

**BRUNSWICK HILLS TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
December 11, 2018**

The Brunswick Hills Township Board of Trustees met in regular session on Tuesday, December 11, 2018 at Brunswick Hills Township Town Hall.

Board of Trustees Chair Michael Esber, Vice-Chair John Witthuhn, Trustee Christina Kusnerak, Fiscal Officer Katherine Esber, Zoning Inspector Evelyn Czyz, Foreman Paul Magovac, Chief Anthony Strazzo and Police Chief Tim Sopkovich.

Esber called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and noted the meeting was properly advertised.

PRESENTATION:

Chris from Medina County Auditor's office reminded everyone that dog tags are due by January 31, 2019, the cost doubles after the 31st.

Merry Christmas.

MINUTES:

November 20th, 2018, Special Meeting minutes. Tabled.

Esber moved to approve the November 27, 2018 special meeting minutes. Witthuhn seconded. Kusnerak – yes. Witthuhn – yes. Esber – yes. Motion carried.

Witthuhn moved to approve the November 27, 2018 regular meeting minutes. Esber seconded. Kusnerak – yes. Esber – yes. Witthuhn – yes. Motion carried. Witthuhn provided a summary of off camera minutes.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Zoning Department:

Zoning Inspector Evelyn Czyz reported four permits were issued and monies collected for the month of November was \$300.50.

Esber announced that the residents that want to serve on the zoning boards. Esber moved to appoint the following persons as following:

- Ed Kelly – Zoning Commission – Alternate
- Bob Murphy – BZA – Alternate
- Tricia Murphy – Zoning Commission – Five year term
- Cliff Kersten – BZA – Five year term

Witthuhn seconded. Kusnerak – yes. Witthuhn – yes. Esber – yes. Motion carried.

The board thanked all those stepping up to serve on the zoning boards and Al Fulkerson for his many years of service.

Police Department:

Chief Sopkovich thanked the police association for sponsoring the first "Tree Lighting", a lot of residents were there. Also thanked Great Scotts and Riverstone for the sponsored Breakfast with Santa and the assistance of the trustees.

Chief Sopkovich requested to enter in a three year contract with the Medina County Sheriffs and the BH police department for 911 services, radio communications and document management at a cost of \$70,000.00 per year. Kusnerak moved to approve. Witthuhn stated the lack of a second.

Fire Department:

Chief Strazzo gave a report of department activities for the month of November.

Strazzo requested that the board accept letter of resignation from Firefighter Grant Leoding effective December 19th and Yaro Yavorski effective December 26, 2018. Esber moved. Witthuhn seconded. Kusnerak – yes. Witthuhn – yes. Esber – yes. Motion carried.

I would like to request approval for Lt. Cali and Lt Brian Dalziel enroll in Cuyahoga Community College Fire Officer I starting January 14th 2019. This is an important class for the new officers of the department. This class is the first in a 4 step officer training program. I would request a purchase order in the amount of \$1,100.00 to Tri-C from the training line item 2192-220-318-0000. Esber moved to approve. Witthuhn seconded. Kusnerak – yes. Esber – yes. Witthuhn – yes. Motion carried.

Request 39 additional hours in 2018 for Yaro Yavorski. He is currently signed up to meet 1500 hrs. The additional hours were for unscheduled time throughout the year. We currently have open shifts for the remainder of the month. Witthuhn moved to approve. Esber seconded. Kusnerak - yes. Esber – yes. Witthuhn – yes. Motion carried.

Request a P.O. from line item 2281-230-323-0323 Repair and Maintenance (EMS) to Gerber Collision and Glass in the amount of \$3,109.02 for repairs to squad 27-1 from an accident. PERSO Insurance picked up \$2,859.02 and the Fire Department was responsible for the \$250.00 deductible. Esber moved to approve. Witthuhn seconded. Kusnerak – yes. Witthuhn – yes. Esber – yes. Motion carried.

Andrew Pavell will be on military leave from December 20th through March 23rd 2019. Andrew will be deployed with the Air Force. FF Schneider will also be on military leave in the near future.

