

Canaan Township Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting
September 12, 2023
Minutes

Chairman Tyler Levering called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Roll call showed all trustees and the fiscal officer present. Also present were Stephen and Charlene Black.

Mr. and Mrs. Black were present from Galion, Ohio and purchased three plots in N. Canaan Cemetery – Old Lots 72A, 72B, and 72C.

The fiscal officer presented the minutes from the August 9, 2023, meeting. Mr. Carwell made the motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Bayles seconded the motion. Motion passed.

The fiscal officer reported receipts and balances to date in all funds. The bank reconciliation report was also presented. Automatic drafts were examined. The Park National Statements were also distributed. Credit card purchases for August and early September were reviewed and the attestation statement signed by Mr. Levering. Mr. Carwell made the motion to approve the reports. Mr. Levering seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Mr. Carwell made the motion to approve the bills for payment. Mr. Levering seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Communications included:

- The Grassroots Clippings newsletter
- Ohio Electricity Litigation/Auditor of State Advisory
- 2023 Tax Year Property – new valuations
- The MCTA Quarterly Meeting - Thursday, September 21, 2023, at 6 p.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church
- Letter from the Morrow County Land Bank regarding Ohio Brownfield Remediation Program and Ohio Demolition and Site Revitalization Program as part of House Bill 33
- DKMM Residential Tire Collection

The township received a \$9.57 debit card from the First Energy “Ohio Electricity Litigation” settlement. Shortly thereafter, the township received an email from the Auditor of State’s office to clarify how townships are to handle receipt of these monies. AOS Bulletin 2018-003 indicates in part, that “No political subdivision may hold or utilize a debit card account, except for law enforcement purposes.” The email went on to state that since local governments had little control over how the settlement funds were disbursed, AOS and Independent Public Accounts would not take exception to the violation of 2913.21 of Ohio Revised Code. The receipt and use of Ohio Electricity Litigation debit cards must include adequate documentation of the receipt of the physical debit card, the receipt amount, and account for the allowable expenditure(s) of the settlement funds.

All property owners in Morrow County received a change of value notice for real estate that is for the 2023 tax year and payable in 2024. Ohio Law requires each county auditor to appraise and re-value real estate every six years. This procedure, called reappraisal, revises values based upon actual sale/conveyance records from the previous three years. The final determination of the impact this new valuation will have on property taxes will not be known until late December when tax rates will be established.

The letter from the Morrow County Land Bank explained that in July of 2023, Governor Mike DeWine signed House Bill 33, which establishes operating appropriations for Fiscal Years 2024-2025. As part of HB 33, funds for another round of the Ohio Brownfield Remediation Program and the Ohio Building Demolition and Site Revitalization Program were allocated. The Brownfield Remediation Program is designed to provide grants for the remediation of brownfield sites across Ohio to clean up the sites and prepare them for future economic development. The Building Demolition and Site Revitalization Program was designed to provide grants for the demolition of commercial and residential buildings and revitalization of surrounding properties. Structures that are blighted, vacant, or abandoned are eligible for this program. The Demolition program has \$150 million set aside for 2 years. Each county will have an annual allotment with additional funding being available on a competitive first come first served basis. Counties will be allotted \$500,000 annually with \$31 million available each year for additional funding. The Morrow County Land Bank will be serving as the lead applicant for these programs. The villages

and townships in Morrow County are encouraged to submit applications for consideration to the Morrow County Land Bank by November 1, 2023.

The email from Kristin Ruth, Morrow County Recycling and Keep American Beautiful Program Director, explained some changes to the tire collection program. Due to the growing popularity of the DKMM municipal tire collection programs, changes were deemed necessary for applying for a collection program in 2024. Funding is the same, but the application process has changed to a competitive grant process. The application deadline is January 19th for all applications. Funding decisions are targeted for February 15th.

The roads were checked on Wednesday, September 6, 2023. The Road Sign Inventory and Management form was completed and is on file.

