

RAVENNA TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF APRIL 15, 2025

The Ravenna Township Board of Trustees met in Regular Session at the Ravenna Township Trustee's Meeting Room, 6145 Spring Street, Ravenna, Ohio, on April 15, 2025. Trustee Vince Coia called the meeting to order at 7:03 P.M.

Roll call showed the following present: Trustees Vince Coia, Jim DiPaola and Hank Gibson, Acting Fire Chief Heather Sweitzer, Zoning Inspector Lori Rotondo, Road Superintendent Ray Taylor, Fire Dept. Liaison Mark Kozak and Asst. Fiscal Officer Jon Summers. Fiscal Officer Gail Pittman was absent. In the audience were Isaac Dukes, Cheri Wetshtein and Stephanie Weigel.

AUDIENCE

Isaac Dukes updated the trustees on the lot purchases he made to be able to create a buildable lot at Sumner St. and Blake Ave. He owns 46% of the frontage and has the only buildable area on the Blake Ave extension. He inquired what the next steps would be for vacating the paper road. The trustees said the County Commissioners would be the ones that would need to be contacted next in that process. Isaac said he would do so and have them communicate with the trustees.

Cheri Wetshtein, property owner on Menough, came to talk about the zoning issues going on with her property (maintaining vegetation between two parallel fences and the shed within side setback areas). Cheri said the vegetation has been removed between the fences. The trustees said as long as that maintenance continues, there should be no problem. The sheds do need to be moved out of the setback area unless she wants to apply for a variance from the BZA, which she thinks she will pursue.

Stephanie Weigel introduced herself and said she's been a township resident for a while and is looking for ways to be involved in the community. She heard there was an opening as an alternate on the BZA and is interested in that position. The trustees talked with her and learned her background and agreed she would make a good addition to the group.

RES #25-067 A motion by Jim DiPaola, seconded by Vince Coia to appoint Stephanie Weigel as an alternate on the Board of Zoning Appeals for the term April 18, 2025 through April 18, 2030 and paid the agreed upon rate for each meeting that she attends. R/C: Mr. Coia, yes; Mr. DiPaola, yes; Mr. Gibson, yes. Motion Passed.

REGULAR BUSINESS

The motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 1, 2025 was tabled until the next meeting.

Vince announced the correspondence book was available in the Fiscal Office for public viewing during normal business hours.

A motion by Vince Coia, seconded by Jim DiPaola to approve payroll warrants for April 18, 2025, in the amount of \$56,886.89 and other warrants in the amount of \$25,853.27 with warrants over \$1,000.00 being read aloud for approval. R/C: Mr. Coia, yes; Mr. DiPaola, yes; Mr. Gibson, yes. Motion Passed.

OLD BUSINESS
TRUSTEES

The trustees reviewed the 2025 NOPEC Energize Community Grant Agreement.

RES #25-068 A motion was made by Vince Coia, seconded by Hank Gibson to approve and accept the NOPEC Energize Community Grant Agreement for 2025. R/C: Mr. Coia, yes; Mr. DiPaola, yes; Mr. Gibson, yes. Motion Passed.

Jim noted that the grant will cover both installing of the insulation in the new storage building and the window coverings in the meeting room.

Jim presented a rate schedule for Solar Project fees and it was discussed

RES #25-069 A motion was made by Jim DiPaola, seconded by Vince Coia to approve and accept the following permit rate schedule for Solar Projects effective immediately; permit fees could be payable an additional time if the project is not completed withing the application time frame:

Residential project up to 15 KW is \$450 + \$15/KW for anything over 15 KW;

Commercial projects 50 KW and under is \$1,000

Commercial projects between 50 KW and 250 KW is \$1000 + \$7/KW over 50 KW

Commercial projects above 350 KW is \$2,400 + \$5/KW over 250 KW

R/C: Mr. Coia, yes; Mr. DiPaola, yes; Mr. Gibson, yes. Motion Passed.

Vince said the residents of the Chinn Development held another sewer meeting on April 3, 2025.

FISCAL OFFICER

Gail was absent :

None

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Ray was present and reported the following:

Ray and Melissa worked on the 2025 Sign Grant and it has been submitted for approval.

We are applying for a grant in the amount of \$39,194.47.

Down spouts have been installed for the new building.

Doug Maggard started his CDL class this week and has another two weeks to go.

The 2011 backhoe had an electrical issue which needed Southeastern to come and figure out. They have repaired it and the machine is good to go.

Ray has received one estimate for the foam insulation on the new building. USA Insulation is quoting \$18,123. Ray has another couple of people coming out to quote.

Interviews for the open full time road worker are done. Ray requested an executive session at the end of the meeting to discuss employment.

Ray touched base with Bud's Dumpsters today to verify everything is set up for the spring cleanup on April 26, 2025.

GRANDVIEW CEMETERY

There were four burials in the past two weeks.

Ray is still working on the leaking mausoleum roof quotes. After finding the original building prints, it has been determined that the structure will not support a peaked roof. He got a quote for installing a PVC roof in the amount of \$26,000 and a rubber roof for a little over \$7,000. The trustees asked that the salesmen come to a meeting to discuss the benefits of one over the other.

The decorations on the grave in the Islamic section have been removed and cleaned up.

ZONING DEPARTMENT

Lori Rotondo was present and reported the following:

Eric Courtney does not want to renew a new term as a member of the Zoning Commission. His term is up on May 1, 2025. Lori is trying to contact the alternate, Kathy Franks to see if she is interested in filling the vacancy.

