

SAGAMORE HILLS TOWNSHIP – REGULAR

Monday, February 14, 2011 – media notified

The regular meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Hunt at 7:00 pm. R/C Barrett-present; Hunt-present; Snell-absent; Fiscal Officer Gale-present.

Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

Mr. Hunt moved to approve and dispense with the reading of the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on Monday, January 10, 2011; Seconded by Mr. Barrett. R/C Vote: both in favor.

Mr. Hunt moved to approve and dispense with the reading of the minutes of the Special Meeting held on Thursday, January 13, 2011; Seconded by Mr. Barrett. R/C Vote: both in favor.

PENDING WARRANTS

Mr. Hunt moved to approve the Pending Warrant Report dated January 2011 in the amount of \$272,600.18. Seconded by Mr. Barrett. R/C Vote: both in favor.

WEB SITE

Mr. Hunt reported the web site statistics for January 2011 were 1,657 visitors; 1,098 were unique visitors; 3,180 pages were viewed. The Fire District statistics were updated on the web site.

RESOLUTIONS

Mr. Barrett moved to adopt **RESOLUTION 11-05** to hire Don Saunders as a part-time Assistant Zoning Inspector. Seconded by Mr. Hunt. R/C Vote: both in favor.

Mr. Hunt moved to adopt **RESOLUTION 11-06** to perform an upgrade on the Township computer network. Seconded by Mr. Barrett. R/C Vote: both in favor.

Mr. Barrett moved to adopt **RESOLUTION 11-07** to approve the demolition of 8280 Augusta Lane. Seconded by Mr. Hunt. R/C Vote: both in favor.

Demolition can take place after a thirty day notice is given to the property's current mortgage holder, the Bank of New York. A lien will be placed on the property for the cost if the Township pays for the demolition.

Mr. Hunt moved to adopt **RESOLUTION 11-08** to approve Euthenics to complete the engineering plans on the park trail. Seconded by Mr. Barrett. R/C Vote: both in favor.

Mr. Barrett moved to adopt **RESOLUTION 11-09** to apply for the 2011 Community Recycling Access Grant. Seconded by Mr. Hunt. R/C Vote: both in favor.

Mr. Hunt moved to adopt **RESOLUTION 11-10** to authorize the Fiscal Officer to make a revenue transfer for the police fund. Seconded by Mr. Barrett. R/C Vote: both in favor.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Police Department

Mr. Barrett reported on the statistics for January 2011: Dispatch handled 582 calls for service. Handed out 756 "Patrolled Your Area Cards."

The Investigative Section received sixteen (16) investigations and closed fifteen (15) of them. One (1) was closed by arrest.

One (1) Letter of Commendation was received, praising a member of the Department for dedication to duty.

Roads

Mr. Hunt: Plowed and salted roads; hauled last of salt from stockpile to salt sheds; repaired mail boxes. Cold patched roads. Repaired brake lines on 634; repaired lights on 631; put new cutting edge on plow; put new tires on backhoe; worked on air grease gun. Took down Christmas lights; installed electric outlet in break room; did inventory and MSDS Sheets for Road and Park; repaired frozen water line in park building and other miscellaneous repairs.

2,400 tons of salt have been used this season. The cost was \$47/ton which totaled \$112,000. We have another 1,700 tons available to us but we continue to have problems getting it delivered.

We will adopt a new policy on mailbox casualties prior to next winter. The size of the existing post, the age of the post and if the post is rotted will be taken into consideration when examining the damage. The plow does not hit the mailbox but the force of the heavy wet snow hitting the box is what causes the damage. Some mailboxes in Eaton Estates lean forward and hang over the road which is the primary cause of the excessive casualties there.

Fire/EMS

Mr. Barrett: Fire District had 97 total runs; 87 were EMS runs; 10 were fire runs. Northfield Center 26 EMS and 8 fire; Sagamore Hills 61 EMS and 2 fire.

Zoning

Mr. Barrett: There were two (2) zoning permits issued for a total of \$335.00. These permits included a remodeling and 2 signs for 2 stores.