John Bayles reported he attended the First Consolidated meeting on August 22, 2023. Marion Sheriff Bayles and Lieutenant Collins attended the meeting expressing interest in acquiring Station 3, the old army depot building. Since the Federal Government gave this property to First Consolidated to use, there are deed restrictions. The thought is that First Consolidated wants to keep the property, but Representative Jim Jordan is exploring the option of getting the deed released should First Consolidated wish to sell the property. Two part-time paramedics were hired last month. There was a special meeting held on September 8, 2023, to discuss the upcoming levy. First Consolidated received a message from the Board of Elections that the State of Ohio had rejected the levy for the fall ballot. The reason was due to the ballot language being inconsistent in the way it was written by the Marion County Prosecutor's Office. The Prosecutor's Office will amend it and they will get the correct version on the ballot.

Matt Carwell reported that Regional Planning had a meeting in August. He presented a map that showed all the lot splits for 2023. There was a variance granted for property on County Road 217. There is a committee being formed to redo the wording on land use.

The OPWC Grant for Round 38/FY 25 is due on November 3, 2023. Applications will be completed entirely online again this year using the OPWC Portal WorksWise. The trustees and fiscal officer will work on gathering the needed information to complete the grant. If awarded, the project will be widening and resurfacing a one-mile section of TR 60 between TR 67 and CR 61.

Mr. Bayles reported that he cleaned a lot of trees out of N. Canaan cemetery as well as laid two monument markers at Worden Cemetery for the Morton's and the Linton's.

Last month, the trustees mailed a letter to the owner of the property at 1658 County Road 59, Caledonia. An anonymous letter of complaint was received from a township resident concerned with the noxious weeds on the property. Following ORC 971.33 to 971.35, the township mailed a letter to the owner asking that the noxious weeds be destroyed within 30 days. The resident has not complied. The trustees will attempt to talk to the resident to see what his intentions are in clearing the property of the noxious weeds.

Koorsen Fire and Security completed their annual fire extinguisher inspection on the township hall on August 17, 2023. Everything checked out okay.

The trustees looked over the OTARMA insurance renewal for 2023/2024. The Anniversary Information Acknowledgement was completed and signed by Chairman Tyler Levering. No changes were made to the current policy. The renewal amount was \$3,323 and a 2023 Capital Distribution check in the amount of \$205.31 will be received by the township 30-60 days following receipt of the renewal.

The trustees signed an LOE with Palmer Energy. Amy Hoffman, the Sales Consultant for Palmer Energy informed the township that the Morrow County Commissioners will not have time to become an aggregator before the township needs to go out for pricing. This process to have the County Commissioners become an aggregator will take 2 to 3 months. The County needs to hold two public hearings and then their Governance Plan goes to the PUCO and it's there for one month. Amy's recommendation is to go with Energy Harbor, the current supplier, for 12 months. Canaan Townships current contract with Energy Harbor expires on December 31, 2023. Once the county gets certified, Canaan Township can join the County agreement, along with Perry, Gilead, and Washington Townships with a start date of December 2024. Cardington Township will possibly be joining once their contract is up. The larger the group in the aggregate program, the better the rates will be for those wishing to join. This selection of a supplier only affects

those township residents that have Ohio Edison. As rates continue to rise, being part of a larger aggregation group will allow the best rates possible for Ohio Edison customers in Canaan Township.

The trustees looked over a bid estimate from Burkhart's for a new Case IH Maxxum 115 tractor, Kuhn RSM210 mower, and Case IH L103 front loader. The cost, including trading in the current tractor, was \$114,091.28. The trustees felt this estimate was too high and out of reach with the \$44,315.81 ARPA fund balance. The trustees also looked over two estimates from JD Equipment for a front-end loader for the current tractor. The estimates were \$8,223.65 and \$9,636.76. The price difference was a two-function versus three-function hydraulic connector. The trustees discussed the various uses that a front-end loader would provide to the care of the township. Some of the uses mentioned that a front-end loader would provide are easier removal of dirt in the cemeteries; tires and trash could be collected while mowing ditches; tree removal from roadways following a storm; and road signs could be straightened. No decision was made on the purchase of a front-end loader for the existing tractor.