Meet Santa scheduled for December 16th from noon-3 p.m. at Fire Station Two. Parking and shuttle service will be provided from the Skyview Lodge. This is a change from previous location announced.

On behalf of the BHFF Association a thank you is extended to the Brunswick F.O.E. for their donation of \$508.00.

Strazzo also thank everyone that donated items for Steve Schmitt's military unit. A couple of nice boxes were sent.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

Service Department:

Magovac gave a report of department activities for the month of November.

Request to hire and also a Purchase Order to 83 Construction to build a salt shed at 1643 Substation Road for the amount of \$47,505.00. To be paid from Contracted Services. Esber moved to approve. Kusnerak advise that the number is wrong. The number is 390, not 360. Correct account 1000-330-390-0000. Esber revised his motion of reflect that change. Witthuhn seconded. Kusnerak – yes. Witthuhn – yes. Esber – yes. Motion carried.

Phone approval for new springs on the 2012 International for the amount of \$1,600.00 at Stuver Spring in Akron Ohio. Funds will be paid out of Line Item 2021-330-323-0323 (Repairs and Maintenance Vehicles). Witthuhn moved to approve. Esber seconded. Kusnerak – yes. Witthuhn – yes. Esber – yes. Motion carried.

Request for a check made out to “Medina County Treasurer” for the amount of \$40.30 for salt shed plan review. Please do not send out, Magovac will hand deliver. Receipt will be received when I hand it in.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to everyone.

TRUSTEES’ REPORT:

John Witthuhn:

Witthuhn announced that the new website is up and running. Please report any issues you may see and if you want something posted contact Administrative Specialist Waters or Witthuhn.

Mike Esber:

Esber advised that Wes Humphry called and asked about the part time position with zoning. No one was prepared to discuss the matter at this time.

Esber readdressed the dispatch contract and the need to make a decision. Over the next fifty-seven minutes the difference between the Harris and MARCS radio systems were compared for their efficiency, clarity and range. Trustee Witthuhn stated he is required to abstain. Examples of favorable and unfavorable issues about each system were presented.

Kusnerak explained how the County system was purchased and why they have the HARRIS system. The Commissioners contracted with a company for \$30-40K to write the specifications and go out for bid for the new 911. Four bids came in. MARCS did not meet the requirements of the bid specs so they were not considered. The decision was based on the Boards recommendation to the County Commissioners so they purchased the HARRIS Phase II 700.

Trustee Kusnerak noted that there were two meetings, one on September 24th which she stated there was nothing she got out of it and another on November 20th which

was better, however raised more questions and believed there were inaccurate information presented over the last few meetings. She met on November 29th with Sherriff Millers office and the communications supervisor. She noted that she was there for 2 hours with 3 pages of questions to be answered. Kusnerak stated that she watched calls come in to dispatch and how those calls were handled. She noted that several 911 calls came in for an accident in the City of Brunswick and they were able to handle two calls and the rest had been given back to the SO dispatch center. Kusnerak was concerned that our current service is unable to handle multiple calls. The information needed automatically shows up on the dispatch screen. There was no lag time if mutual aid was needed. Also, the SO is capable of paging for the FD however the FD would have to purchase new pagers for both the MARCS and HARRIS systems.

It was explained that the City of Brunswick is currently on UHF and said they were going to upgrade to the MARCS system the first half of 2019. Kusnerak noted that if or when they do the upgrade they will be on an island all to themselves in Medina County and it would narrow down their roaming capabilities and they would have to purchase "back channels" to communicate with our County. With the MARCS system new radios will have to be purchased and MARCS will force purchasing new pagers. There are grant opportunities for both systems. Currently all of Medina County except for Wadsworth and Brunswick used the SO system. All other state and federal agencies are able to communicate with all local entities.