Fiscal Officer

Mr. Gale: Announced that he had the honor of attending the governor's swearing in ceremony last month. He had the opportunity of speaking to some of the new cabinet members and officials who will be in charge of the government. The most interesting activity was sitting on the Ohio House of Representatives floor with our new State Representative, Lynn Slaby, and the new incoming Chairman of the House Finance and Appropriations Committee, Ron Amstutz, of Wayne County. Mr. Gale and the former Mayor of North Canton, who is the Council President, had an opportunity to talk to Mr. Amstutz about some of the bills that are forthcoming and a direct concern of this Township and communities throughout Ohio.

The first issue addressed was the State's shortcomings that will be passed on to our Township. They will try to make these in increments in order to make it easier for the townships to deal with. The second issue was the declining revenues. He asked that Sagamore Hills not be penalized for doing due diligence. If there are going to be cuts, that they would be equal across the board for all governments. Sagamore Hills does not have large amounts of extra revenue but a rainy day fund for all emergencies that come up. Mr. Amstutz offered an opportunity to come back and speak with him or the committee at a later date. It was later announced that Mr. Slaby would sit on the Appropriations Committee.

The 2010 Fiscal Year ended on December 31, 2010 and was closed out on January 4, 2011. Per rule and regulation, it was reported in the newspaper and reports are available in the Township Office.

Mr. Gale presented the Fiscal Officer's January 2011 report with a beginning balance of \$5,425,562.49; receipts at \$43,419.25 plus \$55,000 transfer; minus expenditures of \$327,929.14 (\$55,328.96 which includes transfer plus Pending Warrant amount of \$272,600.18); ending balance was \$5,196,052.60.

Mr. Hunt asked if the trustees will be receiving their copies of the monthly appropriation status and other reports. Mr. Gale answered that the report is in a different format because of the new system. All the information is now in one report. Mr. Hunt asked why there were so many zeros in the report. Mr. Gale offered to make the report more detailed if the trustees wanted them. Mr. Hunt did not want more details but wants to continue to receive the standard basic reports not the extensive documentation.

Trustees

Mr. Barrett: A request was received from BP Pipelines to build a fifty foot (50 ft.) guardrail around a valve box located on Sagamore Road so it would not be damaged if a vehicle went off the road and hit the box. Mr. Hunt did not believe a motion needed to be made. The valve box is at the entrance to the 191 ball field and felt this request only needed to be approved. Mr. Barrett will inform zoning to notify BP that this request is approved.

Mr. Barrett: A number of bids have been received for the demolition of 8280 Augusta Lane. Mr. Hunt did not want to entertain the bids at this meeting because the lien holders have the opportunity to correct this themselves. If the lien holder does not have the house demolished within 30 days, the Township will choose one of the bids and place the cost upon the tax duplicate.

Mr. Hunt: On January 18, 2011 we received an audit report from our technology advisor covering the second half of 2010. In this audit he reported that our computer network is running without significant issues. He did recommend software upgrades to the system that were outlined in Resolution 11-06. A second issue deals with the backup tapes and frequent missed recording of weekly and monthly tapes. His recommendation is: "One policy issue found involved the frequent missed rotation of tapes for the weekly and monthly backups. This should be addressed by the Trustees with the personnel involved with the task of insuring the proper tapes are provided in a timely fashion." Mr. Gale commented that the tapes have been rotated and done according to the plan. He also added that he does not need the tape system because he is now in the UAN system. Mr. Hunt replied that the tape system needs to be continued because that is how the Township computers get backed up.

Mr. Hunt: There were four items that require Mr. Gale's signature since 2010. Mr. Hunt sent three memos to Mr. Gale requesting his signature or needed revisions to the documents. They were 12/13/10 Regular Meeting Minutes, 12/27/10 Special Meeting Minutes, 12/27/10 Compensation Resolution and 12/29/10 Organization Resolution. Mr. Gale stated he requested the Chair to review the documents with him. She was unable to meet at that time and will correct this issue when she returns. Mr. Hunt added that 2010 cannot be closed out until she returns.

