

**RICHFIELD TOWNSHIP
LUCAS COUNTY, OHIO
BOARD OF RICHFIELD TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

November 6, 2023

The regular meeting of the Richfield Township Trustees was called to order by John Hassen at 7:00 p.m. at the Maintenance Building, 3951 Washburn Rd., Berkey, Ohio. All present were asked to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Chairman John Hassen – present
Co-Chairman Andrew Lumbrezer –present
Steve Bettinger –present

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

The clerk provided copies of the minutes from the October 16, 2023 meeting, current Cash Summary Report, Revenue Report, and Pending Warrants Report.

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Andrew Lumbrezer made a motion to approve the October 16, 2023 minutes as presented. Steve Bettinger seconded the motion. Roll call: All voted yes. Motion approved.

PRESENTATION OF THE BILLS:

The attached listings of warrants (133- 133) were presented for approval:

Steve Bettinger made a motion to approve payment of the attached listing of invoices and the corresponding pending warrants. Andrew Lumbrezer seconded the motion. Roll call: All voted yes. Motion approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Several residents were present to have an open discussion on the future of the town hall.

Trustee Lumbrezer explained there are a variety of issues:

- Furnace needs to be replaced. It is 60 plus years old, 2 repair man looked at the furnace and reported it could not be repaired due to the age, no available parts.

- If we purchase a new furnace the building will have to be brought up to code in accordance with the requirements of the Lucas County Building Codes. This would include electrical, plumbing, kitchen upgrades, ADA accessible which would include installing ramps at each entrance, bathroom upgrades, elevator, etc.
- Currently we are losing money yearly, in order to break even the rent would need to increase to cover the yearly cost of maintaining the building. Discussed raising to \$60.00 per hour for rentals. The current rental rate is \$60.00 for the day.
- The building is winterized at this time, plan to reopen in the spring for rentals.
- Estimate of cost to upgrade the building to bring up to code, handicapped accessible would be approximately over \$300,000.00. The township would not be able to fund, a levy would have to be placed on the ballot to cover the cost.

Chief Clonch stated the building in its current state has been grandfathered. If a new furnace is installed, the county will require all the upgrades, ADA requirements. The building is not up to fire code as well. Chief explained anytime renovations are done in a building, the building has to be upgraded to meet the counties building codes.

Trustee Lumbrezer explained the fire levy bond for the station will be paid off at the end of this year. Residents will see their property taxes decrease. If the township puts a levy on for a new community building it would be less than the current levy in place for the fire dept.

The planned location of a new community building would be on the north side of the fire department in which the township owns the property.

The township is currently doing preliminary work for a new community building which included drawings from an architect to provide an estimate on the cost. Fiscal Officer has contacted several grant writers for assistance in available grants for a new community building. Residents questioned if we could look for grants to upgrade a historical building as well, the Fiscal Officer stated the grant writer could research that as well.

A resident questioned what we would do with the old town hall if we built a new one. The Trustees explained they would possibly sell or demolish the building since it is not up to code and is a fire hazard.

Resident questioned a statement she overheard at the station regarding instead of putting money into a new community building, additional money is needed for the fire department for staffing. Chief Clonch explained estimated cost to increase 24 hour staffing at the department would cost approximately 1.2 million dollars (pay/benefits). The department is currently running on a budget of \$300,00.00 per year for 7 days a week staffing (daytime only). At this time, we need 2 full time firemen/EMT's. The department has a shortage of volunteers and paid positions, ads have been placed with very few applicants applying. Currently we have an agreement with Sylvania fire

department to provide 24 hours back up coverage, in return the township provides coverage as well in Sylvania.

Residents voiced concerns over people running the stop sign on Richfield Center Rd and Sylvania Avenue. The Trustees will work on getting a flashing red stop sign placed at this location as well as looking into the placement of a speed bump.

FIRE:

Deputy Chief position remains open, one interview has been set up this week.

Day time staffing continues Monday through Friday until staffing is increased.

ZONING:

No report.

OLD BUSINESS:

No old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Ohio Township Association winter conference will take place on February 7th through the 9th.

ROADS:

Trustee Bettinger and Dan Walters attended the road meeting at Pavement Technology last week. Meeting was informative, information provided on cold patch material for roads.

Road Maintenance employee Dan Walters reported the truck is in need of new tires, estimates received. Trustees were in agreement to purchase tires at Jerry's Marathon in Berkey.

CEMETERY:

No business.

PUBLIC NOTICE:

Residents may call Norma Drennan at 419-829-6029/419-283-3424 to rent the town hall.

The following information can be viewed on the Richfield Township website at:
www.richfieldtwp.com.

1. Trustee minutes
2. Zoning minutes
3. Zoning including: fees, applications, complaint forms, and the zoning book.
4. Meeting dates and times
5. Contact information for Trustees, Zoning Board and Board of Zoning Appeals.
6. Wolfinger Cemetery information including cemetery fees, rules & regulations.
7. Fire and Rescue
8. Town hall rental rules and fees
9. Roads and Maintenance
10. Rubbish Contractor information for garbage pickup
11. Community Links.

There being no further business John Hassen made a motion to adjourn at 8:40 p.m., which was seconded by Steve Bettinger: Roll call: all voted yes. Motion approved.

Richfield Township Fiscal Officer
