

## RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

**MIFFLIN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Meeting

**Held**

**AUGUST 6,**

**2007**

Chairman Spanovich called the Regular Staff Meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. with Mr. Angelou and the Fiscal Officer, Nancy White, present. Mr. Stewart was absent.

Also present were:

Jack Reynolds	Smith & Hale, Attorneys
Dolly Hanning	2354 Agler Road
Mr. & Mrs. Ken Bing	2610 Ferris Road
Jack Rupp	Plain Township Asst. Fire Chief
Dale Ingram	Jefferson Township Fire Chief
Jim DeConnick	Mifflin Township Fire Chief
Michael Pockock	Police Chief
Calvin McKnight	Service Director

Mr. Spanovich asked to dispense with the Pledge and Prayer.

The Fiscal Officer said she invited Jack Reynolds of Smith & Hale to be present at this meeting to discuss annexation guidelines and to answer questions that the Board has regarding annexations. He is the appointed agent handling the annexation request for the property at 4301 Johnstown Rd. from Jefferson Township to the City of Gahanna. Mr. Hale said the State Legislature changed the annexation laws in 2004 and created three new ways to annex. They are called Expedited because they make the annexation process a little faster. Expedited Type I is when the City and Township both agree to the annexation and work out the taxation issues. Expedited Type II is when the Township would continue to collect the tax revenues and there would be no boundary shifts. Under Type II, tax revenues from property that is annexed from Jefferson to the City of Gahanna would stay in Jefferson and not go to Mifflin even though Mifflin would take over the Fire/EMS coverage. Chief Ingram from Jefferson Township said Mifflin and Jefferson Fire Departments cover each other and does not feel this would be an issue but it may be in other townships. Mr. Reynolds explained that there are agreements that can be worked out where both townships receive revenue. He said there is no set mechanism for working out an agreement. The Expedited Type III is for projects over one million dollars which nobody has used yet. There is still the old annexation process where you have to have at least 51% of the property owners sign the petition and under that scenario you can change the boundaries. There are more people and procedures involved in that type of annexation, but there are still entities that prefer that method. He said the largest number of annexations have been the Expedited Type II under the new laws, but there are mechanisms out there that we can use. There is also no longer a time limit for collecting tax revenues under the Expedited annexations, but Mr. Reynolds said that can also be negotiated.

Mr. Angelou said that Mr. Reynolds's explanations have been very helpful and it is good to know that there are agreements that can be reached so that both townships can benefit from the tax revenues. Mr. Spanovich said that Mifflin does not only lose money through annexations but also through TIF's and abatements which are problems that other townships are also facing. The bottom line is can we still provide services with the existing tax base that we have. Mr. Spanovich said that we need to look at who is benefiting from these TIF's and abatements and can we share in it.

### **Res. 208-07: Approve Minutes of July 17, 2007**

Mr. Spanovich moved to approve the minutes of the July 17, 2007 meeting. Mr. Angelou seconded. All voted yea. Motion carried.

After discussion, the Trustees agreed that the June 21, 2007 minutes from the joint meeting with Clinton Township are in order and can be approved at this time. The Clinton Township Board said they would approve them after they are approved by Mifflin.

### **Res. 209-07: Approve Minutes of June 21, 2007**

Mr. Spanovich moved to approve the minutes of the June 21, 2007 minutes as presented. Mr. Angelou seconded. All voted yea. Motion carried.

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## CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was presented to the Board by the Fiscal Officer:

1. Franklin County Budget Commission letter from Kerri Ritchie Clerk, regarding an organization session meeting on August 6, 2007 at 2:00 p.m. to discuss the library and local government support fund.
2. Franklin County Board of Health certified letter to the property owner of 2879 Northglen Drive that they will consider declaring the property a nuisance at the next regularly scheduled meeting on August 14, 2007 at 9:30 a.m.
3. Franklin County Planning Commission agenda for their meeting on August 8, 2007 at 1:30 p.m. There are no cases for Mifflin Township.
4. Frank Gates Service Company letter and invoice to continue as the TPA to manage our Ohio Workers' Compensation Account in the amount of \$12,600.00 for the period of 7/1/07 thru 6/30/07. We do not qualify for the 2008 Group Rating Program at this time.

