

BRUNSWICK HILLS TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
October 22, 2024

The Brunswick Hills Township Board of Trustees met in regular session on Tuesday, October 22, 2024 at Brunswick Hills Township Town Hall.

Board of Trustees Chair Patrica Murphy, Trustee Vice-Chair Ryan Nixon, Fiscal Officer Linda Kuenzer, Assistant Fire Chief Tim Haas, Police Chief Tim Sopkovich, and Service Department Foreman Cory Schultz present.

Trustee Chair Murphy called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a moment of silence was observed for our first responders and military personnel.

PRESENTATION:

None.

MINUTES:

No minutes to approve.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Zoning Department:

None.

Police Department:

Police Chief Sopkovich requested a purchase order to Lighthouse Solutions in the amount of \$2,289.89 for a new Dell desktop computer, monitor, and the installation of ethernet cable, to be paid from line item #2191-760-740-0000, Machinery, Equipment & Furniture. Murphy moved to approve the request. Nixon seconded. Murphy – yes. Nixon – yes. Motion carried.

Sopkovich also requested approval to send Officer Michale Fairhurst to FTO Training from November 4-7, 2024 in Parma, Ohio, as well as to issue a purchase order to North Coast Polytechnic in the amount of \$400, to be paid from line item #2191-210-318-0000, Training. Murphy motioned to approve the request. Nixon seconded. Murphy – yes. Nixon – yes. Motion carried.

Sopkovich announced that the police station repairs are almost complete after the storm and water damage.

Chief also stated that there have been some auto accidents with wildlife reported. It is now getting darker earlier in the evening and the deer are more active due to rut season. Sopkovich asked residents to be more careful on the dark roads.

Fire Department:

Assistant Chief Haas requested a purchase order to Mercury Medical Superior Solutions in the amount of \$2,704.59 from line item #2281-760-740-0000 for the purchase of three Airtraq intubation scopes. The cost will be covered through the 2024 Ohio EMS Grant reimbursement. The scopes are needed to replace the current scopes, which are no longer manufactured or able to replace the blades. The scopes were evaluated and recommended by the Southwest General EMS Advisory Committee. Nixon made a motion to approve the request. Murphy seconded. Nixon – yes. Murphy – yes. Motion carried.

Haas requested a purchase order to Fallsway Equipment in the amount of \$7,000 for replacement lights and 12-volt wiring for Engine 21-2, to be paid from line item 2192-220-323-0323, Repair & Maintenance-Vehicles. He reported that the scene lights on the engine recently failed so are in need of replacement as they are very important for scene safety. Haas is requesting to replace the current lights with 12-volt LED lights as they provide more lighting and operate off the engine's 12-volt system rather than the generator. Nixon moved to approve the request. Murphy seconded. Nixon – yes. Murphy – yes. Motion carried.

Haas requested another purchase order to Fallsway Equipment in the amount of \$4,000 to cover repair expenses through the remainder of 2024. These funds will be from item #2192-220-323-0323, Repair & Maintenance-Vehicles. Nixon motioned to approve the request. Murphy seconded. Nixon – yes. Murphy – yes. Motion carried.

Asst. Chief Haas requested approval for Trustee Nixon to sign the title for Tanker 22, pending the sale on GovDeals. Murphy made a motion to approve the request. Nixon seconded. Murphy – yes. Nixon – yes. Motion carried.

Haas requested that the Board accept the resignation of part-time Fire Prevention Officer, Matt Payne. Haas read the resignation letter. Murphy moved to accept the resignation effective November 3, 2024, and thanked him for his service. Nixon seconded and wished Payne all the best in his new role as Fire Chief of Hinckley Township. Murphy – yes. Nixon – yes. Motion carried.

It was also requested by Haas that the Board accept the resignation of part-time firefighter Nate Trybus. Haas read his resignation as well. Nixon motioned to accept the resignation effective October 31, 2024. Murphy seconded and thanked him for his service. Nixon – yes. Murphy – yes. Motion carried.

Haas reminded everyone that the Township Bon Fire and festivities will be taking place on October 26th from 5 PM to 8 PM at Plum Creek Park South. There will also be a children's costume contest, which will be judged by the Trustees. Nixon thanked Jersey Mike's in Brunswick, Wendy's in Brunswick, Brew Garden in Brunswick Hills Township, and Ohio Pie in Brunswick for donating prizes for the winners of the costume contest.

