

VERMILION TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Record of Proceedings Minutes to Emergency Meeting Held 4/7/20

Meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chairman Charles T. Trinter.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Charles T. Trinter, Trustee; Ronald L. Dickel, Trustee; Carl E. Hill, Trustee; Brenda J. Zsebik, Fiscal Officer.

Absent: Robert Kurtz, Building Official/Zoning Administrator; Frank R. Triana, Vermilion Township Fire Chief; Tina L. Karres, Township Secretary.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

No audience participation.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Trinter announced the purpose of the meeting was COVID-19 Personnel Update. The office was closed two weeks ago. There was a special meeting yesterday, April 6, 2020 where the Board passed a motion to keep the office closed but brought back some employees. They also suggested putting some employees on unemployment. The motion that was sent to Trustee Trinter stated Trustee Carl Hill moved to put the Township Secretary on unemployment, bring the Road Department Crew back because they are now essential, and Township Secretary remains in category of nonessential and remains on unemployment. If things get better, the Township Secretary would be brought back and if not, she could remain on unemployment. Basically, by passing the motion yesterday, Trustee Trinter did not understand what it meant to put someone on unemployment and stated basically the Board cannot put someone on unemployment. The discussion with Assistant Prosecutor Susan Brown, in looking at the minutes, stated she did not think that the Board understood the consequences of moving to put someone on unemployment. The Prosecutor explained, by putting someone on unemployment, basically it is an act of termination. In our discussion, it wasn't the intent of the Board to do that. Trustee Trinter recommended to rescind the motion that was made yesterday.

MOTION BY C. Trinter, second by C. Hill authorizing to rescind the motion from the special meeting held on Monday, April 6, 2020 at 8:00 a.m. Roll Call – R. Dickel, yes; C. Trinter, yes; C. Hill, yes; Motion Carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 18-20

Trustee Trinter stated a proper motion needs to be passed to express what the Board's desire is to having the office open, but basically trying to keep essential business taking place in the office and keeping employees on the payroll. Trustee Hill stated he had a question, when the unemployment thing was put in the motion, first it was layoff and then it was recorded as unemployment. We can't put them on unemployment, but apparently layoff means you're terminating the employee and we were on layoff all the time at Ford Plant and that never meant you were terminated so I just thought that was putting them in que until things got better and we were bringing them back. Trustee Trinter stated he felt the interpretation of bringing them back was what the entire Board thought, but that's not what the code's interpretation states. Fiscal Officer, Zsebik stated this is local government and all employees here are essential so that falls under a different category. Things are changing every day. We have to keep updated and things are new for everyone. Mrs. Zsebik clarified that the janitors are

(Continuation of Minutes to Emergency Meeting Held 4/7/20)

classified essential, as well and the BZA/Zoning Commission Secretary is classified as an "as needed" employee. So, the township is bringing everyone back. Trustee Trinter stated the Board will bring everyone back for essential work. If the BZA/Zoning Commission Secretary doesn't have something to do, there is no reason to come in. Mrs. Zsebik asked for clarification regarding people coming into the office areas. The offices are closed to the public, but there has been some people coming into the office for building and even though they are keeping their six feet she wanted to know if the Board was allowing that. Since the township is trying to keep their employees safe, permitting no traffic in the building, she didn't see why business couldn't be conducted and transacted at the door if need be thus keeping all parties as safe as possible. Trustee Hill asked if people have been coming in. Fiscal Officer Zsebik stated there were three people in on Friday and Trustee Dickel stated the Building Official/Zoning Administrator had both doors open. The Board agreed the front door should be kept locked and they can ring the buzzer if need be. The drop box should be used when possible. The township is trying to abide by the Governor of Ohio, Mike DeWine's statewide response to COVID-19. Mrs. Zsebik also discussed job duties in the office and explained there is a lot more work to do in the office than just filing.

MOTION BY R. Dickel, second by C. Trinter authorizing to keep all employees working effective April 7, 2020. The offices will remain closed and if anyone comes to the door, they can ring the buzzer and they will be greeted at the door. All materials will be exchanged at the door. No one will be permitted inside the office building. Social distancing will be practiced.

Roll Call – R. Dickel, yes; C. Trinter, yes; C. Hill, yes; Motion Carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 19-20

MOTION BY R. Dickel, second by C. Trinter to adjourn the meeting at 4:17 p.m. with no further business to discuss. Roll Call – R. Dickel, yes; C. Trinter, yes; C. Hill, yes; Motion Carried.

Charles T. Trinter

Trustee

Ronald W. Dickel

Trustee

Carl Hill

Trustee

Vina J. Karsel

Township Secretary