

BAZETTA TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Date: February 23, 2010 at 7:30pm
Bazetta Township Administration Building
3372 State Route 5 NE
Cortland, Ohio 44410

Meeting called to order at 7:30pm.

Present:

Presiding Trustee Paul Hovis
Trustee Frank Parke
Trustee Don Urchek
Fiscal Officer Rita K. Drew

Minutes to be suspended or accepted as written:

February 9, 2010 Regular Meeting Minutes
February 11, 2010 Special Meeting Minutes

079-10 To accept the minutes from the February 9, 2010 Regular Meeting and February 11, 2010 Special Meeting.

Motion: Trustee Parke
Second: Trustee Urchek
Vote: Trustee Hovis - Yes Trustee Parke - Yes Trustee Urchek -Yes

080-10 To authorize the Fiscal Officer to pay all outstanding invoices incurred and approve all warrants issued.

Motion: Trustee Parke
Second: Trustee Urchek
Vote: Trustee Hovis - Yes Trustee Parke - Yes Trustee Urchek -Yes

081-10 To approve the 2010 Permanent Appropriations.

Motion: Trustee Urchek
Second: Trustee Parke
Vote: Trustee Hovis - Yes Trustee Parke - Yes Trustee Urchek -Yes

082-10 To authorize the Fiscal Officer to request a 2010 Amended Certificate of Estimated Resources that reflects the changes relative to the 2010 Township Valuation and Resources, grants received, and other unanticipated receipts.

Motion: Trustee Urchek
Second: Trustee Parke
Vote: Trustee Hovis - Yes Trustee Parke - Yes Trustee Urchek -Yes

083-10 To certify to the Department of Transportation that the total mileage for Bazetta Township was 20.512 miles at the end of 2009.

Motion: Trustee Parke
Second: Trustee Urchek
Vote: Trustee Hovis - Yes Trustee Parke - Yes Trustee Urchek -Yes

084-10 To amend the prior prohibition of using concrete paving in any portion of the road right-of-way in the installation of a concrete drive.

Motion: Trustee Parke

Second: Trustee Urchek

Vote: Trustee Hovis -Yes Trustee Parke - Yes Trustee Urchek -Yes

Correspondence (Copies available upon request):

- Received invitation from Trumbull County Commissioners for elected officials and supervisors to attend Spring Seminars for 2010

Zoning Inspector:

- Inspector Nuss stated that he has received many phone calls with zoning inquiries
- He further stated that no permits have been written since last meeting

Zoning Commission:

- Chairman Webb asked if there were any additional submissions for Alternate Members
 - Trustee Hovis stated there were 2 applicants that had not yet been reviewed
 - He further stated that these appointments would be placed on the agenda for the next meeting
- Trustee Parke asked how the residents know that they need to get a permit prior to getting a dumpster on their property
 - Inspector Nuss said that residents would not know this unless they are familiar with the zoning regulations
 - Trustee Hovis and Chairman Webb said that the previous Zoning Inspector kept the dumpster companies informed of the permit requirement
 - Trustee Hovis also said residents should notify the Administrative Office if they see something they question and Inspector Nuss will follow up on it

Road Department:

- Roads Superintendent Parke asked for permission to get quotes for a herbicide sprayer for use in the cemetery, park, and other township grounds
 - Stated that the township spent about \$750 annually paying someone else to do this
 - Believes we can save some money in the long run by doing this ourselves
- Trustee Urchek asked if Roads Superintendent Parke had an estimates
 - Roads Superintendent Parke estimated that the cost would be roughly \$1500 for a machine for which replacement parts were available that could be mounted on the back
- Trustee Urchek asked which department would pay for this purchase
 - Roads Superintendent Parke said it would be paid for predominantly through the park and cemetery funds since they would get the majority of the usage

085-10 To authorize Roads Superintendent Parke to seek quotes for an herbicide sprayer.

Motion: Trustee Urchek

Second: Trustee Parke

Vote: Trustee Hovis - Yes Trustee Parke - Yes Trustee Urchek -Yes

- Trustee Parke reminded everyone that cleanup in the cemetery will be the whole month of March

Fire Department:

- Chief Lewis stated that the township had sold a 14' foot aluminum boat on ebay
 - Originally purchased for \$250 and sold for \$1125

- Trustee Parke thanked Chief Lewis and Roads Superintendent Parke for their assistance with the Spring 2010 Soil and Water Report

Police Department:

- Chief Miller requested approval for Chris Herlinger to attend supervisor's school because this is a job requirement for our officers

086-10 To authorize the expenditure of \$270 for Chris Herlinger to attend supervisor's training.

Motion: Trustee Urchek

Second: Trustee Parke

Vote: Trustee Hovis - Yes Trustee Parke - Yes Trustee Urchek -Yes

- Chief Miller noted that the department received a grant for roughly \$10,000 for traffic enforcement
 - Grant will be used in the summer
 - Grant will be used to purchase new radio equipment
- Trustee Urchek commented on the agreement between the township and the police department
 - See attached
- James Wrightsman asked how many officers the township has
 - Chief Miller stated that the township has 6 full-time officers, two part-time secretaries, and is working on having 6 part-time officers
 - Chief Miller introduced members of the Police Department present
- Trustee Parke thanked the police officers for their hard work and wished the department well
- Trustee Urchek recognized the department for talking steps to reduce their budget to one that was lower than last year's budget

087-10 To approve the Agreement between the Bazetta Township Trustees and the Fraternal Order of Police, effective immediately until December 31, 2010.