Lastly, Haas announced that the Department has applied for the 2025 MARCS Radio Grant to cover user fees as well as the \$750 OTARMA Fire Safety Reimbursement Grant.

Service Department:

Service Department Foreman Schultz requested approval to build a new office space inside of the current service garage at a total cost of \$3,893.17. Architectural drawings were completed by Stout Lumber at no charge, and the cost includes all materials needed to complete the project, to be paid from BC #31, Repair & Maintenance of Facility. If approved, Schultz is also requesting a purchase order to

Medina County Treasurer for the building permit in the amount of \$221.07, which will also be paid from line item #2021-330-323-1323. Schultz reported that the new office area will provide the staff with a clean and safe area for office computers, printers, and other electronics; a clean and sanitary area to eat lunch; and, additional storage space above the office to store seasonal equipment. Currently, the area is open to all noise and dirt within the shop, and when the crew is working on equipment, Schultz must ask them to stop in order to make phone calls or converse with residents and others that stop in. The new space would allow folks to enter the building through a safe area. Nixon asked Schultz about a completion date, and Schultz responded that he would like to see the construction completed by the end of December, 2024, but it will only be worked on when they are not busy plowing or attending to the roads. Nixon and Murphy both agreed that the new area would be beneficial to everyone. Murphy motioned to approve the construction as requested. Nixon seconded. Murphy – yes. Nixon – yes. Motion carried.

Murphy moved to approve a purchase order to Medina County Treasurer in the amount of \$221.07 for the building permit. Nixon seconded. Murphy – yes. Nixon – yes. Motion carried.

Schultz also requested approval for a purchase order to Parma Tire in the amount of \$1,050 for new tires for Truck #9, which is the Chevy 2500, to be paid from BC #30, Vehicle Repair & Maintenance. Nixon made a motion to approve the request. Murphy seconded. Nixon – yes. Murphy – yes. Motion carried.

TRUSTEE REPORTS:

Christina Kusnerak:

None.

Ryan Nixon:

Trustee Nixon stated that Frontier Fiber has been an issue since construction began. Last week, Nixon reached out to the president of Frontier Fiber in Texas, which was not well received. Nixon was given the name and phone number for the national director of construction for Frontier, and wanted to pass along some information to residents. If any homeowner has issues with your property being damaged, e.g., holes, concrete ruined, etc., please reach out to the contractor, who is Mastek. They can be reached by phone at 740-382-3927 or email at frqcentral@fr.com. Once you contact the contractor, please follow up with an email to Trustee Nixon at rnixon@brunswickhillstwp.org as he will then contact the Frontier folks to ensure that your damage is corrected. Nixon stressed that homeowners must contact the contractor first to open a case, and then follow-up with him.

Trica Murphy:

Trustee Murphy stated that the rubbish contract with Republic is through the end of March, 2025. Murphy stated that the Board is waiting on feedback from the Prosecutor's Office so that they can get the contract rebid.

Also, Murphy shared that the Comprehensive Land Use Plan Steering Committee met on Monday, October 21st. The committee received more than 460 responses from the survey and are now moving forward with the project. The next meeting will be on January 20, 2025.

FISCAL OFFICER:

Fiscal Officer Linda Kuenzer stated that the bank reconciliation for September, 2024 has been completed.

Nixon moved to approve warrants dated 10/22/24 in the amount of \$424,063.19, noting that included is a check in the amount of \$334,750 to Midwest Fire & Equipment for the new Fire Department tanker truck. Assistant Fire Chief Haas confirmed that they are hopeful the tanker will be delivered around the second week of December, 2024. Murphy seconded. Nixon – yes. Murphy – yes. Motion carried.

Nixon motioned to approve payroll dated 10/29/24 in the amount of \$107,494.60. Murphy seconded. Nixon – yes. Murphy – yes. Motion carried.

Murphy made a motion to approve the following purchase orders:

- PO #158-2024 for an EMS client overpayment \$708.38
- T&N PO #154-2024 to Akron Uniforms in the amount of \$1,295.59, on behalf of the Police Department

Nixon seconded. Murphy – yes. Nixon – yes. Motion carried.

