

Perry Township Board of Trustees

Regular Meeting

March 24, 2020 6:00 pm

Call to Order/ Pledge of Allegiance:

Excused absence: John Masalko, Road Superintendent; Tim Cugini, Zoning Inspector; Joyce Fetzer, Administrator

Additions/Deletions to Agenda:

Public Hearings/Invited Guests:

Communications:

Trustee DeChiara indicated that he would share Governor DeWine's announcement: based on the recommendation of Governor DeWine and the Ohio Department of Health, the General Public will not be permitted to physically attend this meeting and it looks like future meetings, however, the meeting will be live streamed on the Perry Police Department Facebook page. Comments or inquiries may be made to office@perrytwp.com or 330-833-2141.

Public Speaks on items up for Board Approval:

Township Business requiring Board Action:

Unfinished Business:

New Business:

Trustee DeChiara made a motion to approve bills and payroll in the amount of \$50,096.80 for the week ending March 10, 2020 and bills and payroll in the amount of \$191,924.51 for the week ending March 17, 2020; approval of bills in the amount of \$23,178.97 for the week ending March 24, 2020 for a combined total of \$265,178.97; so moved by Trustee Haines; Seconded by Trustee Chessler.

ROLL CALL: Mr. DeChiara, yes. Mr. Haines, yes. Mr. Chessler, yes.

Fiscal Officer:

Consider Accepting the Meeting Minutes from 03/03/20

Trustee DeChiara stated that the Board will consider accepting the minutes from March 3, 2020; so moved by Trustee Chessler; Seconded by Trustee Haines.

ROLL CALL: Mr. DeChiara, yes. Mr. Haines, yes. Mr. Chessler, yes.

Administration:

Fire Department:

Consider EMS Billing Contract

Fire Chief Martin stated that the Fire Department is recommending that the Board of Trustees contract with Life Force Management Billing out of Ravenna, Ohio to provide EMS billing services. Chief Martin indicated:

- Life Force Management was the billing company that the Township utilized to assist in collecting EMS billing of 2017, 2018 and 2019.
- There have been no issues with Life Force Management during the collection process.
- Three EMS billing companies local to the Stark/Portage/Summit County area were evaluated: Life Force Management; Ohio Billing; Jackson Township.
- Life Force has provided excellent service to the Township as our billing agency. We believe the percentage-based rate is superior to the other options because of the incentive to ensure that collections are current. With the other models, we pay for the report even if there is no collection made.
- The Law Director has reviewed the contract; the changes that were recommended by Trustee Chessler and Law Director Hall have been made. Mr. Hall has approved the contract for legal sufficiency.

Trustee DeChiara indicated that he would like to have some discussion regarding this matter.

Trustee DeChiara stated that after looking at different aspects of EMS billing and Fire Dispatching it was his wish that we look into other EMS billing services and gave a brief explanation regarding this proposal. Trustee DeChiara indicated that he was not in favor of the one-year extension with Life Force but would agree to do so if a 30-day out clause could be considered.

Trustee Chessler confirmed that if it would be the consensus of the Board, we would propose the same thing as the Cen Com renewal in that while all this information gathering is taking place and exploring other alternatives for dispatching functions and now EMS billing services, we would at least have our current contracts in place. Trustee Chessler indicated that the Board would propose to renew the Life Force contract for a one-year period with the provision that they allow for a 30-day out clause to either party. Trustee Haines gave a brief explanation regarding his view regarding this matter. Trustee Chessler inquired if Law Director Hall would approach Life Force with this proposal; Mr. Hall confirmed this request; all Board members were in agreement.

Trustee Chessler made a motion that the Board authorize entering into the renewal contract with Life Force for a one-year period subject to the condition that they agree to allow each side to have a 30-day notice of cancellation clause made part of the contract; Seconded by Trustee Haines.

ROLL CALL: Mr. DeChiara, yes. Mr. Haines, yes. Mr. Chessler, yes.

