

**BRUNSWICK HILLS TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**March 28, 2023**

The Brunswick Hills Township Board of Trustees met in regular session on Tuesday, March 28, 2023 at Brunswick Hills Township Town Hall.

Board of Trustees Chair John Witthuhn, Vice Chair Christina Kusnerak, Trustee Patrica Murphy, Police Sergeant Przemyslaw Piekut, Fire Chief Anthony Strazzo and Service Foreman Paul Magovac present.

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

**PRESENTATION:**

None.

**MINUTES:**

None ready for approval.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**Zoning Department:**

None.

**Police Department:**

Sergeant Przemyslaw Piekut requested a new John Jones 2023 Dodge Durango pursuit ready vehicle on behalf of the Police Department. The purchase price of \$47,120.00 is to be paid from line item 2192-760-750-0000 – Motor Vehicles. After emergency equipment is installed and the vehicle is in service, this will replace BHPD Unit #6, the Department’s 2016 Chevrolet Impala that has over 130,000 miles. Trustee Witthuhn commented that this request was not sent to the Board until late in the day, and asked if the vehicle is under state bid. Sergeant Piekut responded that the vehicle is located in Indiana, and he believes it is under state bid. Piekut also stated that Sergeant Sanford has been searching for a vehicle for a couple of months, and Chief Sopkovich had just received an email the previous day that the vehicle was available. Witthuhn wanted to verify the purchasing limit for a Township vehicle, if it is not under a state bidding situation. Service Department Foreman Magovac verified that the limit is \$50,000.00. Witthuhn made a motion to approve the purchase as requested, and authorize Trustee Murphy to sign the paperwork on behalf of the Township. Kusnerak seconded. Witthuhn – yes. Kusnerak – yes. Murphy – yes. Motion carried.

Piekut announced that Chief Sopkovich wanted to thank all of the volunteers who helped with the Easter Bunny Brunch. The volunteers included Ellen Young; Wayne & Chris Fisher; Trustee Murphy; Ben & Evelyn Czyz; Jill Bauer; Stephanie, Cameron, Alec & Tristan Sopkovich; Auxiliary Officer Davidson; FOP Lodge 15; as well as all of the community members that attended.

Piekut also announced that a drop box has been set up at the Police Station to collect gift cards, food and clothing items for the family whose home on McCracken was damaged in the recent fire. They are requesting no furniture at this time. If there are questions, please contact SRO Wayne Fisher at 330-273-

3722, ext. 143. In addition, Piekut extended gratitude to neighbor, Laura Oswald, and North Royalton Fire Chief, Robert Chegan, Jr., who both provided medical care to the victim. Thanks also to BHPD Officers Nicolai and Fairhurst, and Sergeant Milford for their assistance with the fire.

**Fire Department:**

Fire Chief Strazzo reviewed presentation #2 of 3 regarding the May 2<sup>nd</sup> levy. Strazzo explained that current staffing for the BHFD is a part-time Chief, one part-time Assistant Chief, one part-time Fire Prevention Officer, five part-time Lieutenants, four full-time Firefighters and 10 part-time Firefighters, 5 of which are basic EMTs and the other 5 are Paramedics. Full-time personnel work a traditional 24 hours on/48 hours off schedule, which equates to a 48-hour work week. Part-time personnel work 12-hour shifts, from 6 AM to 6 PM and 6 PM to 6 AM. The goal is to have three person staffing 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Strazzo explained that the reason for adding two additional full-time employees is so that two FT employees would be assigned to each shift, allowing for vacation time, sick time, etc., and providing a sense of consistency to the department. By adding two full-time paramedics, it would also increase the frequency of having two paramedics on duty.

Some other benefits of having additional full-time personnel is that they will lighten some of the work load from the other full-time staff and since this would be their primary job, they would arrive at work fresh and ready to go rather than just coming off of a shift at another fire department.

Chief Strazzo concluded by saying that the addition of two full-time employees would allow the Fire Department to better service the community with quicker response times.

Strazzo had received verbal approval to purchase new tires for Engine 21-1 in the amount of \$3,936.99 from Wingfoot Goodyear to be paid from BC #52 – Repairs & Maintenance, Vehicles. The tires were replaced to meet NFPA 1911 Standard, which is a seven-year replacement requirement. Kusnerak made a motion to approve the purchase. Witthuhn seconded. Murphy – yes. Witthuhn – yes. Kusnerak – yes. Motion carried.