Murphy moved to adopt **Resolution 33-2024 Accepting the Amounts and Rates as Determined by the Budget Commission and Authorizing the Necessary Tax Levy and Certifying Them to the County Auditor**. Nixon seconded. Murphy – yes. Nixon – yes. Resolution adopted.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

UPCOMING MEETINGS: Trustees: November 12 at 7 PM
BZA: November 6 at 7 PM
Zoning Commission: November 7 at 7 PM

PUBLIC INPUT:

Joe Kmetz, 607 Memory Lane, Brunswick, OH 44212 addressed the Board. Mr. Kmetz is concerned about the recent dog attack, and wants to know why action was not taken by the Prosecutor's office. Mr. Kmetz stated that his wife frequently goes for walks and his grandchildren are at his house, and he is very concerned for their safety.

Bill Loudermilk, 612 Memory Lane, Brunswick, OH 44212 addressed the Board. Mr. Loudermilk assisted the victims, and is also concerned that the dog involved in the attack is still roaming around, and asked if it is the law for the owner not to be prosecuted. Police Chief Sopkovich responded that the owner was cited, but there were no other criminal charges. Sopkovich stated that reports were sent to both the city and county prosecutors. Sopkovich said there have been no other issues reported for this dog in the past. Sopkovich stated that if the dog was deemed to be a dangerous animal, it would need to be registered through the county auditor. Chief also stated that the report was sent to the Medina County Health Department for a 10-day quarantine period as well as to the County Dog Warden. Sopkovich

stated that there is nothing the Police Department can do at this point, but to please let him know if the dog is out roaming the neighborhood or off-leash.

James Fox, 687 Memory Lane, Brunswick, OH 44212 addressed the Board. Mr. Fox stated that the boy bitten by the dog and his family are dear friends of his. According to Mr. Fox, the kids were all having a football game in the backyard when the dog attacked. Mr. Fox commended the Police Officers and Fire Department EMS staff responding for keeping the situation calm and under control. Mr. Fox shared that his son is having difficulty processing what he witnessed that day, the boy attacked no longer has an ear and cannot turn his neck, and the boy's mother sustained injuries in the attack. Mr. Fox stated that contrary to reports, the dog has gotten loose on many other occasions, including trapping another neighbor in her car, and he believes that the dog should be euthanized rather than allowed to roam the neighborhood.

Linda Hudson, 314 Pearl Road, Brunswick, OH 44212 also addressed the Board. Mrs. Hudson asked the Board the status of hiring a new Zoning Inspector. Trustee Murphy responded that the Board is in the process of posting an ad for the position. Mrs. Hudson is also concerned by how few people participated in the Comprehensive Land Use Plan Survey, as well as the future of the Township moving forward. In closing, Mrs. Hudson encouraged all residents to get involved in the planning for the future of the community.

Thomas DeCastr, 358 Topaz Lane, Brunswick, OH 44212 addressed the Board. Mr. DeCastr expressed his disappointment with the consultant who was hired to assist with developing the Comprehensive Land Use Plan. Mr. DeCastr feels that the consultant is not really listening to the committee at the meetings, but rather is constantly trying to upsell the Township on other services from his company. Mr. DeCastr feels that the consultant should be challenged to determine if they are the correct company to develop the new plan.

OFF CAMERA:

Murphy motioned to go off camera at 7:44 PM for the signing of Warrants & Purchase Orders and any other business brought before the Board. Murphy stated that there will be an Executive Session to discuss the employment of a public employee and a complaint against a public employee. Nixon seconded. Murphy – yes. Nixon – yes. Motion carried.

Murphy motioned to enter executive session at 8:08 PM for the purposes of discussing the employment of a public employee and a complaint against a public employee and invited Fiscal Officer Linda Kuenzer into the executive session. Nixon seconded. Nixon – yes. Murphy – yes. Motion carried.

Nixon motioned to come out of executive session at 8:56 PM. Murphy seconded. Murphy – yes. Nixon – yes. Motion carried.

No action will be taken at this time.

Nixon motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:18 PM. Murphy seconded. Murphy – yes. Nixon – yes. Motion carried.

Patrica Murphy, Trustee Chair

Ryan Nixon, Trustee Vice-Chair

Christina Kusnerak, Trustee

Linda Kuenzer, Fiscal Officer