Police Department:

Road and Park Department:

Trustee DeChiara indicated that in conversing with Road Superintendent Masalko regarding the virus issues at this time, the yard waste site would limit their Saturday hours and continue the site hours on Mondays and Wednesday only from 8 am to 2:30 pm.

Law Director:

Consider Harold R. Moore Road Maintenance Specialist Appeals Decision

Law Director Hall stated that the Board will recall that there was a grievance filed by Harold Moore; the Board had an executive session discussion with Mr. Moore and his union, Road Superintendent Masalko and Assistant Road Superintendent Young. Mr. Hall explained that there was an agreement by the union, in word, that that had to be tabled for action until the next regular meeting; this is the next ordinary meeting so the Board must make a decision either to affirm, reject or modify the recommendation by Road Superintendent Masalko.

Trustee Haines made a motion in regard to the appeals decision that the Board affirm the Road Department's supervisor's decision in his write-up; Seconded by Trustee Chessler.

ROLL CALL: Mr. DeChiara, yes. Mr. Haines, yes. Mr. Chessler, yes.

Law Director Hall indicated that he would communicate this to the grievant and to the union.

Zoning:

Consider Lay Off Request of Part-Time Zoning Inspector

Trustee DeChiara stated that under the Zoning Department, the Board will consider the lay-off request of the part-time assistant zoning inspector for lack of work due to the coronavirus.

Law Director Hall stated that he spoke with Administrator Fetzer, Zoning Inspector Cugini, and Road Superintendent Masalko regarding employee matters in light of the corona virus epidemic and relayed his recommendation, in agreement with the Administrator and these Department Heads, from now until at least April 6, 2020, while we are in the stay-at-home order, that these employees should work from home as much as they can, but that they be considered as an on-call status; every department supervisor can call any of those stay-at-home employees at any time to perform services. Mr. Hall further indicated that under accepted federal, state and local guidelines, if you are on stay-at-home, on-call status, you should receive ordinary pay. Mr. Hall indicated that after the April 6th of 2020 date, the Board may then decide to readdress an alternate compensation. Trustee Haines indicated that the Board can review this once the Governor's next orders are relayed.

Trustee DeChiara verified Zoning Inspector Cugini's layoff request for the part-time assistant zoning inspector but indicated that at this time this request will be denied and this employee will be considered as an on-call status.

Trustee Chessler made a motion that pending modification or expiration of the April 6th order of the State of Ohio that we direct our non-essential workers to work as a stay at home employee subject to call in and as essential services require; again, that is subject to expiration and consideration on or after April 6th of 2020; Seconded by Trustee Haines.

ROLL CALL: Mr. DeChiara, yes. Mr. Haines, yes. Mr. Chessler, yes.

Problem Properties:

Executive Session(s):

ORC 121.22 (G) (1) Employment to Include Board of Trustees, Fiscal Officer and Law Director

Department Matters Not Requiring Board Action:

Administration:

Fire Department:

Police Department:

Road Department:

Parks/Recycling:

Zoning:

Law Director:

Announcements:

Trustee DeChiara stated that the Board will have a special recognition at our April 7, 2020 Board of Trustees Meeting to recognize the retirement of Trustee Craig Chessler, Fiscal Officer Joe Schlegel and Assistant Fiscal Officer Karen Moser. Trustee DeChiara stated that we look forward to this presentation.

Fiscal Officer Schlegel stated that he has been on this Board for 28 years and he would like to formally state his thanks and say that it has been a pleasure serving on the Board with this group of Trustees. Trustee Chessler stated that he would like to say for our recorded historical minutes what a pleasure it has been to work with Fiscal Officer Schlegel, his work has been outstanding and impeccable in all ways and he has served the township well.

Public Speaks-Open Forum:

Adjournment:

With nothing further to come before the Board, Trustee DeChiara stated that he would take a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:25 pm; so moved by Trustee Haines; Seconded by Trustee Chessler.

ROLL CALL: Mr. DeChiara, yes. Mr. Haines, yes. Mr. Chessler, yes.

Ralph DeChiara Jr., President

Joe Schlegel, Fiscal Officer