Mr. Hunt: On February 1, 2011 we received a request from the Fire District for Sagamore Hills share of the hydrant money deducted from the November bill. The bill or Sagamore Hills share of the operating expense was \$53,849.99. The November billing needs to be paid. According to the December Warrant report two checks totaling \$35,748.69 were issued to the Fire District. This leaves a balance due of \$18,101.30. There is no indication to this date that the November 2010 bill has been fully paid. Mr. Hunt requested the bill be paid. Mr. Gale replied that he discussed this with the Fire District representative. They agreed with the payments set forth. A transition was made that was electronically sent and the trustees received copies regarding those bills. The full expense was not paid because it was not a bill. Mr. Gale will not recognize that amount until which point a legal opinion is obtained. He added the trustees cannot go back and pass a resolution in January on issues that occurred before then. They will need to have a legal opinion that states that, per the audit, we can pay bills that were not part of the contract. Mr. Hunt explained that the Fire District is part of the Township and he cannot refuse to pay the Fire District. Mr. Gale stated that he did not refuse to pay the Fire District but paid what he thought was fair. He paid the corrected version of the billing that was submitted by the Fire District. Mr. Hunt asked why the Fire District is sending memos asking for the balance of the billing.

Mr. Gale answered that the balance of the bill is not money collected after the fact. Anything that comes in after will be paid. Mr. Hunt commented that Mr. Gale is not involved in the Fire District. Mr. Gale agreed but said he is here and responsible for the citizens of Sagamore Hills. He is not obligated to pay all bills that are sent to him but obligated to pay what he is legally required to pay.

Mr. Hunt asked Mr. Barrett's opinion. Mr. Barrett stated he would not give an opinion until he sees a legal opinion in writing. Mr. Barrett added that the Fire District has been trying to set up a meeting to discuss this issue and has been unsuccessful. He would like to get together with them and resolve this problem. Mr. Barrett explained there is an agreement with the District to pay them and if there are objections, a meeting needs to be scheduled to discuss them. The November and December bills were both paid with modifications. Mr. Barrett suggested setting up a meeting with the Chairman, the Board and their Administrator. Mr. Gale did attend the last Fire District meeting as requested. Mr. Hunt said he does not like taking money from them when they bill us even though they are us. It no longer is the Northfield Center Fire Department. It is our Fire Department.

Mr. Hunt moved to adopt **RESOLUTION 11-11** to obtain a legal opinion regarding the Fire District billing from November 2010. Seconded by Mr. Barrett. R/C Vote: both in favor.

Mr. Hunt: In the February 2, 2011 issue of our local newspaper there was an article about the possible loss of local government funds that the Township receives from the State. The article seemed to miss the point that this money was earmarked for local communities when the State income and sales taxes were raised. On the County level these funds are used for the social services provided to our residents and on the local level the funds are used to fund the mandates or laws put into effect by the State. Coming up this year is the Pollution Prevention Good Housekeeping Plan (PPGHP). We have to implement storage and build a building to store materials such as asphalt patch, dirt, sand, and pipe. Anything that is loose and rain will fall on has to be put under cover.

The second thing coming up this year is to develop and implement a plan to look at all the road signs in the Township in the middle of the night with someone Mr. Hunt's age to test their reflectivity. Otherwise the purchase of a \$4,000 meter will be necessary in order to test the signs. These are things that are being passed down to us that we have no funding for.

The reduction or loss of these funds will hurt us quickly as we tap into our rainy day fund to supplement our tax levies. Contrary to the statements in the paper that the Trustees would have to forego "wish" list projects like new carpeting for the town hall, the Trustees are in charge of making decisions in regards to maintenance of all of the facilities as well as the park, roads, ditches, police, and fire. My wish list includes one million dollars for the reconstruction of the Spring Streets which was bumped up tonight to one million two hundred thousand; and one million five hundred thousand dollars for repaving Sagamore Road. Since I only have five hundred thousand dollars available, I will have to settle for smaller projects.

