

September 17, 2024 Work Session Meeting

Bethel Township Trustees

3333 Lake Road

6:30 p.m.

In Attendance: Trustees Chris Crowley, Alec Ashbaugh, Fiscal Officer Stacey McKenzie, Road Supervisor Bryan Stastny, Fire Chief Jim Snyder, Township Administrator Rhonda Ledford.

BUDGET:

Trustee Ashbaugh mentioned that he would like to identify needed equipment and roads projects to allocate ARPA funds. Fiscal Officer McKenzie said that we currently have \$290,244.44 left in the ARPA account to allocate.

Fiscal Officer McKenzie advised that in the General Fund, there was less money brought in than expenditures year to date, with the expense of insurance premiums and consulting fees for the connector project. Trustee Crowley suggested the possibility of using a percentage of the millage that could go back into the General Fund.

Administrator Ledford mentioned that her insurance contributions will no longer be required at the end of January 2025.

F.O. McKenzie provided account statistics for the millage for road fund and the gas tax.

FIRE:

Chief Snyder stated he had received quotes from Penn Care and Braun in Van Wert, Ohio for a new medic on a Ford F550 chassis. The Braun quote was \$368,879.00. This would replace the current Dodge medic. F.O. McKenzie said that with the funds currently available in the fire and EMS funds, and with appropriate budgeting, there was no reason that we could not afford that by the delivery date. McKenzie said that perhaps the Trustees could make a motion for resolution at the next regular meeting to move forward with the process of ordering.

LEVY:

Trustee Ashbaugh read the current flyer, produced by Sam George, relating to the levy. Ashbaugh said that Mr. George found a potential treasurer, Caleb Duley. Once the treasurer had been assigned, he could begin printing and distributing signs to support the levy.

ROAD:

Trustee Crowley suggested that Bryan Stastny go onto the State Bid web sight to look at the purchase of an arm mower, as it may be less expensive than using Parson's. Stastny agreed, but also mentioned that Parsons has continued to provide good service and uses American made products. Currently, Stastny said he has obtained two estimates on arm mowers.

F.O. McKenzie suggested the possibility that the funds for an arm mower could come out of a permissive vehicle tax. McKenzie explained that she has accounts set aside (line items) for Road expenditures to include: "Small Tools and Equipment" and "Repairs and Maintenance" that could be reallocated to cover the cost of the mower.

Stastny said that his crew had started on the crack-sealing yesterday, and should complete Gerlaugh Road and hopefully Lake Road, but they were going to need more material.

Stastny said he had been reviewing the Township Employee Handbook with Heath Jones throughout the week and hoped to have a draft to provide to the trustees for review.

With one person on vacation, and another off sick, Stastny said it would be nice to have

additional part time employees to assist in completing day to day operations, when other crew members are off. He did have some recent applicants in mind and asked if the Trustees wanted to set up interviews.

Trustee Crowley and Ashbaugh stated that they would prefer Mr. Stastny conduct interviews for his crew, with the Trustees only involved regarding pay and disciplinary actions. Trustee Ashbaugh stated that they are available to assist Stastny if requested, but they trust him to make the day to day operational decisions within the Road Department, just as they do with the Fire Department.

Stastny mentioned that New Carlisle had invited Bethel Township to participate in the "Touch A Truck" event and he had agreed to take a truck and a front loader for the event.

DONATION:

A resident had inquired about donating money for American flags to be placed on Styer Dr. Administrator Ledford had advised that the township does not own those lamps and that this may prove a difficult and time-consuming task. There was brief discussion about a potential war memorial within the Township, as other municipalities had done, and that perhaps a donation would be better used in that manner.

TRICK OR TREAT:

Trustees discussed the organization of a "Trunk or Treat" event at the fire station. The fire department previously hosted an annual Halloween Party which had been discontinued several years ago due to COVID restrictions. Trustees Crowley and Ashbaugh agreed that this would be a great idea. Dates were briefly discussed revolving around the same events at local churches.

LOCAL / CITIZENS COMMENTS:

Administrator Ledford discussed the arrival of a new social worker who had set up inside the New Carlisle Library. She stated that the new social worker is greatly interested in suicide prevention, meals for the elderly and children. The social worker had inquired if she provided stencils and paint, if volunteers could paint suicide prevention messages on the walkways in the parks. Trustee Ashbaugh said that he saw no problem with that.

Resident Don Wallace inquired if anyone had heard that the Texas Migrant Counsel had purchased the old YMCA on S.R. 235 going into New Carlisle. Trustee Ashbaugh said he had not heard any confirmation, but he had heard the same rumors.

Residents Don Wallace and Steve Coppess applauded the trustees and staff in conducting a successful and productive meeting.

Trustee Ashbaugh adjourned the meeting at 8:15pm.

Absent

Nancy K. Brown, Chairperson

Alec R. Ashbaugh

Alec Ashbaugh, Vice Chairperson

Chris Crowley

Chris Crowley, Member

Stacey L McKernan