Kusnerak moved to approve the purchase of new tires for Engine 21-2 from Wingfoot Goodyear for an amount not to exceed \$4,000.00 to be paid from BC #52. Both tire purchases had been previously budgeted by the Fire Department. Murphy seconded. Witthuhn – yes. Kusnerak – yes. Murphy – yes. Motion carried.

Strazzo requested approval for Firefighter Mehalic to attend Spill Response Strategies and Tactics Training on April 30, 2023. The training course is free and will be held in Medina with the exact location to be determined. Witthuhn motioned to approve the request. Kusnerak seconded. Witthuhn – yes. Murphy – yes. Kusnerak – yes. Motion carried.

A request was made for approval by Strazzo for Lieutenant Drum to attend a Fire Officer II class through Tri-C. Cost for the class is \$550.00, to be paid from BC #49 – Training Services. Murphy moved to approve the request. Kusnerak seconded. Murphy – yes. Kusnerak – yes. Witthuhn – yes. Motion carried.

Strazzo requested the Trustees' approval to purchase cabinets from Home Depot for the kitchen at Fire Station One in the amount of \$1,105.00. The purchase would be paid from BC #53- Repairs & Maintenance, Facility. Witthuhn motioned to approve. Murphy seconded. Kusnerak – yes. Witthuhn – yes. Murphy – yes. Motion carried.

Strazzo also received verbal approval for gutter repairs to Fire Station Two in the amount of \$1,175.00 to be paid from BC #53 – Repairs & Maintenance, Facility. The work was completed by One Time Construction. Kusnerak moved to approve the purchase. Murphy seconded. Kusnerak – yes. Witthuhn – yes. Murphy – yes. Motion carried.

Strazzo stated that he received a call from Mapleside with an offer to donate two L-shaped desks valued at \$300.00 to the Fire Department. Chief Strazzo accepted the donation to replace the Administrative Assistant's current desk, and parts of the other desk will be used in the Chief's office, as well as an additional office in the Fire Station. Witthuhn made a motion to approve and extended his thanks to Mapleside for the donation. Kusnerak seconded. Murphy – yes. Witthuhn – yes. Kusnerak – yes. Motion carried.

Strazzo announced that the tornado siren maintenance was completed, and reminded residents to sign up for the Code Red messaging. A link to sign up for Code Red can be found on the Township website.

Also, Strazzo shared that Firefighter Crider will be assisting with the Medina County First Responder Support Team. The team serves law enforcement, EMS, firefighters, dispatchers and corrections officers throughout the County as well as offering peer support, critical incident stress debriefing, defusing and referral services. The program was started by the Cleveland Clinic in Medina and has 30-40 members on the team. Whenever a critical incident occurs within the County, a chief or supervisor can request their services in helping staff cope with the aftermath of the situation.

Strazzo extended congratulations to Cub Scout Pack 3517 on achieving the Arrow of Light rank.

Lastly, Strazzo provided follow-up to Sergeant Piekut's comments on the McCracken Trail fire. He said that it was a significant fire with multiple agencies providing mutual aid. The fire was reported at 5:07 PM and it was declared under control at 5:36 PM.

#### **Service Department:**

Foreman Magovac requested a purchase order to Cargill Salt in the amount of \$25,000.00, which will be \$10,000.00 to finish off this season and the balance for November/December. Witthuhn motioned to approve the request and Murphy seconded. Kusnerak – yes. Witthuhn – yes. Murphy – yes. Motion carried.

Magovac stated that the Western Star truck is badly in need of new rear tires. He requested that new tires be purchased and installed from Goodyear in the amount of \$2,236.99 to be paid from BC #34 – Repairs & Maintenance, Vehicles. Kusnerak moved to approve the request. Witthuhn seconded. Murphy – yes. Kusnerak – yes. Witthuhn – yes. Motion carried.

Magovac also stated that he has received the State of Ohio Salt Contract for 2023-2024, which requires the signature of all three Township Trustees. Kusnerak offered **Resolution #17-2023**, authorizing the

Township's participation in the ODOT Road Salt Contract for the 2023-2024 season. Murphy seconded. Witthuhn – yes. Murphy – yes. Kusnerak – yes. Resolution adopted.

Trustee Kusnerak asked Magovac about Substation Road construction. Magovac responded that this year, Substation Road will be paved from Grafton Road to Boston Road by the Medina County Highway Engineer's Department, but he does not know when the work is scheduled to begin.