### Res. 210-07: Approve Renewing Frank Gates Service Company as the TPA to Manage our Workers' Compensation Account for Another Year Effective 7/1/07 for \$12,600.00

Mr. Angelou moved to approve the Frank Gates Service Company as the TPA to manage our Workers' Compensation Account for another year effective July 1, 2007 for \$12,600.00 as recommended by the Fiscal Officer. Mr. Spanovich seconded. All voted yea. Motion carried.

The Fiscal Officer said at the last meeting she gave the Board a copy of the Mount Carmel Behavioral Healthcare Company Renewal Agreement for their Employee Assistance Program that has been used for a number of years. The cost is \$30.72 per employee per year for two years effective September 1, 2007.

### Res. 211-07: Approve Renewing the Employee Assistance Program with Mt. Carmel Behavioral Healthcare Company for \$30.72 per Employee per Year for Two Years Effective September 1, 2007

Mr. Spanovich moved to approve renewing the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) with Mt. Carmel Behavioral Healthcare Company for \$30.72 per employee per year for two years effective September 1, 2007. Mr. Angelou seconded. All voted yea. Motion carried.

The Fiscal Officer said we received three letters from Kenny Bing which will be discussed later in the meeting under Public Comments.

Mr. Spanovich signed off on an invoice from Bruner Corporation for air conditioner work at 155 Olde Ridenour Rd. totaling \$1,010.55.

Mr. Angelou said he signed off on registration fees from John E. Reid Associates for a 4-day police interrogation training for Eric Baker and Steve Blake for \$775.00 each.

## OLD BUSINESS

**Verizon Cellular Tower** – Mr. Spanovich said there was an article in the local paper that the tower projects are on hold until a study is done by an outside company regarding legislation.

**Tuition Reimbursement Policy** – The Fiscal Officer said the Trustees must pass a policy that applies to everyone before we can put together a form for employees to sign who wish to apply for tuition assistance. Repayment guidelines must be established for how long an employee must remain with the Township after receiving tuition assistance. The Trustees agreed that the policy should be finalized so it can be approved at the next meeting.

**TeleStaff Status** – Mr. Spanovich asked if this was operating at 100% now. Chief DeConnick said they just implemented doing payroll on it for the last pay period and there are a few things that need worked out but they are close to finalizing it. A service representative is coming in from California this week to work on it for a few days.

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**Fire Dept. Building Improvements** – Mr. Spanovich said he feels we should start getting that into place and determine what improvements we are going to do now and the finances needed. Chief DeConnick said he will set up a meeting with the Architect, Rich Pontius.

**Joint Maintenance Agreement** – The Fiscal Officer said she has received calls from Gahanna inquiring about approval of the agreement. Chief DeConnick said that the Fire Department is the biggest user and he feels that they are the only ones that can service the Department's large vehicles on a timely basis. He said his Department is trying to cut down some expenses by not giving them small routine equipment to service. The Police and Service Departments have already cut back on what they give them to do. It was agreed to hold this for further discussion and meet with the City again.

**Mifflin/Clinton Partnership Project** – Mr. Spanovich said that this project was put on hold until December but he spoke with Clinton's Fiscal Officer to see if she considered them solvent yet and was told she would not know until the end of August. He asked that we be advised by their Trustees if they wanted to act upon this sooner than December.

**Health Insurance Committee/2008** – The Fiscal Officer said she spoke with Sean Sprouse with Burham & Flower and he said we would probably not get our renewal rate until December since our renewal date is in February. She told him we will be working on budgets and the Department Heads will need insurance rates to include in their budgets. There are other options such as the health savings accounts and health reimbursement accounts which can be considered to offset premium costs.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Longevity Pay** – Mr. Spanovich said there are two requests before the Board for service credit bonuses.

