times have been long. For example, it took them almost three hours to respond to an arcing line down. Fire crews could not leave till they showed up.
 - Mr. Kaffenbarger thanked him for the help that Ohio Edison has given the Township in trying to get trees down along the roadway. The Johnson Road area is much better than it had been.
 - Mr. Clark stated that the Township was able to help Ohio Edison out during the ice storm, even though it was actually in the Village of Tremont. The salt truck went to Owners Drive in Tremont to lay salt on the road due to the ice.
- There are some new state mandates and some rebates for low income residents and for some businesses.
- He passed out new booklets concerning Electric and Safety to the first responders to keep in their vehicles.
- Mr. Suter also reports that the electric aggregation program has not been favorable for the Township residents. He has tracked the costs and feels that maybe the Township should try to renegotiate the contract. Mr. Kaffenbarger said that the residents do have the option of not being part of the aggregation program. They may leave the program at any time.

G. Motion to adjourn: Mr. Metzger 2nd: Mr. Kaffenbarger Ayes: All

Approved by:

Board of German Township Trustees

Recorded in the
Record of Proceedings
January 10, 2017

Robert Clark, President

Rodney Kaffenbarger, Vice President

Charles Metzger, Member

Angela D. Griest, Fiscal Officer