Witthuhn asked Magovac about OPWC funding for Kingsbury and Magovac stated that the County was out completing final measurements on the road. Hopefully, the paperwork will then be sent out for bidding in the next couple of months. Work cannot begin until July 3<sup>rd</sup>. According to Magovac and Witthuhn, the Township still has not received official notice. Magovac stated that the approval process must first go through the local district before being sent to the State of Ohio. Once at the State level, the Township will receive final approval as well as the amount of money they will be given.

### **TRUSTEE REPORTS:**

#### **Christina Kusnerak:**

None.

#### **Trica Murphy:**

None.

#### **John Witthuhn:**

Witthuhn moved to approve the Weston Hurd invoice in the amount of \$1,360.00. Murphy seconded. Witthuhn – yes. Murphy – yes. Kusnerak – yes. Motion approved.

### **FISCAL OFFICER:**

Murphy motioned to approve the payroll for 4/4/23 in the amount of \$60,134.82. Kusnerak seconded. Murphy – yes. Kusnerak – yes. Witthuhn – yes, other than a payment to the FOP for \$390.00 and he abstained from that approval. Motion carried.

Witthuhn made a motion to approve warrants dated 3/28/23 in the amount of \$366,258.23. Witthuhn noted that a little over \$254,000.00 is for the new squad that the Township is purchasing. Kusnerak seconded. Murphy – yes. Witthuhn – yes. Kusnerak – yes. Motion carried.

Witthuhn moved to approve a purchase order to Ohio Edison for the Southpointe lights in the amount of \$3,158.69. Kusnerak seconded. Witthuhn – yes. Murphy – yes. Kusnerak – yes. Motion carried.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

None.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Kusnerak discussed a resolution opposing the proposed interchange on I-71 and Boston Road. Kusnerak was contacted by a City of Brunswick council member, and apparently, this is happening very quickly. Strongsville is the driving force behind having the interchange installed at Boston Road. Both Hinckley and Brunswick have adopted resolutions opposing the interchange, and they have requested that

Brunswick Hills do the same. Kusnerak further stated her concern is that the Township would not be able to properly maintain the portion of Boston Road that they are responsible for due to the additional vehicular and large industrial truck traffic going into Strongsville and down Prospect Road to reach the industrial parkway. Kusnerak does not see any benefit to the residents of Brunswick Hills to have the I-71 interchange constructed at Boston Road. Trustee Murphy agreed. Witthuhn had no comment on the matter. Kusnerak then offered **Resolution #18-2023** Opposing the Proposed I-71 Interchange at Boston Road. Murphy seconded. Witthuhn – abstained. Kusnerak – yes. Murphy – yes. Resolution adopted.

The Trustees received a letter from Recycle Medina County regarding the 2023 Community Clean-Up and Voucher Program. Kusnerak stated that the only recycle program the Township has ever done was a paint can collection. The Board agreed that a lot of coordination would be needed to do a community wide collection. Service Department Foreman Magovac shared that residents may safely dispose of paint cans in their normal garbage by filling them with kitty litter.

**MISCELLANEOUS & CORRESPONDENCE:**

None.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS:**

Trustees:	April 11 at 7 PM
Zoning Commission:	April 6 at 7 PM
BZA:	April 5 at 7 PM – CANCELLED

**PUBLIC INPUT:**

None.

**OFF CAMERA:**

Witthuhn motioned to go off camera at 7:45 PM for the signing of Warrants & Purchase Orders and any other business brought before the Board. There will be two Executive Sessions off camera to discuss a complaint against a public employee and to consider employment. Kusnerak seconded. Murphy – yes. Witthuhn – yes. Kusnerak – yes. Motion carried.

Witthuhn made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:47 PM to discuss a complaint against a public employee and to consider employment, and invite Chief Strazzo. Murphy seconded. Kusnerak - yes. Witthuhn – yes. Murphy – yes. Motion carried.

Kusnerak motioned to come out of Executive Session at 9:00 PM. Murphy seconded. Witthuhn - yes. Kusnerak – yes. Murphy – yes. Motion carried.

No action will be taken at this time regarding the employee complaint.

Witthuhn moved to post a notice to accept applications for the Service Department Foreman position. Murphy seconded. Kusnerak - yes. Witthuhn – yes. Murphy – yes. Motion carried.

Kusnerak made a motion to adjourn at 9:09 PM. Witthuhn seconded. Murphy – yes. Kusnerak – yes. Witthuhn – yes. Motion carried.

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John Witthuhn, Chair Trustee

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Christina Kusnerak, Vice-Chair Trustee

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Patrica Murphy, Trustee

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Katherine Esber, Fiscal Officer