#### **Res. 212-07: Approve Service Credit Bonus for the Service Director, Calvin McKnight**

Mr. Angelou moved to approve a service credit bonus for the Service Director, Calvin McKnight in the amount of \$1100.00 at the discretion of the Board and funds permitting. Mr. Spanovich seconded. All voted yea. Motion carried.

#### **Res. 213-07: Approve Service Credit Bonus for John Kaltenbach of the Fire Department**

Mr. Spanovich moved to approve a service credit bonus for John Kaltenbach of the Fire Department in the amount of \$700.00 at the discretion of the Board and funds permitting as recommended by Chief DeConnick. Mr. Angelou seconded. All voted yea. Motion carried.

### **REPORTS OF DEPARTMENT HEADS**

**FIRE** – Chief DeConnick presented the Board with the following requests:

#### **214-07: Approve Rope Rescue Equipment from Rock-N-Rescue/J.E. Weinel, Inc. for a Total of \$8883.20**

Mr. Spanovich moved to approve Purchase Request No. 08-02-07 for rope rescue equipment as quoted from Rock-N-Rescue/J.E. Weinel, Inc. for a total of \$8883.20 as recommended by Chief DeConnick. Mr. Angelou seconded. All voted yea. Motion carried.

#### **215-07: Approve Mustang Rescue Dry Suit (4), Cinch Collar & Storm Boots (12) from Columbus Supply for a Total of \$4648.40**

Mr. Spanovich moved to approve Purchase Request No. 08-01-07 for (4) Mustang Rescue Dry Suits, LSP Cinch Collar and (12) NRS Storm Boots from Columbus Supply as recommended by Chief DeConnick. Mr. Angelou seconded. All voted yea. Motion carried.

The Trustees asked that Chief DeConnick's recommendation request for a contract photographer be put on hold at this time and added to the agenda.

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The Trustees asked that Chief DeConnick's recommendation request for a contract consultant to assist in the development of a comprehensive hands-on Firefighter and Officer assessment program be put on hold at this time and added to the agenda.

**Res. 216-07: Approve Part-time Dispatcher Hourly Rate Adjustment Schedule as Presented Effective August 12, 2007**

Mr. Spanovich moved to approve the Part-time Dispatcher Hourly Rate Adjustment Schedule dated August 2, 2007 and effective August 12, 2007 as presented by Chief DeConnick. Mr. Angelou seconded. All voted yea. Motion carried. (See Referral File)

**Res. 217-07: Approve Promoting MECC Dispatchers David Stockdale, Keith Higgins and Tami Wass to the Position of Dispatch Lieutenant Effective August 12, 2007**

Mr. Spanovich moved to approve promoting MECC Dispatchers David Stockdale, Keith Higgins and Tami Wass to the position of Dispatch Lieutenant effective August 12, 2007 as recommended by the members of the MECC. Mr. Angelou seconded. All voted yea. Motion carried.

**Res. 218-07: Approve Hiring Randall L. Hormann as a MECC Part-time Dispatcher**

Mr. Spanovich moved to approve hiring Randall L. Hormann as a MECC Part-time Dispatcher as recommended by the Chief DeConnick and the MECC Executive Board. Mr. Angelou seconded. All voted yea. Motion carried.

**SERVICE** – Calvin McKnight presented the Trustees with a Resolution to approve OPWC funding for road improvements on Melrose Avenue and Myrtle Avenue.

**Res. 219-07: Approve Authorizing the Board of Trustees to Seek Financial Assistance from the OPWC for Funding of Various Capital Infrastructure Improvement Projects**

Mr. Spanovich moved to approve a Resolution authorizing the Board of Trustees to seek financial assistance from the OPWC for funding of various Capital Infrastructure Improvement Projects as presented and recommended by Calvin McKnight. Mr. Angelou seconded. All voted yea. Motion carried. (See Referral File)

Calvin McKnight said a Public Meeting Invitation is being distributed to the residents of Melrose Avenue and Myrtle Avenue to discuss the Ohio Public Work Commission grant application for their road improvements. The meeting will be on Tuesday, August 21, 2007 at 5:30 – 6:00 p.m. prior to the Regular Trustee Meeting at 6:00 p.m.