Motion: Trustee Urchek

Second: Trustee Parke

Vote: Trustee Hovis - Yes Trustee Parke - Yes Trustee Urchek -Yes

Parks & Recreation Board:

- Trustee Parke recognized Michael Swiatkwich
- Michael Swiatkwich asked if anyone would sit on the committee for the Bikeways Project
 - Noted that the Project already has representatives from other local communities
- Trustee Parke and Trustee Urchek discussed the possibility of their volunteering
- Trustee Urchek said that he would approach Richard Musick, Vice Chairman of the Parks & Recreation Board to see if he would serve in this capacity
- Michael Swiatkwich relayed some of the details of the Project to the residents
- Art Kreller submitted the attached documents on behalf of Rita Benoit, Secretary of the Parks & Recreation Board, who could not attend today's meeting

Safety Committee:

- Chief Lewis stated that their next meeting will be February 25

Administrative Reminders:

- The results of the State of Ohio Audit for 2007 and 2008 will be delivered March 1, 2010

Public Comment:

- Ted Webb asked about the Ohio Township Association Conference in Columbus, Ohio

- Trustee Urchek stated that he, Trustee Hovis, Fiscal Officer Drew, Chief Miller, Chief Lewis, and Roads Superintendent Parke attended
 - Attended several different classes - most of which were very informative for him - including Open Meetings Act, negotiating with unions, demolition of properties, etc.
 - Won a model truck
- James Wrightsman questioned Police Department finances and staffing
 - Chief Miller stated that the department is financially stable now
 - Department made cutbacks last year and even more this year
 - Department is currently fully staffed
- James Wrightsman questioned Roads Department finances and staffing
 - Roads Superintendent Parke stated that the department had a small carryover coming into 2010, though not as much as they had going into previous years
 - Partly because the department paid cash for new buildings and equipment, as well as paying out for a retirement
 - Department is a man short right now and will be 2 men short after another retirement this summer
 - Will not be able to operate as a 3-man crew for very long, especially in bad weather
 - Future looks good and expects department to operate within their budget
 - Has only one levy that generates \$30,000 per year, which is not even enough money to cover salt used on a yearly basis
 - Roads Superintendent Parke said the township has a good watchdog in Fiscal Officer Drew
 - Keeps a close watch on township finances
 - Works with department heads
 - Lets Department Heads know when they are overspending
- James Wrightsman questioned Fire Department finances and staffing
 - Chief Lewis stated that the department is not fully staffed
 - Down 4 people, but is in the process of hiring part-timers and volunteers
 - Would like to bring back more people, but doing so would put the department back in financial trouble
 - Chief Lewis stated that the department was in debt at the beginning of 2009, but ended the year with a carryover of \$181,000
 - Had taken out a loan at the beginning of 2009 and paid it in full at the end of 2009
 - Has reduced overtime expenditures by about \$100,000
- James Wrightsman asked about the condition of Station #13
 - Chief Lewis said that this station still needs another bed and needs heat in parts of the station
 - Chief Lewis noted that the township is paying for a study that is necessary for a grant for which he would like to apply
 - Assessing what upgrades that need to be made to both stations to bring it up to code
 - Doing a hazard analysis of both stations
 - Looking at the possibility of building one central fire station in one of three locations
- James Wrightsman asked about response times in the Fire Department
 - Chief Lewis said the department is still switching between stations each day and are having no problems with that
 - Response times are taking roughly 1 minute longer than they used to
 - Response times are still 4 minutes better the national average of 9 minutes

- James Wrightsman asked about 3rd Party Billing for ambulance service
 - Asked why some residents are receiving bills for ambulance service
 - Chief Lewis said that what people receive what looks like a bill, but it is not actually a bill, and all residents need to do is fill out the information and return the form
 - Asked if a letter be sent out to the residents to explain this
 - Chief Lewis said sending out a mailing to all residents would cost roughly \$2,300

- Trustee Hovis made comments regarding Fiscal Officer Drew and township budget
 - Keeps a very close eye on the budget
 - Is in communication with Trustees on a daily basis
 - Is in communication with Department Heads on an almost daily basis

- Trustee Urchek said he is amazed at the cooperation between the unions, the employees, and everyone who works for the township

- Donna Zuga, a member of Lakeview Board of Education, spoke about the schools district
 - Has not always worked in a harmonious way
 - Fortunate and excellent rated district
 - Some difficult decisions to make in the future
 - Would like to have more frequent dialogue with the Bazetta Trustees and Cortland Mayor
 - Will have to decide what to do with the “land lab”
 - Going to the taxpayers with a 3.75mil levy
 - Will probably be in the black this year and next year
 - Congratulated Zoning Inspector Nuss on his daughter’s recent accomplishment

- Michael Swiatkwich stated that the “land lab” could receive assistance through some of the information that he received at the Heritage meeting
 - Will send this information to the school district
 - Commented on the fact that the schools are running in the black, but they are doing so because of limited services, i.e. pay-to-play and limited bussing
 - Commented on the aging population and how this might be affecting the tax base
 - Discussed the need for creating a greater sense of community

- Art Kreller asked what percentage of students will be lost in the coming years
 - Donna Zuga said the superintendent could better answer this question, but she estimates that they are losing 30 students per year

088-10 To adjourn the meeting at 8:21pm.

Motion: Trustee Urchek

Second: Trustee Parke

Vote: Trustee Hovis - Yes Trustee Parke - Yes Trustee Urchek -Yes

_____ Dated: _____
 Attested by: Fiscal Officer Rita K. Drew

_____ Dated: _____
 Approved by: Chairman Trustee Paul Hovis