A motion by Jim DiPaola, seconded by Vince Coia to accept the resignation of Eric Courtney as member of the Zoning Commission effective May 1, 2025. R/C: Mr. Coia, yes; Mr. DiPaola, yes; Mr. Gibson, yes. Motion Passed.

Lori reviewed the pending court cases.

Lori is having difficulties working with the Prosecutor's Office. She isn't getting responses to her emails, resolutions aren't going to court due to the Prosecutor not filing complaint letters, the court is telling the township to go on people's properties to clean up when the township isn't legally allowed to do that and we don't have the extra money to be doing so. The trustees told her to send an email to the elected official Prosecutor Connie Lewandowski with her concerns and copy Chris Meduri and all the trustees regarding her issues.

On one of the issues out on Peck Rd. regarding old non-functioning farm equipment, Chad Murdock suggest that someone meet the property owner's attorney to try and reach a resolution before taking this further to court. Jim said he would be glad to do that and asked Lori to set up the meeting date and time.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Acting Fire Chief Heather Sweitzer was present and reported the following:

Heather asked to purchase some scene lighting for Unit #2413. It would be \$628 at either Home Depot or Hartville Hardware.

A motion was made by Hank Gibson, seconded by Vince Coia to authorize the purchase scene lights for Unit #2413 at the cost of \$628 at Hartville Hardware or Home Depot. R/C: Mr. Coia, yes; Mr. DiPaola, yes; Mr. Gibson, yes. Motion Passed.

Heather asked to purchase 4 replacement Milwaukee 28v batteries for the extrication tools from Grainger for \$894.96.

A motion was made by Hank Gibson, seconded by Vince Coia to authorize the purchase 4 28v Milwaukee batteries at Grainger for the price of \$894.96. R/C: Mr. Coia, yes; Mr. DiPaola, yes; Mr. Gibson, yes. Motion Passed.

Matt Frawley is requesting to take an Origin and Cause Fire Investigation course through Tri-C at the cost of \$600.00. The trustees said to table that request for now. The class isn't until October.

Captain Collins and Firefighter Gemberling conducted peer review on a couple of applicants that they are requesting to hire. The trustees looked the paperwork over and suggested they have the applicants come in for a second interview performed by either Captain Sweitzer or Firefighter Matt Dix.

NEW BUSINESS
TRUSTEES

Vince was contacted by a resident on Winding Creek of streetlights being out. He investigated and found one out and 2 that kept going out and coming back on. He contacted First Energy to get them fixed.

Vince attended the Chamber of Commerce meeting.

FISCAL OFFICER

RES #25-070 A motion was made by Vince Coia, seconded by Hank T. Gibson to approve the P.O.s listed below. R/C: Mr. Coia, yes; Mr. DiPaola, yes; Mr. Gibson, yes. Motion Passed.

| Item | PO# | Amount | Vendor | Purpose | Fund |
|------|----------|--------|----------------|-----------------------------|------|
| A | 188-2025 | 82.78 | Dave Spraggins | Book for fire officer class | Fire |

Financial reports will be distributed in excel format to the department heads and Trustees.

We received the Ohio RE Homestead Rollback today in the amount of \$73,120.79.

Gail has moved back another \$225,000 to the Star Ohio account.

Jon requested executive session to discuss matters required to be kept confidential by Federal HIPAA law.

Mark said the union contract came back OK and gave it to Jon to have Melissa send it on to SERB. Mark asked when everyone wanted to get together to discuss the fire chief applicants. It was decided that Wednesday, April 23, 2025 at 5:30 PM would be good.

Pursuant to R.C 121.22(g) Executive Session was requested for the purpose of discussing the following: employee appointment and matters required to be kept confidential by Federal HIPPA.

A motion by Jim DiPaola, seconded by Hank Gibson to suspend the Regular session at 8:45 pm. R/C: Mr. Coia, yes; Mr. DiPaola, yes; Mr. Gibson, yes. Motion Passed.

A motion by Vince Coia, seconded by Hank Gibson to enter Executive session at 8:45 pm. R/C: Mr. Coia, yes; Mr. DiPaola, yes; Mr. Gibson, yes. Motion Passed.

Attendance: Vince Coia, Jim DiPaola, Hank Gibson, Jon Summers, Ray Taylor.

Returned to open session at 9:11 pm.

RES #25-071 A motion was made by Vince Coia, seconded by Jim DiPaola to hire Rocco Crone as Road Crew at a rate of \$19.00/hour effective Monday, April 21, 2025 contingent upon passage of a drug test. R/C: Mr. Coia, yes; Mr. DiPaola, yes; Mr. Gibson, yes. Motion Passed.

RES #25-072 A motion was made by Vince Coia, seconded by Jim DiPaola to send the accounts listed on the supplemental report to the Attorney General for collection as recommended by LifeForce. R/C: Mr. Coia, yes; Mr. DiPaola, yes; Mr. Gibson, yes. Motion Passed.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion by Vince Coia, seconded by Jim DiPaola to adjourn the meeting at 9:17 pm. R/C: Mr. Coia, yes; Mr. DiPaola, yes; Mr. Gibson, yes. Motion Passed.

ATTEST:

CHAIR

TRUSTEE

FISCAL OFFICER

TRUSTEE