



12102 State Route 725 West, Germantown, Ohio 45327-9761

BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Benjamin F. DeGroat • Jacob C. Stubbs • Mark D. Cross
FISCAL OFFICER: Mark A. Keener

Telephone (937) 855-2007
Fax (937) 855-4897

**GERMAN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON DECEMBER 27, 2017**

VISITORS:

Name	Address	Name	Address
Abra Reed	149 E. Market St.		

PROCEEDINGS:

The meeting was held at the German Township hall located at 12102 St. Rt. 725 West, Germantown, OH 45327. The meeting was called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 8:31 a.m. by Board President Jacob Stubbs. Attendees included:

Trustee Jacob Stubbs	Trustee Benjamin DeGroat	Trustee Mark Cross
Fiscal Officer Mark Keener	Police Chief Joseph Andzik	Road Supt. Jeremy Holbrook

There were multiple items on the agenda.

Chief Andzik requested that the Trustees pass a RESOLUTION authorizing the hiring of Nicholas Wolfe as a Full Time Police Officer. Accordingly, **RESOLUTION 2017-44 – A RESOLUTION TO HIRE NICHOLAS A. WOLFE TO THE POSITION OF FULL TIME POLICE OFFICER, STARTING AT PAY STEP 2, EFFECTIVE 1 JANUARY 2018, TO SERVE A ONE YEAR PROBATION PERIOD** was introduced by Mark Cross and seconded by Jacob Stubbs during the **SPECIAL MEETING** of the German Township Board of Trustees held on 27 December 2017. After discussion, the roll was called and the adoption vote was as follows: **Mr. Stubbs – YES, Mr. DeGroat – YES, Mr. Cross – YES. RESOLUTION 2017-44 PASSED.**

Mr. Stubbs introduced **RESOLUTION 2017-45**, seconded by Mr. Cross, a **RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZING THE AMENDMENT OF THE 2017 APPROPRIATIONS AS SUBMITTED AND ATTACHED – TO BE FORWARDED TO THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY AUDITOR.** After discussion during the Special Meeting of the German Township Board of Trustees, the roll was called and the adoption vote was as follows: **Mr. Stubbs – YES, Mr. DeGroat – YES, Mr. Cross – YES. RESOLUTION 2017-45 PASSED.**

The discussion then moved to the subject of the General Fund budget for 2018. Mr. Keener pointed out that the surplus in the General Fund has been dwindling for at least the last 5 years. The shortfall has been roughly \$25,000 per year and the carry over going into 2017 is projected to be somewhere around \$35,000. There are several reasons for the declining funds. First is the decline in incoming funds. While amounts from the inside millage has increased slightly over the years, other sources of Township revenue have decreased due to less funding from the State, the elimination of Personal Property Tax, the elimination of the Estate Tax, etc. Additionally, the House Bill 64 funding is currently scheduled to expire in mid-2019. Mr. Keener stated that he had spoken with Sam Braun at the Montgomery County

Auditor's Office, and there is no way to increase the Inside Millage for additional funding. Aside from the public passing an Operating Levy, there are no available options for increasing revenue.

At this point the Board reviewed the projected General Fund expenses for 2018. The Township is already operating on a very slim budget. After reviewing each line item, the following items were discussed in detail:

- In 2016 and 2017, the General Fund was paying one half of the dispatching fees for the Police Department. This practice was adopted after the County unexpectedly started charging for dispatch fees after years of providing them for free in exchange for allowing them to use the communication tower on Township property. The State now pays the Township \$18,000 per year for the tower lease. In 2016, the Trustees had declared that the \$18,000 would be used to offset the dispatching fees. Since that time, the residents voted for a replacement Police levy which increased the Department's funding. Accordingly, the decision was made to rescind the funding for the dispatching fees and use the tower lease funds for general operation.
- In December of 2015, the Valley View Water & Sewer District was dissolved by court order. With this action, the court ordered that German Township and Jackson Township assume responsibility for the remaining debt of the District. German Township's share of this was approximately \$200,000. Accordingly, German Township is obligated to pay approximately \$20,615 per year for ten years. As of January 1, 2018, there are eight years (16 payments of approximately \$10,307 each) remaining on this obligation. As these are court ordered payments, there is no way to reduce this obligation.
- It is anticipated that the current Zoning Administrator is going to retire at the end of the first quarter of 2018. The Trustees will attempt to replace her with someone at a lower level of pay who will be paid on an hourly basis instead of a salary basis which should result in a significant reduction of outgoing amounts. Additionally, the current Zoning Administrator agreed to a salary reduction of 5% effective on 1/1/18.
- Compensation for elected officials was also discussed. It was discussed that compensation levels are set by the ORC based on the overall budget of the Township. Compensation is allocated to various funds (Police, Road, etc.) based on work loads and estimated time spent working in various departments. The remainder is allocated to the General Fund. Many options for reducing the compensation levels were discussed, including the recording of time sheets, serving for an honorarium of \$1 per pay period, or an overall percentage decrease of elected official compensation. In the end, the following was decided:
 - Overall compensation for elected officials would be decreased by 25%. Accordingly, **RESOLUTION 2017-46 – A RESOLUTION TO REDUCE CALENDAR YEAR 2018 COMPENSATION LEVELS FOR GERMAN TOWNSHIP ELECTED OFFICIALS BY 25% OF THE AMOUNT ALLOWABLE UNDER THE OHIO REVISED CODE** was introduced by Jacob Stubbs and seconded by Mark Cross at the **SPECIAL MEETING** of the German Township Board of Trustees held on December 27, 2017. After discussion, the roll was called and the adoption vote was as follows: **Mr. Stubbs – YES, Mr. DeGroat – YES, Mr. Cross – YES. RESOLUTION 2017-46 PASSED.**
 - Compensation levels for 2019 will be revisited at the end of 2018
 - Trustee-Elect Abra Reed was present for and participated in the discussions. She also agreed to the decrease in 2018 compensation.
 - Ten percent (10%) of the Fiscal Officer's salary will be allocated to the Trash Fund to reflect the amount of time spent administering that fund.

- As the primary purpose of the Western Region Council of Governments is to negotiate the trash contract and deal with the trash collection and funding, ten percent (10%) of the salary of the Trustee assigned to the WRCG will be assigned to the Trash Fund to reflect the amount of time that he/she spends on those duties.
- Mr. Keener is going to attempt to negotiate a fee reduction with Time-Warner / Spectrum to reduce the costs of the Township's internet connectivity and phone service.
- The following minor actions will also be taken
 - The new Township letterhead will no longer reflect the names of the elected officials, allowing the Township to avoid the expense of replacing the letterhead each time there is a change in this area
 - Mr. Keener is going to cancel all subscriptions with Thomson-Reuters for their annual ORC updates.
 - Elected officials will now be responsible for their own travel, lodging and meals expenses for any conferences or training that they attend
 - Mr. Keener will continue to scour expenses for any item that might be eliminated or reduced, however, many things that can be eliminated already have been eliminated.

With no further business, a motion was made by Jacob Stubbs and seconded by Mark Cross to adjourn the meeting. MOTION passed – The meeting adjourned at 10:32 a.m.

Signed: _____

Attest: _____