Kusnerak clarified that there are currently 5 towers and 2 towers within a 10 mile radius that the SO works off of. One at State Rd. and I 271 and the other at York and Litchfield border. The SO will be putting another tower in at Stoney Hill and 303 and as of December 4th the funding has been secured, the site secured, lease agreement approved and the only thing left is the FCC permit which is in the works and the new tower is scheduled to go in the next few months. There will be no maintenance fee, no user fees and no infrastructure fees. Kusnerak also noted that there had been tests of each radio systems. The current radios have a very limited range and once out of the area and sometimes within BHT there is no communications. Kusnerak also noted that the SO does dispatch separately PD's and FD's within the County.

Kusnerak briefly mentioned our current reporting system TAC. There are many problems, for instance our officers have to manually fill in the information and half the time there are problems with that and when contacting the representatives there is less than adequate assistance if there is any assistance at all. Our IT cannot have access to help assist. In the past 3 years there have been six updates which we were never notified about and those updates just happened and she believes it was because the contract is due to expire at the end of the year.

Esber was concerned about the \$27,000 and both Kusnerak and Chief Strazzo agreed that those monies will have to be spent for either system.

Kusnerak stated that although the radio portion of the dispatch agreement is somewhat important, she believes we shouldn't get bogged down with that and no one is addressing the ongoing dispatch issues. Kusnerak noted that there is no sytem that is

100% but after she did the work to find out the accurate information, she still believes making the switch to the SO is what's best for the Township.

Trustee Esber, Fire Chief Strazzo, Police Chief Sopkovich and Brunswick City Police Chief Brian Ohlin spoke giving statistical information, outlined personal experience and testing results of each system and their reasons for choosing one over the other. At times the difference in options and opinions were adamantly stated and defended. Although no decision was made, it is clear that the safety of residents, employees and the general public passing through our combined jurisdictions is the highest motivating factor. The next item for consideration was fiscal responsibility.

Mark Josapho, 1242 Marblehead Point, expressed concern of the radio contract issue and asked if a one year contract could be an option. Strazzo and Sopkovich had additional two minutes discussing opt-out clauses, cost of radios and the improvements needing to be done vs those already up and running. Mr. Josapho asked the board to consider action on a one year contract for the safety of the residents.

Ed Kelly, 298 Substation, expressed his support of the police chief's decision to change dispatch centers. Mr. Kelly was advised that the contract excluded the fire department. Mr. Kelly did not appear to be influenced by that information. Mr. Kelly made it clear that by not allowing the transfer to a different dispatch center was a waste of the police chief's time not to mention the impact on resident's safety. Mr. Kelly believes a decision needs to be made tonight.

Bob Murphy. 4041 Foskett, stated that during his yearlong attendance of all town hall meetings, dispatch problems have not been a topic; only the last two meeting has dispatch issues been publically discussed. Why? When the board stated it had been talked about, Mr. Murphy asked when. After the question was clarified to this year only, Mr. Murphy wanted to know why the emergency. Mr. Esber stated that at the end of month there will be no dispatch. Mr. Murphy adamantly agreed. Mr. Murphy stated that one of the two trustees has to give up.

Dick Miller, employee of MARCS, ex-state trooper. Mr. Miller focused on the radio; not a dispatch center. For five minutes explaining his personal experience being as a law enforcement officer, a volunteer firefighter and the dependability of the MARCS radio. Mr. Miller did stated that for \$750,000.00 the MARCS radio and Harris radio could be integrated.

Mr. Rich Small, MARCS program director and statewide coordinator operator. Mr. Small's gave props to Mr. Miller as the company's most passionate employee. Mr. Small said he felt he had to address the board so a four hour trip would have some meaning.

Sargent James Sanford of the Brunswick Hills Police department supported the move to the Harris radio system.

Kusnerak wants to focus on quality of service, that the safety of our officers/employees is most important. Esber agreed and stated that service has improved with the city's dispatch. Esber moved to approve a one year contract. Kusnerak asked why not try

both. The cost of utilizing both services was discussed. Motion died due to lack of a second.

Chris Kusnerak:

FISCAL OFFICER'S REPORT:

Fiscal Officer reported that November bank reconciliation was complete and ready for signatures.