**FIRE** – Chief DeConnick continued by reporting on the following:

1. A letter was received from Senator Voinovich to Deputy Chief Kauser thanking him for participating in the roundtable with local and state emergency management professionals on July 9<sup>th</sup> in Columbus. We help Columbus, Franklin County and Ohio serve as a model for others for the work that we do.
2. We were on a Fire run with Columbus when some hose came loose and caught on the tire of a car and pulled it onto the curb. We were driving a borrowed Fire Engine from Columbus because Sta. 132's was out of service in maintenance. There was not much damage and the insurance company was notified. We were not liable because we were on a run.
3. The ISO report was received. We are at a Level 3. We jumped up six plus points in our scale. There are some things we could do to get us into a grading of a Level 2 which would help lower insurance costs.
4. Local 2818 is still looking for some response from their letter to the Board back in March regarding holiday and vacation time.
5. Our IT person, Paul Adkins, advised that we need to purchase five (5) Microsoft server licenses for a total cost of \$3,214.50. This is something we are required to have.

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**Res. 220-07: Approve Purchase of Five (5) Microsoft Server Licenses through Affiliated for a Total of \$3,214.50**

Mr. Spanovich moved to approve the purchase of five (5) Microsoft server licenses through Affiliated for a total of \$3,214.50 as recommended by Paul Adkins. Mr. Angelou seconded. All voted yea. Motion carried.

**POLICE** – No report.

Mr. Spanovich asked for a three minute recess before continuing with the regular meeting.

**POLL VISITORS FOR COMMENTS**

Dolly Hanning said she was upset with the way our Police Department handled an incident involving a runaway 16 year girl in her neighborhood. She said the Police Officer involved owes her an apology. She also said she is upset with some of the comments made by the Police Chief.

Mr. Spanovich said the Trustees have received three letters from Kenny Bing regarding concerns involving his properties. Mr. Bing and his wife were present to address these concerns. Mrs. Bing said that after the last meeting when her husband voiced his concerns, the Police Department is harassing him by driving by their property several times and taking pictures. Mr. Bing said he had never met the Police Chief before the last meeting and at that time he verbally attacked him and his sister. He said the Chief gets all of his information from our Code Enforcement Officer, Steve Blake. Mr. Bing said he was here today to defend himself and address complaints the Township has received against him and feels we should not jump to conclusions before we hear his side of the story. He said every time there is a complaint involving his property, Steve Blake is there in a matter of hours and he feels this is selective enforcement. Mr. Angelou said he is just doing his job and it is not selective enforcement unless he is letting other complaints slide which there is no record of this happening. Mr. Bing said a better word for Mr. Blake checking on his property on a regular basis would be over enforcement. He said he doesn't feel we should write a letter to the Prosecutor but notify him and he will address any issues we have with him. He said most of the residents on Ferris would like to see their property zoned commercial and also annexed to Columbus because they do not feel they are getting a fair shake from the County and Mifflin Township. The Trustees wished him luck in his endeavors to make this happen and said they are not trying to pick on him but are working within the law. The Trustees also said they will check with the Police Department to see why they are driving by his property and taking pictures. Mr. Spanovich said as stated at the last meeting, the issues with Mr. Locke sounds like a legal problem between neighbors.

There being no further business, Mr. Spanovich moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Angelou seconded. All voted yea. Motion carried.

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Joseph F. Spanovich, Chairman

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Nancy M. White, Fiscal Officer

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The Trustees approved the August 3, 2007 payroll warrants for the period of July 15, 2007 through July 28, 2007. Copies are on file with the Fiscal Officer.

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