The fire levy does not provide enough money for the contracted service we had before and is well short of covering current expenses. The fire levy is supplemented with local government funds from our general fund. The State needs to find other ways than cut backs to local communities to solve their debt crisis. The State is near bankruptcy and they are going to drag us down with them. I think the writer of that article really missed the point.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mr. Hunt: We have a meeting that is still open. A decision needs to be made regarding the commercial business on Chaffee Road. Mr. Barrett explained that the issue is still open because legal counsel has not gotten back to us.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Barrett is waiting for an official notice from the Summit County Engineer that the speed limit will be changed on North Boyden Road to 35 mph. The Trustees requested 30 mph and the County posted it at 40 mph. ODOT said they would make it 35 mph.

CITIZENS' FORUM

Frank Kopas asked about the \$55,000 transferred to the police. Mr. Hunt explained that money is received from the tax levies around March 1st every year. There was not enough carry over from 2010 to cover all the payrolls. Mr. Gale requested an advance from the County Auditor. He received \$160,000 advance from the police levy and he will receive the balance of it after March 2nd. We had to supplement it with \$55,000 now and we may have to supplement it again. There is always going to be an increase in costs. Mr. Barrett added that we have added personnel but the tax levy is not collecting what it should be collecting because of the devaluation of homes, the number of people that do not pay, etc. Mr. Hunt said it was known that the levy would only last a certain number of years and it exceeded that. That is why we have a rainy day fund. It was anticipated that we would use it for this. If the local government funds are cut back and the estate taxes are cut back we will lose a lot of money.

Mr. Kopas asked if there are penalties if we do not comply with the good housekeeping plan. Mr. Hunt answered the communities agreed in 2003 to slowly work to comply with the EPA standards. No one has been fined yet but, if we get audited, we could be fined if we do not comply with the EPA.

Ted Shoop continued the discussion about State funded mandates and money being cut to the local communities. Mr. Hunt explained the Summit County Executive wanted the communities to sign a non-poaching agreement last year. This agreement was to agree we would not go into a neighboring community and steal their businesses. We did not sign the agreement and, because we were not part of the non-poaching agreement, had points taken off a grant application. We now are part of the non-poaching agreement.

Mr. Shoop commented that he believed the Township was going to vote on the purchase of the school property. The Trustees explained that the topic was not on the agenda and there would not be a vote at this meeting. The property is not being purchased out of the general fund. A decision would be made whether or not to go on the ballot and let the people decide to buy it with a levy. Mr. Shoop said he would prefer not putting it on the ballot. If you leave it alone it will stay green space. If the school keeps it, it will stay green space. If someone buys it, it will be single-family homes. Mr. Hunt explained the Township has four employees taking care of the Township park and all the ball fields and soccer fields. He added that he would need more money to hire another employee to maintain the property if the Township buys it.

Jack Donnelly disagreed with Mr. Shoop. He would ask that the people have the opportunity to vote on the purchase of the Dunham Road property. He also gave his opinion that it was not necessary to maintain the ball fields and soccer fields.

Mrs. Kopas asked about natural gas suppliers and explained the hassle they had with Dominion East Ohio and the local aggregate letters they received. The Trustees explained that everyone in Sagamore Hills is receiving these letters.

Greg Foth asked Frank Risko if any of the leaking fire hydrants are being repaired. Capt. Risko answered that they are waiting until the weather breaks but there are work orders for these repairs. None of the leaking hydrants have been repaired. Mr. Barrett suggested that Mr. Foth contact the Water Board who would be able to answer his questions.

Gary Smith said there was a hydrant being repaired that afternoon on North Boyden. Mr. Hunt commented that all of the hydrants and lines will eventually be changed on Glencrest and Barton. The roads will need to be torn up and replaced.

There was no further business. Mr. Barrett moved to adjourn at 7:52 pm. Seconded by Mr. Hunt. R/C Vote: both in favor.