There are warrants, BC's and PO's to be signed. Fiscal officer gave information on the two spread sheets for tonight. One is for funds needed to pay invoices, the second is to Huntington bank for credit card charges that will appear on the January invoice.

Witthuhn moved to approve both spread sheets as presented. Esber seconded. Kusnerak – yes. Esber – yes. Witthuhn –yes. Motion carried.

Witthuhn offered and moved adoption of same **Resolution 41-2018**, appropriation reallocation, increasing township salaries and decreasing fiscal officer's staff by \$5,000.00 respectively. Esber seconded. Kusnerak – yes. Esber – yes. Witthuhn – yes. Resolution adopted.

Esber offered and moved adoption of same **Resolution 42-2018**, Temporary 2019 Appropriation not to exceed \$6,000,000.00. Witthuhn seconded. Kusnerak – yes. Esber – yes. Witthuhn – yes. Resolution adopted.

OLD BUSINESS:

Witthuhn discussed the 303/West Chase property donated to the township and the plans for its development. We have received a concept plan from the Medina County Park District and hope for a joint effort. Although the plans show everything that we would possibly like to accomplish, it would have to be done in stages. It is a concept plan only. The township has received a \$100,000 ODNR grant and we need to complete the grant process as soon as possible.

NEW BUSINESS, MISCELLANEOUS & CORRESPONDENCE:

Witthuhn announced receiving an email from First Energy. For those that may need assistance with heating cost they can contact H.E.A.P (Heat Energy Assistance Program) or P.I.P.P. (Percentage Income Payment Plan) by calling (800) 282-0880. There is also the Winter Reconnect option and their number is (800) 589-3101.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Trustees: December 25th Cancelled
Rescheduled for December 27th.
ZC: January 10th Organizational
BZA: January 9th Organizational
Special: January 3rd, 4:30 Organizational TWP

PUBLIC INPUT:

Jason Gillis, 5091 Barlow Dr. of West Chase addressed Kusnerak and Esber concerning their reluctance to decide on a dispatch center. Mr. Gillis stated that Kusnerak is fiscally irresponsible and asked both Kusnerak and Esber to sign a one year contract.

Mr. Gillis, 5091 Barlow Dr., Kim Cramer, 1255 Marblehead Point, and David Eidenmiller, 2942 Stag Thicket, addressed the board concerning the development of property donated to the township. According to the residents they were told if and when the property was developed that they would receive notice by certified mail. The Board stated that it had no knowledge of that and Witthuhn offered to email the West Chase HOA representative with future information. It was made clear the residents of West Chase are not in favor of what is planned for the property. Mr. Eidenmiller was concerned for the safety of his children due to the fact his is the only property that touches the township property and this development would increase accessibility to his back yard.

The grant received and the concept plans in place were discussed in length. This project will not take place immediately, the township is governed by rules and must receive approval of the plan before monies are issued.

OFF CAMERA:

Esber moved to go off camera for the signing of warrants, BS's and PO's, and any other business brought before the board. There will be an executive session for employee interviews. Witthuhn noting the time to be 9:39 PM seconded the motion. Kusnerak – yes. Witthuhn – yes. Esber –yes. Motion carried.

At 10:11 PM, Esber moved to go into executive session for the purpose of applicant interviews. Kusnerak seconded. Strazzo and applicants were invited in. All voted yes. Motion carried.

At 10:28 PM, Esber moved to come out of executive session. Witthuhn seconded. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Witthuhn moved to approve Jacob Samsel and Gavin Kruchan for employment with BHT Fire Department pending the successful completion of pre-employment requirements. Esber seconded. All voted yes. Motion carried.

ADJOURN:

At 10:39 PM, Witthuhn moved to adjourn. Esber seconded All voted yes. Motion carried.

Michael Esber, Chair Trustee

Katherine Esber, Fiscal Officer

John Witthuhn, Vice-Chair Trustee

Christina Kusnerak, Trustee