There being no further business to come before the board, Mr. Levering made the motion to adjourn. Mr. Bayles seconded the motion. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Trustee: _____
Matt Carwell, Chairman

Trustee: _____
Tyler Levering, Vice Chairman

Trustee: _____
John Bayles

Fiscal Officer: _____
Jill Retterer

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August 2023 Receipts:

Date:	Amount:	Receipt #:	From:	For:
8/11/2023	\$27,773.01	61-2023	Morrow Co. Auditor	2nd half 2022 RE Taxes
8/15/2023	\$528.32	62-2023	Morrow Co. Auditor	August Local Gov. Dis. Per sec 57
8/15/2023	\$811.59	63-2023	Morrow Co. Auditor	August Local Government Distribution
8/17/2023	\$6.00	64-2023	Ohio Bureau of Workers' Comp.	Employer Premium Refund
8/17/2023	\$9,688.45	65-2023	Morrow Co. Auditor	August Excise Gas Tax
8/17/2023	\$2,559.19	65-2023	Morrow Co. Auditor	August cents per gallon gas tax
8/17/2023	\$754.96	66-2023	Morrow Co. Auditor	August License Tax - State
8/17/2023	\$379.50	66-2023	Morrow Co. Auditor	August License Tax - County
8/24/2023	\$92.43	68-2023	Morrow Co. Auditor	2nd half 2023 Manufactured Homes Settlement
8/28/2023	\$50.00	69-2023	Courtney Celestine	Township Hall Rental
8/31/2023	\$500.00	71-2023	OTARMA	2023 MORE Grant
8/29/2023	\$3,417.03	72-2023	State of Ohio	Reimbursements Homestead, Non-Business Credit, Owner Occupied Credit
8/31/2023	\$959.45	73-2023	Park National	August ICS Interest
TOTAL:	\$47,519.93			

August 2023 Payments:

Date:	Amount:	Voucher/Warrant:	To:	For:
8/4/2023	\$41.96	70-2023	Ohio Edison	Denmark Street Lights
8/4/2023	\$48.14	70-2023	Ohio Edison	Climax Street Lights
8/7/2023	\$989.68	71-2023	OPERS	July 2023 Payroll
8/9/2023	\$1,156.43	4081	Eugene P. Ebert	August 2023 Mowing Contract
8/9/2023	\$2,500.00	4082	Edward Sayers	N. Canaan and S. Canaan Cemetery Pinning & Plotting/New maps
8/9/2023	\$86.89	4083	Elan Financial Services	Printer Ink from Amazon
8/9/2023	\$47.70	4083	Elan Financial Services	WIX - 2-year Domain renewal
8/9/2023	\$478.24	4084	John Bayles	July Health Ins. Reimbursement
8/9/2023	\$691.76	4085	Matthew Carwell	July Health Ins. Reimbursement
8/9/2023	\$544.26	4086	Tyler Levering	July Health Ins. Reimbursement
8/9/2023	\$332.95	4087	Jill Retterer	July Health Ins. Reimbursement
8/14/2023	\$92.70	72-2023	Ohio Edison	Township Hall Electric
8/22/2023	\$12.00	73-2023	Delco Water	Township Hall Water
8/31/2023	\$780.95	4088	John Bayles	August Payroll
8/31/2023	\$777.56	4089	Matthew Carwell	August Payroll
8/31/2023	\$789.26	4090	Tyler Levering	August Payroll
8/31/2023	\$888.93	4091	Jill Retterer	August Payroll
TOTAL:	\$10,259.41			

Bank Balance August 31, 2023

Park National Checking Balance:	\$203,428.28
Park National MM Balance:	\$377,059.89
TOTAL:	\$580,488.17